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gardener
SPRING 2019

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MONARCHS**

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The National Gardener

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National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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THE COVER

Hello, spring! Tulips usher in the season with a riot of color at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. Photo by Ed Downs Photography.

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Nancy L. Hargroves

2017-2019 NGC President

“I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose, I would always greet it in a garden.”

- RUTH STOUT

Spring is here. Gardeners always eagerly await its arrival. It is the start of many of our usual activities: planting seeds and seedlings, watching for flowers to emerge from bulbs, determining any loss in the landscape from winter weather and attending garden club programs and plant sales.

The spring of 2019 is the first time NGC members will see the blossoms of *Narcissus* ‘Plant America’. New projects will be undertaken in communities across our country made possible with grants from The Espoma Company, The Ames Companies Inc. and NGC PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants. Congratulations to the 82 garden clubs that were awarded \$75,000 in NGC grants in January for their projects.

Spring also brings the observance of National Garden Week during June 2-8, 2019. I hope your club will use these

dates to publicize your club’s work in your community. Please go to this page on the NGC website <http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/national-garden-week.aspx> to download two formats of National Garden Week posters that you can print in any size that is appropriate for the location where it is to be placed. One format is a fillable, printable PDF poster that will allow you to personalize it with your club’s name.

Spring also is usually the time that administrations of garden clubs change and new officers are installed. The phrase “It has been a pleasure to serve” is often used at these installations. Sometimes, it seems trite and insincere because it is used so often.

That is not the case for me as president of National Garden Clubs Inc. It has been a pleasure to serve such a great organization comprised of committed members who spend countless hours serving their communities in many ways. It’s easy to understand why NGC has been in existence for 90 years and why it will be for many more. ■

Nancy L. Hargroves

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

June 2-8, 2019

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National Garden Week

June 2-8, 2019

Calling all green thumbs! Join NGC clubs across the nation and share your love of gardening with your community by celebrating National Garden Week.

National Garden Week was founded by National Garden Clubs Inc., as an opportunity to encourage community pride and promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts and gardening. It also provides the opportunity to reach out to potential new members and collaborate with other area groups.

Some ideas to consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on workshop at your local nursery on how to select

flowers and shrubs.

- Plan a garden tour. This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. Reach out to local groups to assist you in your efforts.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or at a local school.
- Do a public planting at a public facility.

Download the NGC National Garden Week poster for use in publicizing your National Garden Week project!

gardenclub.org/projects/national-garden-week



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK
PROCLAMATION



Whereas, Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants and the riches of their efforts; and

Whereas, Gardeners seek to add beauty, splendor, fragrance and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage and flowers; and

Whereas, Gardeners work to preserve our country's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through innovation and hard work; and

Whereas, Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small, that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and

Whereas, Gardening furnishes a challenging and productive activity for our citizens, for those just learning as well as those having years of experience; and

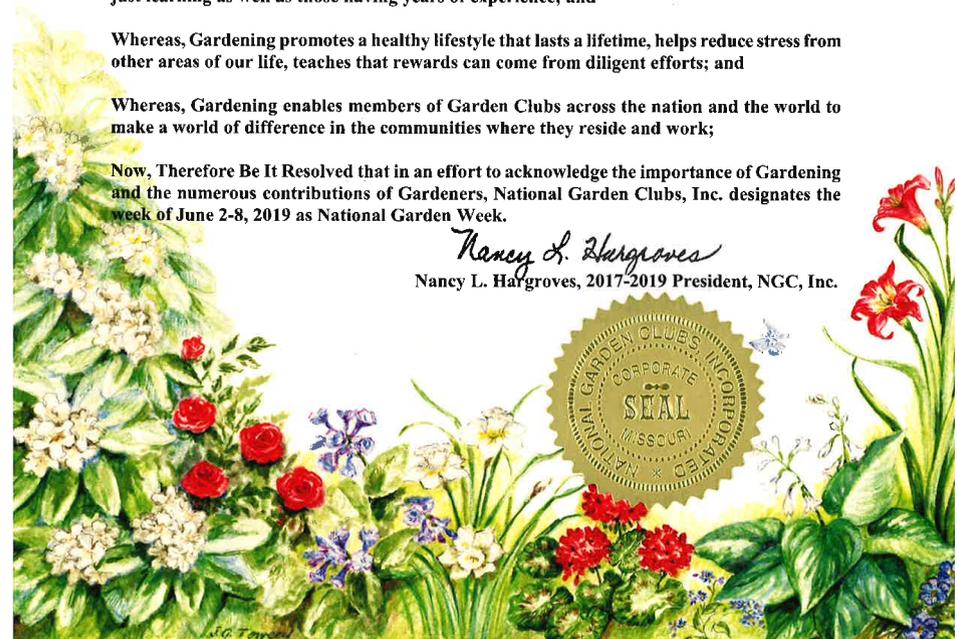
Whereas, Gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our life, teaches that rewards can come from diligent efforts; and

Whereas, Gardening enables members of Garden Clubs across the nation and the world to make a world of difference in the communities where they reside and work;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that in an effort to acknowledge the importance of Gardening and the numerous contributions of Gardeners, National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates the week of June 2-8, 2019 as National Garden Week.

Nancy L. Hargroves

Nancy L. Hargroves, 2017-2019 President, NGC, Inc.



The National Gardener Schedule

SPRING

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

SUMMER

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

FALL

October, November,
Articles and Advertising
due: August 1

WINTER

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



a mission for monarchs - 'THANK YOU, PLANTERS OF MILKWEED,' OUR EFFORTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Last year, the Midwest experienced one of the most fabulous monarch summers in years. I like to think that is because gardeners, like you, all over the United States, realized one of the best ways to help pollinators and monarchs was to plant that pollen-heavy plant, milkweed.

As you know, monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on milkweed. All varieties of milkweed accommodate their eggs. If milkweed is eradicated from our roadsides, there will be monarchs, bumble bees or honey bees and pollinators that will have to look elsewhere for their favorite food sources.

According to a recent article in The Associated Press, monarchs wintering in Mexico are up 144 percent from last year. Butterflies are occupying 14.95 acres of pine forest this year, up from a year ago of 6.12 acres. Again, I like to think this is

because of your efforts. Unfortunately, the numbers are down for monarchs wintering in California.

Scientists quickly warn that this encouraging news does not mean migrating butterflies from Canada and the U.S. are out of danger. There will have to be many years of rising numbers to be sure that monarchs prevail. Gardeners across the U.S., Canada and Mexico can make sure that those numbers keep rising.



What actions can you take to help? Plant more milkweed!

- Most plants are naturally attractive, perennial and have a long bloom time.
- Remember, all types of milkweed are good for all pollinators. If you plant anything from the Asclepias family, you are helping monarchs as well as many more critters.
- Consult your favorite local nursery. Encourage them to offer more than one kind of milkweed for sale.
- Encourage your garden club to host a monarch program. Feature informational handouts and give away packets of milkweed seed. If you hold your event at your local nursery, it also provides an opportunity to get new garden club members.
- Give milkweed plants as a gift to your friends, neighbors and co-workers for their yards. We can do this.

We, you and I, can make a difference to take steps today that will bring back monarchs, as well as apply solutions that benefit all pollinators. ■

Kay MacNeil

Chairman, Milkweed for Monarchs
The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc.
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Photos by Kay MacNeil



MacNeil directs the Milkweed for Monarchs program for The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc. in the Midwest. A new, updated, free video on YouTube, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PiL9bTKM_8 offers insights into all things monarch for garden clubs or other group meetings. Educational materials are available, including free monarch handouts and milkweed seeds in decorative packets, as well as DVD copies of the YouTube video. E-mail MacNeil for more information.

