



THE NATIONAL GARDENER

Winter 2023
gardenclub.org



The National Gardener

Winter 2023, Volume 93, Number 1
PLANT AMERICA - Play Outdoors



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Coming in *TNG*

Spring 2023 - April

- ❖ The Environment
- ❖ Convention 2023
- ❖ NGC Looking Back

**Submissions Welcome
and Encouraged!**

Cover Photo • Tina Swanson, This Page • Yurii Karvatskyi, Page 4 Columbine • Klickblich

About Us

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

Contact Us

NGC Headquarters: Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
314-776-7574, Email: [Headquarters Staff](#)

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PLANT AMERICA

Play Outdoors



Play Outdoors • Nickolya

The National Gardener Staff

Editor [Gerianne Holzman](#)

Assistant Editor [Dawn Mozgawa](#)

Advertising/Marketing Manager [Pat Wolanski](#)

Copy Editor Joyce Bulington

Copy Editor Gerry St. Peters

Translation Editor Pampa Risso Patrón

Subscription Manager [Emily Kiske](#)

Feature Writers

Ana Calegari, IA Region III

Pat Greathead, Let's Cook

Pilar Medellin, IA Region I

Blanca Niño Norton, IA Region II

Charlotte Swanson, Happy Gardener

Mary Warshauer, NGC President, Mary's Musings

Write for TNG:

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

Deadline/Publication Dates:

- Fall Issue Sept. 1/Oct. 1
- Winter Issue Dec. 1/Jan. 2
- Spring Issue Mar. 1/Apr. 1
- Summer Issue Jun. 1/Jul. 1

Advertise in TNG:

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

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

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3. Infringe any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or other intellectual property or other rights of any other person.
4. Violate the legal rights (including the rights of publicity and privacy) of others or contain any material that could give rise to any civil or criminal liability under applicable laws or regulations or that otherwise may be in conflict with these Terms of Use and our Privacy Policy.
5. Be likely to deceive any person.
6. Promote any illegal activity, or advocate, promote or assist any unlawful act.
7. Cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety or be likely to upset, embarrass, alarm or annoy any other person.
8. Impersonate any person, or misrepresent your identity or affiliation with any person or organization.
9. Involve commercial activities or sales, such as contests, sweepstakes and other sales promotions, barter or advertising.
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MARY'S MUSINGS

Approach the new year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day.

Michael Josephson

What a joy it is to open my inbox and find a new issue of *The National Gardener (TNG)* waiting to be read. NGC's official publication showcases a diverse selection of articles, many of which are written by our talented members. Topics range from the art of horticulture to environmental sustainability and much more. *TNG* offers information about NGC programs and seasonal initiatives while sharing the delight of gardening with our readers. The success of *TNG* would not be possible without our volunteer editor, Gerianne Holzman, whose dedication has made this publication enjoyable and educational.

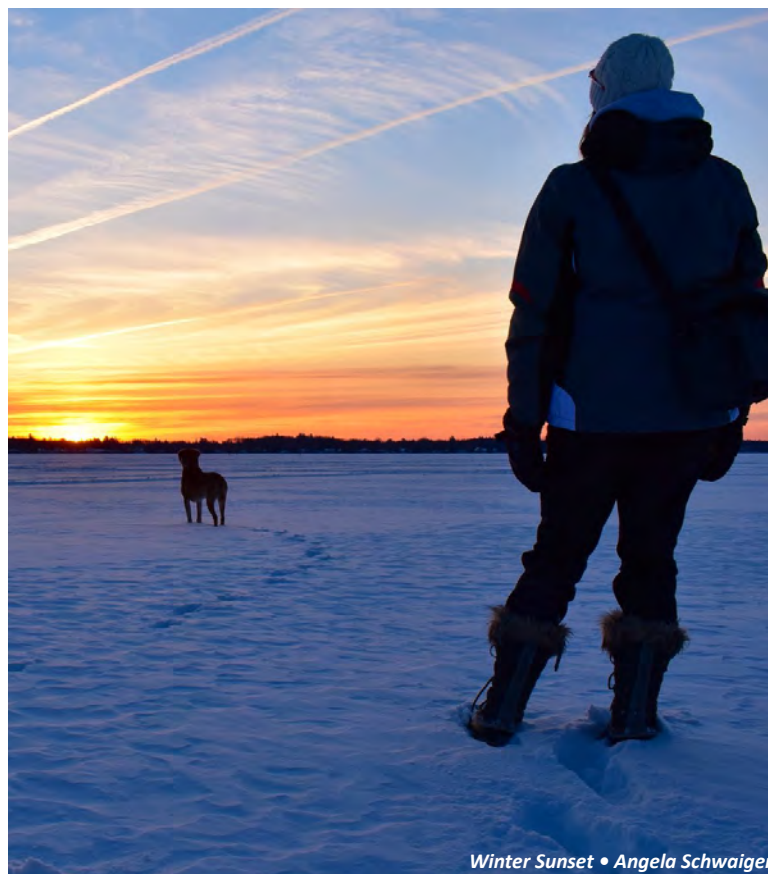
Whether you prefer vegetable gardening, container gardening or cultivating a more naturalized garden; the garden for many of us is a sanctuary. Time in our gardens is time spent nurturing our well-being. *TNG* articles give us new perspectives and a better understanding of the critical role plants, gardens and green spaces play in creating healthy and sustainable environments. Articles encourage us to approach our gardens with fresh eyes, open minds and the eagerness to live, play and garden in harmony with nature.