For more information, visit:

National Garden Clubs Inc.
gardenclub.org/pollinators
The Associated Press
apnews.com/monarchs-in-mexico
The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc.
gardenclubsofillinois.org/milkweed-for-monarchs





WHAT'S THE BUZZ ON neonicotinoids?

As gardeners eagerly descend upon their local garden centers this spring, many are aware of the detrimental effects and impact of neonicotinoids on our pollinator population.

Pollinators are essential to our world and play a large role in the foods we consume. According to Joe Lamp'l, host of the award-winning PBS television series "Growing a Greener World," pollinators are responsible for more than one out of every three bites of food we eat or beverages we drink.

Pollinators are under a national and global threat. Neonicotinoids (pronounced nee-oh-NIK-uh-tin-oyds), are systemic insecticides that began to be used in the mid-90s as a supposedly less-toxic alternative to those then on the market that were decided to be harmful to humans. They were deemed "reduced

risk" by the Environmental Protection Agency and fast-tracked to market. They quickly became the most heavily

“Neonics are believed to be one of the main causes in the demise of our pollinators.”

used class of insecticides worldwide and are widely used in the agricultural industry, although some growers of annuals and perennials supplied to leading commercial and retail operations also may use these chemicals.

"Neonics" are similar in chemical structure to nicotine, and all seven of

the chemicals classified as neonicotinoids control pests by binding to receptors in the insects' nervous systems and blocking nerve impulses. Neonics are believed to be one of the main causes in the demise of our pollinators.

- They are highly toxic to insects and many animal species including beneficial insects and all of our pollinators.

- They persist in plants and soil for months to years after they're applied and can accumulate from one season to another.
- They are water soluble and readily move into water bodies. The latest research found neonics in more than half of our streams!
- Because they are absorbed by plant tissues and become systemic (even when sprayed on foliage), they move into pollen and nectar, thereby following a direct route to our pollinators.

TAKE ACTION, PROVIDE EDUCATION

Milkweed is the host plant for monarch butterflies. It may be sold at retail garden centers or at leading national big box chains. Although some retailers have taken steps to stem products treated with systemic neonicotinoids, it is always a good idea to read the label on the plant. If you discover that a retailer sells plants treated with neonicotinoids, speak with the garden manager to see if the plants can be removed from the shelf and replaced with plants treated in a more

environmentally friendly manner.

THE POWER OF A COLLECTIVE VOICE

Members of National Garden Clubs Inc. have a strong, collective voice. In addition, NGC works closely with like-minded organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation, Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, the Xerces Society and The Pollinator Partnership.

There are plans of action one can take to support pollinators:

- Read labels and the tags on plants before you purchase.
- If you discover a plant that has been treated with neonicotinoids, communicate your concern to the garden center manager. Follow up on your efforts with a phone call or e-mail to the parent company of the garden center.
- Become educated on neonics and spread the word in your community regarding the harm the chemicals pose to pollinators.
- Plant bee-friendly plants using only organic starts or untreated seeds in organic potting soil.

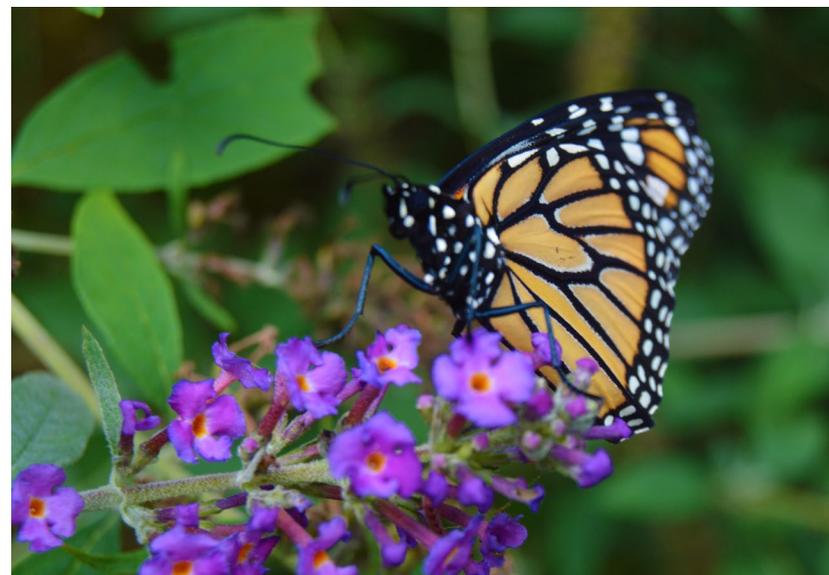


Photo
by
Phyllis
Simon
/ Art by
TaggART

- Do not use neonics of any kind in your garden!
- Share your knowledge. This is a global concern that requires a combined effort.

Many of us have experienced the benefits of belonging to a garden club, but have you ever encountered the question: "What are the advantages to us in belonging to National Garden Clubs Inc.?" Please share this information on neonicotinoids. It's one of the many examples of what we can accomplish together that might not be accomplished alone. You can make a difference! ■

Becky Hassebroek

Chairman, Wildlife Gardening
NGC Representative, National
Wildlife Federation and Million
Pollinator Garden Challenge
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For helpful resources, visit:

National Garden Clubs Inc.,
gardenclub.org
National Wildlife Federation,
nwf.org
Million Pollinator Gardens,
millionpollinatorgardens.org
The Xerces Society,
xerces.org
The Pollinator Partnership,
pollinator.org

[Editor's note: On occasion, The National Gardener may revisit and update previously published content of interest to readers. This article appeared in the summer 2017 issue.]

galanthus: A HARBINGER OF SPRING

As many gardeners will attest, there's nothing quite like the anticipation of a welcome sign of spring in the garden. One early-blooming perennial bulb is *Galanthus*, or snowdrop, which can push simple white blooms through the snow, even in the coldest regions.

Galanthus nivalis, commonly known as snowdrop, is native to Europe and southwest Asia. Plant names, however, are not static and the same species may be known by a wide range of different names, depending on the country or region in which it grows.

- In Britain, *Galanthus* may be referred to as fair maid of February, white ladies, Eve's tears, Mary's tapers, dingle-dangle and snow piercers.
- In Germany and the Netherlands, *Galanthus* is known as snow-bells. It is believed that the common name of snowdrop came from the German word Schneetropfen, a pearl teardrop-shaped earring worn by stylish ladies in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Snow drops are in the *Amaryllidaceae* (amaryllis) family, along with other perennial bulbs such as daffodils, hippeastrum, nerines, clivia and amaryllis. Twenty species of snowdrop currently are recognized. *Galanthus nivalis* are the most common, followed by *G. elwessi*, *G. pilicatus*, *G. woronowii* and *G. reginae-olgae*.

Most snowdrop bulbs produce just one flowering stalk, called the scape, which appears between two leaves. At the top of the scape, a single flower and the spathe, a papery, translucent, modified leaf, usually is found. The flower hangs from a pedicel, a thin, wiry flower stalk that is attached to a rounded, green ovary.

Snowdrops reproduce by bulb division and seed because they often cross-pollinate. Each species has given rise to many different cultivated varieties and hybrids, now estimated in the thousands, and are now widely naturalized in Britain and Western Europe, where they can be found in deciduous woodlands, hedges, parklands and domestic gardens.

Across the pond in North America, snowdrops often are seen in public gardens and estates planted around the end of the Victorian era. Because of a recent upsurge of interest, cultivated snowdrops are increasingly available

beyond the gardens and collections of past enthusiasts. They are best planted en masse in sweeping drifts in woodlands, landscaping or under deciduous trees. They also look great clustered in rock gardens or in a stumpery. An additional bonus is that *Galanthus* is virtually disease and trouble free and are resistant to deer and other

animals.

When planting snowdrop bulbs, it may be helpful to understand the terminology.

- Cultivars are organized alphabetically.
- Height to top of scape range from: very small, small, medium, large and very large.
- Flowering Season: spring—very early, early,

peak season, late and very late. In addition there are autumn varieties.

- Cultivation guidelines: very difficult, difficult, moderate, easy, very easy, variable.
- Common, easy-to-grow snowdrops are reasonably priced, and trading

“...*Galanthus* is virtually disease and trouble free and are resistant to deer and other animals.”



Galanthus nivalis, commonly known as snowdrop

bulbs among collectors is popular. Rare varieties may be expensive.

Many cultivars and varieties of snowdrops are beautiful, and may include simple single whites, showy doubles, bright green highlights or spots, masses of green and white inner centers or bright green foliage or bluish leaves. There is an endless supply of variables, with constant hybrid surprises.

Gardeners in North America have yet to achieve the same level of "galanthomania" as in Britain, where the interest in *Galanthus* has been compared to the tulip mania of the 17th century. However, interest in snowdrops in the United States has surged from the position of a low-impact spring flowering curiosity to a significant subculture.

Although the United Kingdom may be considered the hub of all things snowdrop, there are plenty of snowdrop showcase gardens to visit in the United States, including The Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Ill., Montrose Gardens, Hillsborough, N.C. and Winterthur Museum

Garden and Library,
Winterthur, Del.

Other special gardens include:

- Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, N.Y.
- Luthy Botanical Garden, Peoria, Ill.
- Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo.

- Hilltop Garden & Nature Center, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.
- Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, Washington D.C.
- University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Seattle, Wash.
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, Wis. ■

Gail S. Corle

*Chairman, Liaison to Plant Societies
Gcorle1214@gmail.com*

Reference: Slade, Naomi. The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops. Portland, Ore. Timber Press, 2014. Print.

For more information, visit The Hardy Plant Society, Galanthus Group at hardy-plant.org or galanthus@hardy-plant.org

For resources and helpful links on plant societies, visit the NGC website at gardenclub.org/projects/liaisons-plant-societies



Members of Boy Scout Troop 1240 conduct the presentation of the colors. ▲

Merced Garden Club, Inc., member of California Garden Clubs Inc., dedicated a Gold Star Families By-way Memorial Marker at American Legion Post 38 at Veterans Memorial Building in Merced, Calif. The marker was purchased by Merced Garden Club and the Yosemite Gateway District.

The marker, installed in the lobby of the building, was dedicated in November, 2018. Highlights of the dedication ceremony included a performance by students in the honor choir at John C. Fremont Elementary School, a presentation of colors by members of a local troop of the Boy Scouts of America, and a reading of the history of the Gold and Blue Star Families Memorials.

Joyce Stillman

*President, Merced Garden Club
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Photos courtesy of Merced Garden Club Inc.

Members of Merced Garden Club gather near the new Gold Star Families By-way Memorial Marker. Maelee Mills, (front row, blue shirt), is the youngest member of Merced Garden Club. Maelee is the great-granddaughter of the late Earleen Henderson, a long-time member and president of the garden club. ▼



A BOUNTIFUL GARDEN INSTILLS A garden-to-table connection

The Garden Club of Fort Pierce in Florida and a group of junior gardeners planted, maintained and harvested vegetables and herbs in several raised beds at a local school last year. The club is a recipient of a 2018 Ames Tool Grant and used the tools it received in the project.

Project team members measured and divided three large raised beds utilizing a “square-foot gardening,” method, assigning a “grow box” for students in each grade level—from kindergarten to fifth grade—at the school. Club members and students placed seeds, as well as transplanted plants, in each box including:

- Peppers, onions and potatoes;
- Collards, broccoli, eggplant, cabbage, lettuce and beans;

Raised beds were divided into sections using the square-foot method of gardening.



Sunflowers grew tall among the raised beds and were used in a number of learning applications.



Students learned how to plant herbs in a “grow box.”

- Lettuce and red leaf lettuce;
 - Herbs, such as African basil, spearmint, lemon mint, radishes, Vicks plant and chives;
 - Flowers, including zinnias, four o’clocks and sunflowers.
- Students also planted sunflower seeds in areas surrounding the garden. The

“...students tracked the growth of the larger plants on a weekly basis..”

sunflowers, some growing to over nine feet tall, provided a host of learning opportunities in which students tracked the growth of the larger plants on a weekly basis, and teachers incorporated the garden project into lesson plans. One large sunflower harvested enough seeds for each student to take home, demonstrating how just a single seed can produce a large plant.

To instill the concept and value of implementing natural growing methods, garden club members bagged composted horse manure from a nearby horse-boarding facility and showed students how to use it to amend soil in the raised beds. The practice benefited the project both economically and environmentally.

A garden club member used harvested vegetables to make ratatouille and several salads to share with students so they could learn about healthy eating and the connection of garden to table. At the end of the school year, students received items from the harvest to take home to their families. ■

Vivian Kobe

Garden Club of Fort Pierce
Viviankobe41@gmail.com



Photos courtesy of Garden Club of Fort Pierce.



We Are BLOOM!

What

BLOOM! is the movement to improve the world through the power of plants.

We operate on one simple premise: the more we know about plants, the more we can make a difference today. By empowering today's youth – the next generation of game changers and dreamers – to unlock the potential of their natural world, BLOOM! is opening their eyes to opportunities they never knew possible and, in the process, seeding their future and ours.

Why

There have never been more opportunities to change the world through plants as there are today...

...but awareness of the industry that sustains them - known as "horticulture" - is at an all-time low.



With more than 100 different careers in the industry, horticulture – the art, science, technology and business of plants – has something to offer everyone. Jobs include plant scientists, landscape architects, arborists, urban farmers, and drone engineers – just to name a few.

Horticulturists are using their plant knowledge to solve some of our biggest challenges, like feeding a growing world, climate change and clean water.

The average American can recognize over 1,000 brands and logos, but fewer than 10 plants in their local areas.

Nearly 58,000 jobs in the green-collar industry – jobs working with plants – are expected to become available each year for at least the next five years, but only 61% are expected to be filled. This creates a critical workforce gap.

BLOOM! was created to excite youth about the power of plants and ensure horticulture - and the millions of people who depend on it - thrives well into the future.

FIND YOUR PLANT POWER AT WeAreBLOOM.org

How

Through eye-catching content delivered inside and outside of the classroom, BLOOM! is inspiring youth to appreciate the plant world and introducing them to a lifelong passion - and perhaps even a career.

Through a multichannel approach to reaching its campaign audiences, BLOOM! has the potential to reach millions of youth and youth influencers (parents, teachers and youth program leaders) in the first year of the campaign. The centerpiece of the movement is **WeAreBLOOM.org**, a website that serves as a digital hub for all campaign activity.

At WeAreBLOOM.org ...



Youth can uncover their plant power through a personalized interactive quiz, they can explore the world of plants through entertaining social media content, they can learn surprising facts about plants and their impact on the world through videos and fun infographics, and they can be inspired by meeting some of the coolest people working in the field today through video profiles that are fun and often eye-opening about the diverse world of green-collar careers.