Over the past several months, it has been encouraging to see garden clubs back in full swing with in-person meetings, programs, flower shows and more. Once again, garden clubs are actively engaged in their communities. The NGC 2022 Fall Board meeting in St. Louis, Missouri was the first time in three years that members were able to be at the NGC's headquarters, visit with the staff, tour the building and enjoy walking the beautiful gardens.

National Garden Clubs, Inc., is committed to the health and protection of our planet. Each year, passionate garden club members find inspiring and exciting new ways to beautify our environment and contribute to our conservation goals. With PLANT AMERICA Month in April, (right around the corner) now is the perfect time for garden clubs to start planning ways to support our mission in their communities.

In April, we also observe Earth Day and Arbor Day, both dedicated to preserving and rejuvenating our natural environments. Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, continues to embrace the theme "Invest in Our Planet." It calls us together in partnership to promote the health of our planet by preserving, protecting and restoring the environment. Our shared passion enhances the enjoyment of interacting with and learning from our beautiful earth. Be proud of all the work we do and accomplish together.

Be sure to search the [NGC Calendar](#) for the *NGC Webinars* and *Membership Mondays* schedule and remember to enjoy the wonders of this winter season! Wherever your winter landscapes may be, the softening colors of the skies beckon you to PLANT AMERICA and PLAY OUTDOORS.



Winter Sunset • Angela Schwaiger

Enchanted Night Garden

Diane Parrish

Do you dream of cultivating a moonlight garden, one planted with flowers too shy or haughty to show their stuff during the daylight hours when just any passerby can see them? Envision a home for blossoms that flourish for a few hours in the dark and then disappear at dawn's first light. What mystery! What glamour! Let us create a night garden.

With minimal knowledge of nocturnally blooming flowers, begin your research online. The first plant may be Queen of the Night, not the purple-black tulip you would not dare plant in deer country, but something else entirely, a more exotic plant. It is a *Cereus*, a cactus with spiky, heavily scented, white blossoms that only appear at night. Perfect. Imagine sitting outside on a warm summer evening, enveloped in its perfume, as the night falls while composing odes to nature worthy of Emily Dickinson.

Reading more about the *Cereus* we learn that its habitat is the subtropics, not the frosty climates where many of us reside. Let us delve deeper into the startling world of nocturnal plants.

Although the *Cereus* seems benign, even charming in its eccentricities, many of the bloomers working the night shift are not quite so innocent. Perhaps the most famous of these is the corpse flower, a plant with a fair-warning name if ever there was one. Mika Shirasu, et al. wrote a paper titled "Chemical Identity of a Rotting Animal-like Odor Emitted from the Inflorescence of the Titan Arum - *Amorphophallus titanum*." They stated it smells like a combination of rotting wounds, garlic, cheese and old sweat. The plant reaches a "body" temperature of 98 degrees Fahrenheit, all the better to entice dung beetles and flesh flies looking for real human stinkiness to come to visit this flower and pollinate its enormous inflorescent blooms. Even if the corpse flower were not also very difficult to grow, it may be one to leave to professionals.

(Continued on page 6)



Datura stramonium • Nancy Adams

What might work in a night garden? Pursuing the list of options brings warnings like the ones found at actforlibraries.org: “Moonflowers— said to have a heavenly fragrance and are poisonous by nature. *Datura*, a member of the nightshade family: highly poisonous perennial that has hallucinogenic properties. They pose a potential danger when handled and ingested.” Time to regroup. Some members of the nightshade family of plants are edible, so maybe one of the less toxic ones might fit the bill. According to the gardeningknowhow.com, “most of these plants are poisonous, especially the unripe fruits. Some of the more well-known plants in this family include ornamentals such as Belladonna (Deadly Nightshade), *Brugmansia* (Angel’s Trumpet) and *Nicotiana* (Flowering Tobacco). These plants include poisonous properties that can cause anything from skin irritation, rapid heartbeat and hallucinations to seizures and even death.” Perhaps, we do not need any Nightshades.

Why have so many of these nocturnal bloomers evolved to be so dangerous? One might think being protected by darkness would render other, more aggressive defenses unnecessary. Research does not lead to an answer. Perhaps because the more commonplace warnings like bright red coloration and prickly spines would be harder to see in the dark, these plants have evolved to take no chances. Undaunted, we journey on. There must be a night bloomer suitable for northern climates that will not kill someone or smell as if it had.