Teachers and youth program leaders can access a toolkit of educational materials and resources on our BLOOM! educator microsite. Created and distributed in partnership with Scholastic at www.Scholastic.com/BLOOM, resources include sample lesson plans and activities, student magazines, student contests and games, videos, and online learning modules that demystify the field of horticulture and encourage students to explore the world of plants.

Parents and partners can access a robust toolkit of resources to help them introduce youth to the world of plants and explore the diverse and rewarding careers in the world of horticulture.

Who

BLOOM! is powered by Seed Your Future, a coalition of more than 150 horticulture industry companies, gardening organizations, schools, colleges and universities, public gardens, youth organizations and supporters united by their unwavering confidence in the power of plants to change the world.



FIND YOUR PLANT POWER AT WeAreBLOOM.org





A meadow created on the grounds of a high school campus in Maryland provides unique learning opportunities for students, especially those with an interest in the sciences, conservation and environmental responsibility.

The ongoing educational project is the culmination of a partnership in 2016 between members of the conservation and environmental awareness committee of Mountain Laurel Garden Club in Garrett County, and teachers and students in environmental science classes at Northern High School in Owings.

At the onset of the project, the group explored and identified

educational initiatives and criteria for the meadow, with a major objective to provide a habitat that would attract beneficial insects, birds and pollinators, including butterflies, bees and moths—an effort central to the garden club's educational activities in the community. In addition, the meadow was designed to provide students with the ability to observe the development and evolution of a variety of native wildflowers and grasses that bloom at different times throughout the seasons.



Digging in! Members of Mountain Laurel Garden Club worked closely with high school seniors on the Northern High School meadow project to prepare soil for native plantings that will attract pollinators.

Following a discussion for a suitable space for the meadow on the school's grounds, a wide variety of native plants was selected for the 20-by-20-foot area. Once the project was underway, the soil was prepared and a fence was erected to protect the area from deer and other invasive animals.

As a result of the group's meticulous

planning and efforts, the meadow, which evolved into a demonstration garden, teems with life throughout the changing seasons. In addition, other classes at the high school and students at a nearby middle school frequently visit the meadow, as well as people utilizing the walking trails and track on the high school field.



Committee garden club members assembled a full-color, 12-page booklet that included the meadow's site plans and location of plants. As a part of the critical learning process, plants in the meadow were not identified by outdoor signage. Instead, students are encouraged to

“More than 200 copies of the booklet were distributed to students.”

consult the booklet and explore the meadow to identify each plant by color, characteristics and benefits, as well as learn its scientific and common name. More than 200 copies of the booklet were distributed to students.

In addition, the garden club provided plans and materials



for the construction of two garden benches to students in the school's carpentry class, part of the school district's Career and Technology Education curriculum. A sign recognizing area organizations that played active roles in the project



was donated and installed in the area.

The meadow was a highlight on the garden club's Secret Country Garden Tour in June, 2017. More than 200 people visited the meadow and students involved in the project answered questions and helped identify plants. An annual tradition for the garden club in the community for 19 years, the tour also featured residential gardens.

Mountain Laurel Garden Club members continue to support the garden and plans are underway to restore nearby wetlands this spring. The Northern High School meadow project earned an NGC youth grant and two awards from Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland Inc. The project was led by Linda Harris, Mountain Laurel Garden Club. ■

Diana Bonner

President

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 **Photos by Linda Harris**

*For more information, visit
mountainlaurelgardenclub.com/*

POLLINATOR GARDEN PROVIDES 'gifts of love'

Simsbury Garden Club in Simsbury, Conn., collaborated last year with Gifts of Love Community Farm in Simsbury, to create a pollinator garden that provides a habitat and food source for pollinators. The project serves as a vital link to members of the community to foster a better understanding of pollinators and their unique relationship to the garden and food, and creates a venue for student learning and

education on pollinators, gardening and horticulture.

Gifts of Love, which was formed 30 years ago, reduces financial crises for working individuals and families in the Greater Hartford area, by offering short-term programs, education, food, clothing, household necessities, furniture and financial planning that support and improve sustainability. In 2013, the organization merged with the



▲ Jim Dombrowski of Gifts of Love Community Farm unpacked the tools for the project.

Community Farm of Simsbury, a non-profit organization that features a 140-acre certified organic educational farm dedicated to growing produce for people in need. On an annual basis, Gifts of Love Community Farm distributes more than \$300,000 worth of goods and services to people across a wide area, including residents of more than 30 Connecticut towns.

Simsbury Garden Club applied for and received a 2018 Ames Tool Grant toward the project. The tools received were immediately put to good use – shovels and rakes helped prepare the ground and removed weeds and old roots; hoes

loosened the ground and weeds; shovels helped to plant new three-gallon native shrubs and colorful perennials; and hoses aided in the watering of the new plants and shrubs, which became critical when a heat wave hit the area. After only one month, plants were thriving and a variety of honey bees, native bees and butterflies had winged their way to the garden.

Children attending school or summer programs at Gifts of Love Community Farm learn about pollinators, plants that attract pollinators and how to maintain the garden using the new tools as part of the organization's ongoing educational programming.

Diana Hughes
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Lea Anne Moran
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Co-presidents, Simsbury Garden Club
The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Inc.

📷 **Photos courtesy of Simsbury Garden Club**

For more information on Gifts of Love Community Farm visit giftsoflovect.org



◀ Simsbury Garden Club members helped plant 164 perennials, grasses and shrubs at the new pollinator garden at Gifts of Love Community Farm. Pictured left to right are Robin Schofield, garden club co-presidents Diana Hughes and Lea Anne Moran, and Cynthia Mohrman.

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A HIGHWAY 'FORGOTTEN GARDEN' springs to life

There are thousands of highways across the United States that offer intentional landscaping, with lovely perennial trees, shrubs and grass – with the goal of beautification in mind.

However, landscaping on many highways has been neglected. Overgrown and unsightly, these areas often block visibility for pedestrians and motorists. These “forgotten gardens” are rooted in good intentions, but upkeep and maintenance of these areas often becomes problematic.

The Highway Beautification Act was launched in 1965 by Lady Bird Johnson, first lady of the U.S., avid gardener



▲ Trees were removed, making way for newly planted annuals. Lynn Duncan, Forgotten Garden chairman, works on a weed-infested area.



▲ LEFT: Jay Pound, a garden club member, removed nine years of imbedded weeds. RIGHT: Colorful geraniums brighten a new welcoming space.

and member of National Garden Clubs Inc. The act called for the control and limitation of certain types of outdoor advertising and the development, beautification and scenic enhancement of our nation’s Interstate Highway and federal-aid primary highway systems.

In 2018, members of Greater Eagle River Garden Club in Chugiak, Alaska, took on a blighted area along a well-traveled highway as a challenging community service project. With permission from the Alaska Department of Transportation &



◀ Before and after! Garden club members tackled the removal of weeds along the sidewalk.



▲ LEFT: Remnants from the cleanup. A job well done! RIGHT: Dead trees were embedded with stabilizing ties that had never been removed. The garden club removed 18 dead trees that had been planted nine years ago, and never maintained.

Public Facilities, club members weeded, pruned trees and shrubs and relocated or removed plants, particularly those that posed a threat to visibility or public safety. In addition, garden club members enlisted the aid of several businesses along the stretch of highway on the project and other area organizations have joined in support.

The club received a 2019 NGC Plant America Community Project Grant in recognition of this project. In addition, the club was a 2018 recipient of an Ames Tool Grant, with members using the tools in their cleanup efforts on the project. ■

Chris Wood

President, Greater Eagle River Garden Club and Alaska Garden Clubs
Ak.gc.pres@gmail.com

Photos by Chris Wood



PLANT AMERICA community project grants

Congratulations to the garden clubs of National Garden Clubs Inc. that have been awarded 2019 Plant America Community Project Grants! Below are the garden clubs that were awarded the amount of funding that was requested – up to \$1,000 in recognition and support of their community gardening efforts.

The focus for the Plant America Community Project Grant Program is on gardens and gardening. The scope and variety of projects implemented by these clubs is remarkable. Start planning your next gardening project, and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to apply for grant funding from NGC.

Betty Cookendorfer

Chairman
Plant America Community Project Grants
Bcooken@aol.com

For more information, visit National Garden Clubs Inc. at gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-community-project-grants

- Greater Eagle River Garden Club
Alaska Garden Clubs
- Camden Garden Club, Arkansas
Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Garden Club of Rogers, Arkansas
Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Del Norte Garden Club
California Garden Clubs Inc.
- Discovery Bay Garden Club
California Garden Clubs Inc.
- Elk Grove Garden Club (Fox Pool
Complex), California Garden Clubs
Inc.
- Escalon Farmington Community
Garden Club
California Garden Clubs Inc.
- Poway Valley Garden Club
California Garden Clubs Inc.
- Garden Club of Orange
The Federated Garden Clubs of
Connecticut Inc.
- Town & Country Garden Club
The Federated Garden Clubs of
Connecticut Inc.
- Westbrook Garden Club
The Federated Garden Clubs of
Connecticut Inc.
- Spade & Trowel Garden Club Inc.
The Delaware Federation of Garden
Clubs
- Apollo Beach Garden Club, Florida
Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Pine Forest Garden Club, The Garden
Club of Georgia Inc.
- Elgin Garden Club, The Garden Clubs
of Illinois Inc.
- Roselle Park District Garden Club The
Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc.
- Schaumburg Community Garden
Club, The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc.
- Town and Country Club of
Libertyville, The Garden Clubs of
Illinois Inc.
- Hobart Garden Club
The Garden Club of Indiana Inc.
- Sages Garden Club
The Garden Club of Indiana Inc.
- Somerset Garden Club The Garden
Club of Kentucky Inc.
- Ferriday Garden Club, Louisiana
Garden Club Federation Inc.
- Garden Gate Study Club Garden
Club, Louisiana Garden Club
Federation Inc.
- Jennings Garden Club, Louisiana
Garden Club Federation Inc.
- St. Martinville Garden Club, Louisiana
Garden Club Federation Inc.
- St. Mary's Garden Club, The Garden
Club Federation of Maine Inc.
- Bent Twig Garden Club, The
Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland
Inc.
- Dorchester Garden Club, The
Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland
Inc.
- Mt. Washington Garden Club, The
Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland
Inc.
- House and Garden Club of Wellesley
The Garden Club Federation of
Massachusetts Inc.
- Touch the Earth Garden Club
Michigan Garden Clubs Inc.
- 4-Seasons Garden Club, The Garden
Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- Charleston's Magnolia Garden Club,
The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- Greenwood Garden Club, The
Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- McComb Garden Club, The Garden
Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- New Albany Garden Club, The
Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- Winona Garden Club, The Garden
Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- Lake Bloomers Garden Club, The
Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri
Inc.
- O'Fallon Garden Club, The Federated
Garden Clubs of Missouri Inc.
- Pioneer Garden Club, The Federated
Garden Clubs of Missouri Inc.
- Rosendale Community Garden Club
The Federated Garden Clubs of
Missouri Inc.
- Potomac Village Garden Club
National Capital Area Garden Clubs
Inc.
- Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly
Garden, The Garden Club of New
Jersey Inc.
- Ardsley Garden Club, Federated
Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.
- Ballston Spa House and Garden Club,
Federated Garden Clubs of New York
State Inc.
- Forest Stream Garden Club
Federated Garden Clubs of New York
State Inc.
- Garden Club of Peekskill, Federated
Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.
- Little Gardens of Tarrytown Garden
Club, Federated Garden Clubs of
New York State Inc.
- Shawangunk Garden Club, Federated
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- Three Village Garden Club, Federated
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GROW YOUR PROJECT!

Do you have a community gardening project just waiting to get off – or out of – the ground?

Apply for an NGC Plant America Grant!

For guidelines and application form, visit www.gardenclubs.org

- Emerald Isle Garden Club, The Garden Club of North Carolina Inc.
- Berlin Heights Garden Club The Garden Club of Ohio Inc.
- Milan Garden Club, The Garden Club of Ohio Inc.
- Green Thumb Garden Club Oklahoma Garden Clubs Inc.
- Okemah Garden Club (Guthrie Memorial Park), Oklahoma Garden Clubs Inc.
- Tulsa Garden Club, Oklahoma Garden Clubs Inc.
- Powell Valley Garden Club, The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Blair Garden Club, The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Inc.
- Garden Club of Forest Hills The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Inc.
- Gettysburg Garden Club, The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Inc.
- Hazelton Area Garden Club The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Inc.
- South Schuylkill Garden Club The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Inc.
- Weeders and Seeders Garden Club The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Inc.
- Wildflower Garden Club, The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Inc.
- Blythewood Garden Club, The Garden Club of South Carolina Inc.
- Lady Slipper Garden Club, The Garden Club of South Carolina Inc.
- Germantown Garden Club, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Iris City Garden Club, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Designers and Diggers Garden Club, Texas Garden Clubs Inc.
- Amelia County Garden Club, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Calfee Garden Club, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Red Hill Garden Club, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Illahee Garden Club, Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
- Queen of Spades Garden Club Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
- Women's Century Club Garden Department, Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
- Beverly Hills Garden Club, West Virginia Garden Club Inc.
- Emma Scott Garden Club, West Virginia Garden Club Inc.
- Fred Brooks Garden Club, West Virginia Garden Club Inc.
- Monongahela Garden Club, West Virginia Garden Club Inc.
- Mount Vernon Garden Club, West Virginia Garden Club Inc.
- Stargazer Garden Club, West Virginia Garden Club Inc.
- Sunset Garden Club, Wisconsin Garden Club Federation ■

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GARDENING SCHOOLS

growing tips for combining vegetables and flowers in containers

BY PAMELA CRAWFORD

It was quite difficult to get used to mixing vegetables and flowers. I kept thinking that they looked so different and they needed to be separated. However, I realized that my attitudes were based on what I had seen, and historically, vegetables have seldom been used as part of a container design that is mainly flowers. But, as time went on and I gained experience by planting hundreds of vegetable/flower combos, I began to like the combinations that had seemed so foreign. The tomato/flower combo is one of my favorites!

Plant tiny vegetables first and add the flowers later. For example, an eggplant was quite small when I bought it. So small, in fact, that I was worried that planting flowers near it wouldn't work because the flowers would swallow up the small eggplant. So, I planted the eggplant and waited about two weeks for it to reach 24 inches tall. The eggplant grew really quickly because the weather was hot. Then, I surrounded it with yellow flowers. This technique worked



▲ A simple, plastic party tub holds a vining tomato on a trellis, with Heatwave tomato, pentas, coleus and Creeping Jenny.

beautifully. After the flowers were planted, I did nothing at all other than water and stake the eggplant branches that started to fall.

Eight Easy Ways to Kill...Vegetables and Flowers

1. Buy the Wrong Plants

Most beginners buy plants that don't meet their expectations simply because they don't understand the plant's flowering habits-or the plant is an erratic performer. You need to know how large a vegetable plant gets, how easy it is to grow in containers, when to plant it, and how many vegetables it will produce prior to buying it.

2. Buy the Wrong Potting Mix

Don't skimp on your potting mix. Good potting mix costs a little bit more, but makes all the difference. Plants grow larger and live longer with quality potting mix. Do not buy topsoil, garden soil, or potting soil for containers. It is too heavy, and the plants may rot and die quickly. Look for a brand name you trust. Peters, Miracle Grow, Lambert's, and Fafard (along with many others) offer top-quality, potting mix.

3. Buy the Wrong Fertilizer

I have killed plants with fertilizers several times. However, plants need nutrients, and fertilizer is an easy way to provide them. It hasn't been easy to choose the right one. A brand name multipurpose time-release fertilizer that feeds 6 -9 months should work well in your container.

4. Plant in the Wrong Season

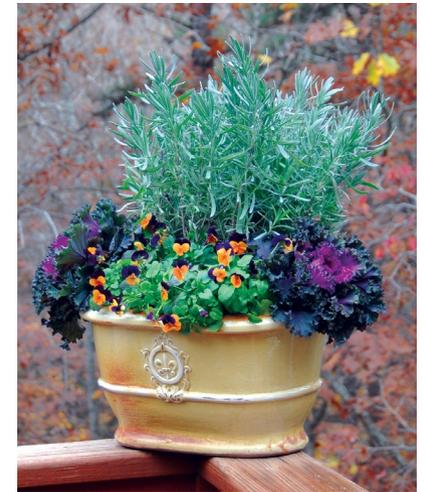
Vegetables either like it warm or cool. Cabbages, for example, are cool-season vegetables, and if you plant them in the wrong season, they will not do well. I made this mistake several times and lost quite a few plants because of it.

5. Water Incorrectly

Like people, plants need water to live. However, if you give them too much, they drown and die. If you give them too little, they die of thirst. Most vegetables need a lot of water, but you can drown them just the same. Look for signs of wilting, or dry potting mix, before watering.

6. Pile Potting Mix around the Stem of the Plant

If potting mix or organic mulch comes into contact with the stem of many plants, the stem can rot, killing the plant (except for tomatoes). It



▲ TOP: Eggplant with melampodium flowers in a blue ceramic pot. BOTTOM: A beautiful container holds lavender with purple ornamental kale and violas.

is quite easy to avoid this plight by simply planting the plants a little bit higher. To help retain water, some people like to put organic mulch on top of the potting mix after they have planted a container. This method works fine on large plants, like azaleas or tieplants, provided

Please visit NGC Schools Registrations at www.gardenclub.org

you don't pile the mulch up around the stem. However, on small plants, like impatiens or lettuce, it is quite difficult to mulch without harming the plant.

7. Plant in a Pot without Holes in the Bottom

If your pots don't have holes in the bottom for drainage, the plants will die. Luckily, most pots come with holes in the bottom. If you see one you want to buy that doesn't have holes, ask the salesperson if he/she will drill them for you. Many garden centers offer that service.

8. Give the Plant the Wrong Amount of Light

Different plants need different amounts of light. A tomato likes sun, while lettuce takes more shade.

But, how much sun is enough for sun plants? The rule of thumb is a minimum of six hours of direct sun every day. In other words, if your tomato just gets two hours of sun, with shade the rest of the day, it will not do well. Most vegetables need a full six hours of sun per day. If they get less than that, they will not perform well. However, some cool-season, leafy vegetables (arugula, kale, lettuce, mustard greens, spinach and Swiss chard) can get by with partial shade. ■

Barbara Hadsell

Chairman, Gardening Schools
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Article and photos by Pamela Crawford. *Easy Container Combos: Vegetables and Flowers* by Pamela Crawford. Reprinted with permission

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Pamela Crawford, award-winning landscape designer and author of 11 gardening books, has lived and gardened in South Florida for most of her life. In addition to designing gardens for over 1,500 residences in Palm Beach County, her work has routinely appeared in *Better Homes & Gardens* publications, as well as *Southern Living*, *HGTV Magazine*, *Fine Gardening*, *Country Gardens*, *Country Almanac*, *Small Gardens* and in over 2,500 newspapers. As an expert in her field, she has appeared on the *Fine Living Network*, *GardenSmart* on PBS and numerous local TV shows. Crawford holds a Bachelor of Arts from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., and a master's degree in landscape architecture from Florida International University in Miami, where she received the prestigious "Torch Award" as an outstanding alumnus from the School of Architecture. She has been heavily involved in trial gardens, both on a university and private level. Crawford's goal is to find plants that give the most color for the least amount of care.

Peppers in a decorative Mexican pot include habanero, jalapeno, chili and red hot cherry peppers.



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landscape DESIGN SCHOOLS

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"STEWARDS OF THE LAND"

The excerpt to the left, from the NGC book "Stewards of the Land," explores one of the many topics studied in NGC's Landscape Design Schools, which has promoted good landscape practices for many years.

We are pleased that 16 courses and eight refreshers currently are scheduled. When will the next school begin in your state? Your NGC LDS chairmen are here to answer your questions and assist with your school.

New schools beginning on and after July 1 will utilize the new curriculum posted on the NGC website. Schools in progress and schools beginning before July 1 will utilize existing curriculum, which also is available on the NGC website. Copies of "Stewards of the Land" are readily available at NGC Member Services.

News and reminders:

- Use only the fillable forms posted on the NGC website for all schools administration. Using these forms eliminates the need to make many copies or scan documents, postage expense and expedites delivery (by e-mail) of the forms to those who need them. Many state chairmen are not following this request.
- States need to track the Series numbers of the schools they conduct and maintain records of their students and consultants. We are finding too many instances where these things are not being done. Consultants also are required to keep copies of their records.
- Notify us of changes in state school chairmanships so we can update our directory (on the website).
- Consultants need to make requests (for extensions, reinstatements, Emeritus status, etc.) through their state chairmen and not to the Schools Secretary.
- Consultants are required to read The National Gardener. Reading exams for each course are sent to state

chairmen only upon the approval of the course by the NGC LDS Instructors Chairmen.

- Please contribute news and photos to Newscape, the NGC Landscape Design newsletter, which is issued twice a year and posted on the NGC website. Read it and share it with consultants, students and others.

Use Landscape Design Schools to provide education to garden club members and to reach out to the public while providing a meaningful term project for your club, district or state. ■

Greg Pokorski

Chairman

Landscape Design Schools

GregPokorski@earthlink.net

Please visit NGC Member Services at shopgardenclub.org/shop/



NGC Calendar

National Conventions

2019	Biloxi, Miss., Apr. 29-May 2 (Installation)
2020	Milwaukee, Wis., May 11-14
2021	East Rutherford, N.J., May 17-20

Fall Board Meetings

2019	St. Louis, Mo., Sept 18-20
2020	Fargo, N.D., Sept. 24-26
2021	St. Louis, Mo., Dates TBD

Flower Show

SCHOOLS NEWS

“Nature will deliberately reveal itself...if only we look.”

– THOMAS EDISON

Spring is here. Time for renewal! Let's spruce up our etiquette and ethics skills.

What is the first thing you should do after being invited to judge a flower show? Let the Judges Chairman know if you can be there! Don't let that person wait around wondering---if you can't judge, someone else must be asked.

Prior to arriving at the flower show, what must you do to be prepared to judge? Read the schedule with special attention to the classes you will be judging. Read the rules, the class descriptions, find out which Top Exhibitor Awards are offered. If you find a discrepancy in the schedule, notify the FS Chairman immediately.

When should you arrive? Early! Be there so the Judges Chairman doesn't worry about not having the full slate of judging panels filled. Be present for the last-minute updates and the walk-through.

When the clerks present you to the first class you are to judge, where do you begin? Read again the description of the class as written in the schedule. Read the entry tag. Does the exhibit conform to the guidelines? Is it in the right class? If not, talk to the Classification Chairman. Perhaps it was accidentally misplaced.

During the judging process, be sure it is a three-way discussion. If one of the judging panel is reticent to express his/her view, try to include that person. If one on the judging panel tries to dominate the discussion, interject with factual information. Refer to the Handbook for Flower

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Shows, 2017, to back up the points you make. When the panel cannot reach a conclusion, point score. Doing so can furnish a clearer, unbiased look at the exhibit. Remember, majority rules.

What happens when it is made known that one of the judging panel has an exhibit in the section assigned to it? Contact the Judges Chairman immediately and replace the exhibitor/judge with an impartial judge for that section. A Judge never judges sections in which he/she has an exhibit/s.

When you have finished your judging assignment, remove your name badge if you were given one, and do not discuss or contest the decisions of the other judging panels. Always be discreet and avoid expounding on your vast knowledge about proper judging procedures.

If you are appointed to be on the evaluation panel for the flower show, expect to spend additional time looking at all parts of the venue: the entrance, the floor plan, the lighting, the signage and staging. Note the spacing of the exhibits for easy viewing. Follow the appropriate evaluation form found in Chapter 14 of the Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017. Make notes and be prepared to describe in writing the positives and negatives about the show. Consider the weight of each portion of the scale and award or deny points

proportionally based on the degree of execution. Be prepared to complete the form after you get home and return it to the State Flower Show Evaluations Chairman within one week of the show. Judges must submit a written summary even when the show scores less than the 95 points required to apply for a Flower Show Achievement Award.

Remember, if you have any concerns about anything connected with the show, they should be addressed at the next Judges Council meeting, not on the floor of the show. Refer to pages 97-99 of the Handbook for Flower shows, 2017, for more guidelines.

The end of the day has come, so what do you do soon after you return home? Write a note of appreciation to the Chairman of the flower show.

Let's strive to be the best judges possible by being knowledgeable of the policies and rules of the Handbook for Flower Shows. Stay up to date with changes to policy and rules. Be fair and unbiased, gracious and

helpful, kind and courteous to those we serve. Judging is a privilege, not a right.

Get to know the National Garden Clubs website, www.gardenclub.org. Need help in writing a schedule? There are sample schedules posted there. Need to know the most convenient site for a school or symposium to attend? They

are listed on the website. Looking for an instructor for your school or symposium? You will find contact information for all active instructors and state chairmen on line. Need a timeline when planning a school or symposium? You can find handy step by step guidelines. Wondering which form to use when applying for awards or preparing to register for a refresher? Just look on the website, you'll find it all.

A new section on Photography has just been added to the website under the Flower Show Schools heading. Composed by Arabella Dane, the section features photographs from the Fall, 2018 display at the NGC Fall Board Meeting. Also, she has created three tutorials on "Painting with Light." Those are followed by articles on "Resizing Photos," "Composing Your Photograph," and "Angle of View." Check them out for some enlightening information you can use to improve your skills.

This NGC FSS Chairman has enjoyed being in touch with you for the past six years. The experience has been gratifying and enlightening. Beginning with the 2019-2021 term, the Chairmanship of the NGC Flower Show Schools Committee will be very ably filled by Jan Warshauer, formerly from New Jersey, now living in Florida. Jan has a rich history of experience in all phases of holding flower shows, exhibiting, judging, and chairing schools and symposiums. She has served on the NGC FSS Committee for the past four years as an Accrediting Chairman. We look forward to new ideas and solid guidance from Jan and her committee. Best wishes to all of you! ■

Dorothy Yard

*Chairman, Flower Show Schools Committee
2013-2019
dotyard@verizon.net*



SAVE THE DATE!

April 27, 2019

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**General Chairman:
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See you all there!



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Registrations at**

www.gardenclub.org

THE Happy Gardener's Guide

- THE GARDEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS -

■ ■ Thank you! Thank you! I haven't held a green plant in my hands for 17 years."

The gardener in me was dumbstruck. Since I have constant access to the plant world, it is hard to imagine being in a world devoid of opportunities to see, touch or care for plants. The one who was expressing such heart-felt gratitude was an inmate at an area maximum-security prison, where the garden club in which I am a member has implemented garden therapy projects.

The journey began a couple years ago when a friend of mine, who regularly ministers at the prison, asked me to write a letter supporting an inmate's petition to begin a garden. "After all, aren't you a president or something in the garden club?", the friend asked. Indeed! I now count this outreach as one of the best uses of my title as a state president. In less than an hour, the letter was penned and sent.

Whatever small part my letter may have played, I will always be thankful that permission was granted and the garden was allowed to be established. Two years later, the garden has doubled in size and scope and another garden is expected to be introduced this coming spring. Wonderfully, one

of the gardens is primarily wildflowers so that pollinators will be attracted and supported.

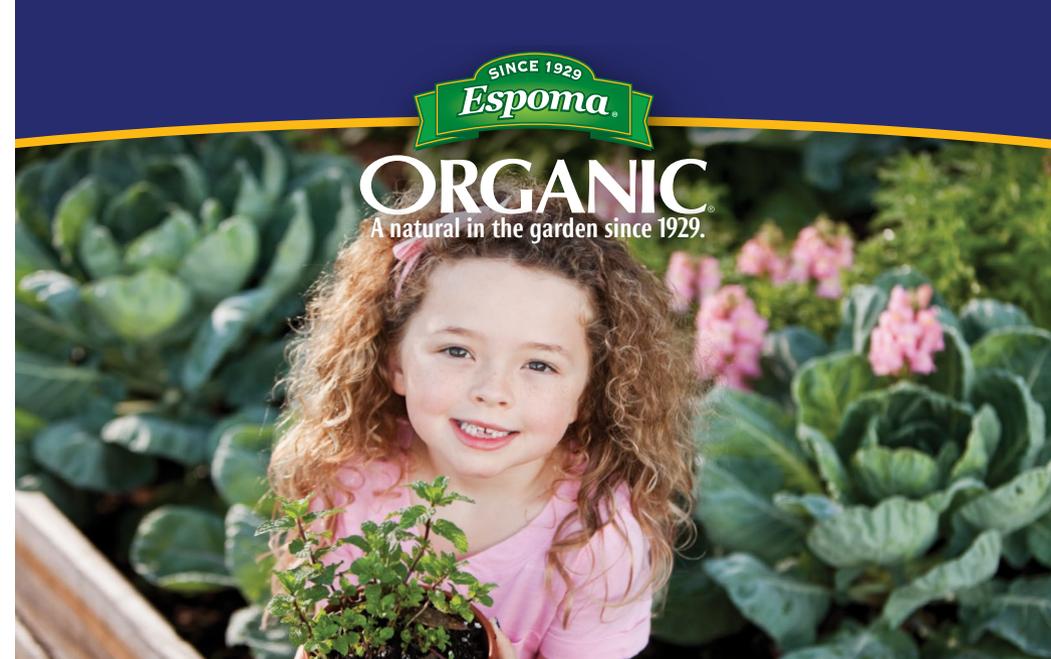
When I presented the opportunity to be a seed supporter of the garden, members of my garden club jumped aboard quickly. They continue to delight in the success of the gardens, especially in the touching testimonials from inmates who get to participate.

Gardens are hopeful things. Aside from the fresh vegetables and flowers, which the inmates there dearly appreciate, there is the opportunity to work on a meaningful outdoor project together. Their garden is meticulously tended. It is both orderly and beautiful.

Hope and purpose go hand in hand. Generosity has sprung out of nature's bounty. For example, inmates collected a crop of pumpkins in the fall and donated them to students at a local elementary school for use in a variety of learning applications.

The opportunity to garden does a world of good! ■

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



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Landscape

DESIGN

THE FOURTH DIMENSION OF DESIGN

BY GEORGE W. LONGENECKER

It has been said that one cannot go back, because it will never be the same.

In design, we work with height, width and depth: the dimensions of space. In landscape design, we must add a fourth dimension: the dimension of time. This means we must plan for change. The only thing we can absolutely be sure of is that there will be change. "Going back," we can look for and welcome these

changes. We are happy with those that we anticipated. We can learn from those that we do not care for.

The impact of change

Architecture primarily incorporates three-dimensional spatial design and the functions of those spaces. When a building is finished, all it can do is deteriorate over time. When an architectural landscape project is



The display garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens also evolved over a period of 13 years.



completed, it is just beginning and needs time to grow. The landscape designer must look ahead 10, 20 or 40 years to make sure the project will still function properly. By understanding natural processes, one can guide the long-term changes toward a desired end. For example, as woody plants grow, spatial volumes and views change. As the ground is shaded and soil temperatures drop, conditions are

A span of 30 years brought dramatic changes to areas of Boerner Botanical Gardens near Milwaukee, Wis., including the growth of a saucer magnolia and the loss of an American elm behind the building.

improved for some plants, but not for others.

One dimension of time that occurs

“The landscape designer must look ahead 10, 20 or 40 years...”

both in architecture and in the landscape involves the time-space continuum: experiencing changes we perceive as we travel through space. In the urban landscape, human impact is a given. As a family grows, its needs change.

For example, a sandbox might turn into a planter. As new families move in, additional changes may be made – a lily pool may be replaced by a swimming pool; a formal garden may be replaced by a basketball court.

The ever-evolving landscape

Most of man's development in the outdoors requires frequent maintenance if the landscape is to continue. When the landscape is neglected, nature will take over and make changes of its own.

In the landscape, physical changes constantly are evolving. Daily and seasonal changes are relatively easy to understand and plan for. We look forward to the changes with the seasons – new growth, flowers and fruit; with deciduous plants, fall colors and subtle grays and browns in winter.

- There also can be seasonal changes



◀ Coastal morning fog at The Butchart Gardens in Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, Canada, located on Vancouver Island near Victoria, eliminates shadows and colors become muted. Afternoon sunlight brightens the warm colors of red and yellow and brings depth to the scene.

Evergreens, like yews and junipers, maintain a consistent color interest throughout the year, although most junipers that have native origin from North America will display a different color in winter than in summer.

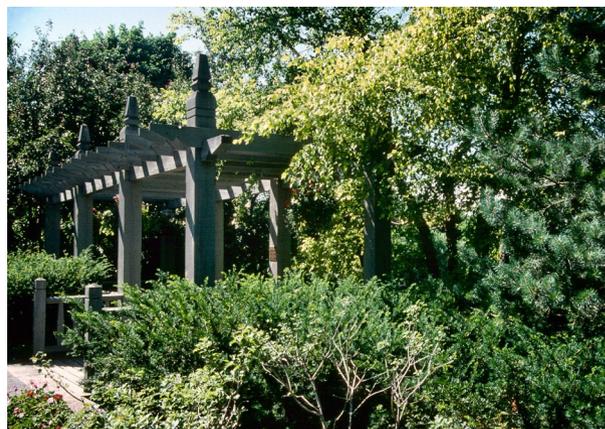
One of the challenges of good landscape planning is to offer colorful accents during all seasons, which will create varied scenes throughout the year. One common long-term change that often is overlooked by the



in texture. For example, plants with large compound leaves require stout branches to carry them. The result: a coarse winter texture that is a contrast from a finer summer texture.

- Visual textures are the result of the play of light and shadows that will appear different on cloudy days than on sunny days. Many colors also will change appearance when the sun's rays are blocked. Night lighting gives a different rendition than daylight.
- Many flowers change colors as they mature. Fruiting adds other dimensions: color, edibility, wildlife attraction (wanted or unwanted) and reproductive potential, which may create additional maintenance concerns. Some plants like mock orange are single-season plants; of brief interest only during flowering. Others, like viburnums, are multi-season plants with interesting flowers, fruits and fall color. Some dogwoods have colored bark that adds a strong interest in winter.

A newly installed arbor and plantings stand tall (right) at Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the largest public garden in the Upper Midwest. Pictured below is the arbor after a decade of growth. Located in Chaska, Minn., the arboretum is part of the Department of Horticultural Science in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul.



“...over time, the practice does not provide adequate space for them to grow....”

choosing a cute little kitten and puppy as a family pet and planning ahead how you will accommodate the size of an adult cat or dog in your home. While spacing small plants or shrubs close together may create an immediate impact, over time, the practice does not provide

landscaping novice is that those cute little plants or shrubs first purchased from a nursery or garden center will grow larger. It's akin to

adequate space for them to grow to their normal stature, which condemns them to overcrowding. A good solution is to space shrubs based on their width when fully grown and interplant flowers for a few years until the shrubs have the opportunity to fill out the space.

The dimension of time is the key that unlocks the variety of experiences one can encounter in the landscape. We return to a room we left some time ago, and it will be as we left it. We return to a garden or park we visited a few hours or days earlier and experience the changes that have occurred. ■

📷 Photos by George W. Longenecker



The demonstration garden at Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill., in 1971 (above), and in 1983, illustrates how landscapes evolve over time. The area was revised after overhead plants, after a period of 12 years of growth, introduced shade to the area.



The interesting play of light and shadows during the day and at night offers different perspectives in the author's garden in front of his home in Georgia.



The maple leaf viburnum (top left and center) offers color in both spring and fall.



The periwinkle color of a hardy vinca minor (*Atropurpurea*), appears different in the sun (left) and in the shade.

George W. Longenecker is professor emeritus of landscape architecture at West Virginia University in Morgantown, a program he helped develop since its inception – and one in which he was an inspiration to generations of landscape architecture students for nearly 40 years.

West Virginia's first licensed landscape architect, Longenecker is the founder of and visionary behind West Virginia Botanic Garden, the only garden of its kind in the state, which features plants endemic to the Appalachian region. As the garden's first executive director, a position he held for 26 years, Longenecker was instrumental in the planning and direction of the 82-acre garden, which includes an old-growth forest, small, designed gardens that include the Eclectic, Butterfly, Rhododendron and Shade Gardens, as well as hiking trails and a boardwalk situated over a wetland area.

Since 1988, Longenecker has been providing hands-on training and serves as landscape adviser to summer intern students at Fallingwater, the iconic Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home in rural southwestern Pennsylvania. He is a popular speaker, presenter and workshop leader at gardening and landscaping events throughout West Virginia, including teaching courses for West Virginia Garden Club's landscape design schools and conducting workshops at garden club meetings and annual state conventions.

Longenecker is a recipient of an NGC 2018 Award of Excellence, the highest honor for non-members of National Garden Clubs Inc., who make significant contributions to their communities in such areas of environmental and civic responsibility, conservation or community beautification through gardening projects.



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