Eventually, we find a couple of nocturnal flowering plants that are not only non-toxic but, in fact, beneficial for human health. Tuberose is a good choice. Its oil is said to relieve stress, reduce inflammation, and improve libido. Evening Primrose has oil that can alleviate skin ailments and arthritis pain. Time to create the anti-venom night garden. This is how I started...

Because it was already midsummer, I knew my new plants would not do much blooming that year. However, I was so intrigued by what might be going on, at night, in the garden

that I decided to find out. I have no reason to be afraid of the plants already growing there and yet all this scary poison talk makes me anxious to venture out there alone. It is not only plants that can hurt you after dark. My garden hosts skunks, raccoons, foxes, possums, mice and lord-know-what-else on a nightly basis. Oh, dear. What would Emily do? She would pick up her paper and sit among the vines and so will I!

I turn off the outdoor lights and spray myself with a bug deterrent. I pocket my phone and grab a cushion for the old iron bench. I call my dog, and we venture forth. I expect to sit in a state of near panic as I listen for the rustle of skulking animals making their way through the shrubbery behind me. I expect to be dive-bombed by bats and eaten alive by mosquitos. But I am in for a surprise.

Before my eyes, the garden becomes something magical. As the pale blue-sky fades to a smokey purple haze, birds swoop and soar, grabbing one last meal before nestling wherever it is they go for the night. A gentle evening breeze touches the leaves over my head and in a moment the air is filled with fireflies, dozens of tiny lanterns that provide actual illumination, sufficient to light the scene. I sigh. My dog sighs. He lies down at my feet and we rest peacefully in the darkness. The daytime flowers nod their heads, spread their scents and cast gauzy shadows under the light of a gibbous moon that transforms them into creatures of the night.

I was wrong to think I needed a particular plant to make a night garden. I will welcome the newcomers, and they will add to the beauty of the place, but even without them, or any of their dangerous cousins, this night garden already glows. I was also wrong to be afraid of what I might encounter in the garden at night. The creatures creeping through undergrowth belong here and they do not disturb me at all. Maybe all I needed to make a moon garden was the vision to see in the dark. What happens in your garden after dark?

Diane Parrish is an avid (and occasionally successful) gardener and writer living in Westport, Connecticut. She is a member of Greens Farms Garden Club. She is putting the final touches on her debut novel *Something Better*, coming in 2023.



Oenothera biennis • Pomme Grenade

Happy Gardener

An **Uncommon** Vegetable

Charlotte Swanson

"They" know you well - the compilers of seed catalogs. By early January, they have sent the gardener a stack of them. Their timing is right-on, the holidays are over and the opportunity and desire is ripe for pouring over the options. The winter can rage while the imagination is being fueled by glossy images of perfect veggies and flora.

While sifting through the A's, allow me to throw out a suggestion: artichokes. There is much to appreciate from this unusual and architectural vegetable. First, artichokes offer nutritional bonuses. According to Jo Robinson in *Eating on the Wild Side* the nutritional assets of the artichoke are the envy of other vegetables: silymarin and cynarin protect the liver from toxic compounds. Inulin, which is a probiotic, can wage war over E. coli in the intestines and most importantly, artichokes have a higher ORAC (oxygen radical absorption capacity aka antioxidants) than all the other fruits and vegetables. To compete at this ORAC level one would have to eat 18 servings of corn or 30 servings of carrots. The artichoke is a nutritional giant that boasts few calories. Even the canned version is worthwhile if fresh ones are out of reach or out of season. Salads, dips, pizza and egg dishes offer opportunities to include canned artichoke hearts.

All said, artichokes are alluring in the garden. Most folks do not grow them so there is the curiosity factor that starts conversations when visitors notice them. The form of the plant is striking. Its large deeply cut lance-like leaves are thickly textured. Perhaps the most surprising feature is the incredibly soft and pettable lavender blooms that crown the plant. The flower is a large, approximately four-inch diameter, dome that reminds one of a cat toy with tentacles that beg to be touched repeatedly. Pollinators dive down past the tender lavender spikes to mine the pollen hidden at its base. I do not know which the pollinators like more, the pollen at the base or the joy of burrowing down among the spires. The hummingbird moth is nicely equipped for this kind of blossom, but all sorts of pollinators tend the plant. Watching the insect parade is part of the fun! The blossoms last for some time and the plant itself can withstand a few touches of frost. In zones 5 and lower, artichokes must be planted new in the spring after the last frost.

The artichoke needs full sun and likes moderate, regular moisture and fertile soil. Since it can reach 3 or 4 feet at maturity and has a wing span of the same, it takes up a bit of space. It does equally well in a whiskey barrel or other large container as it does in the ground. A container shows off its best features and guarantees good drainage. Being a member of the thistle family, it can adapt to less-than-ideal places. A colorful companion, the Wave® Petunia, dresses up the artichoke in an above-ground planting.

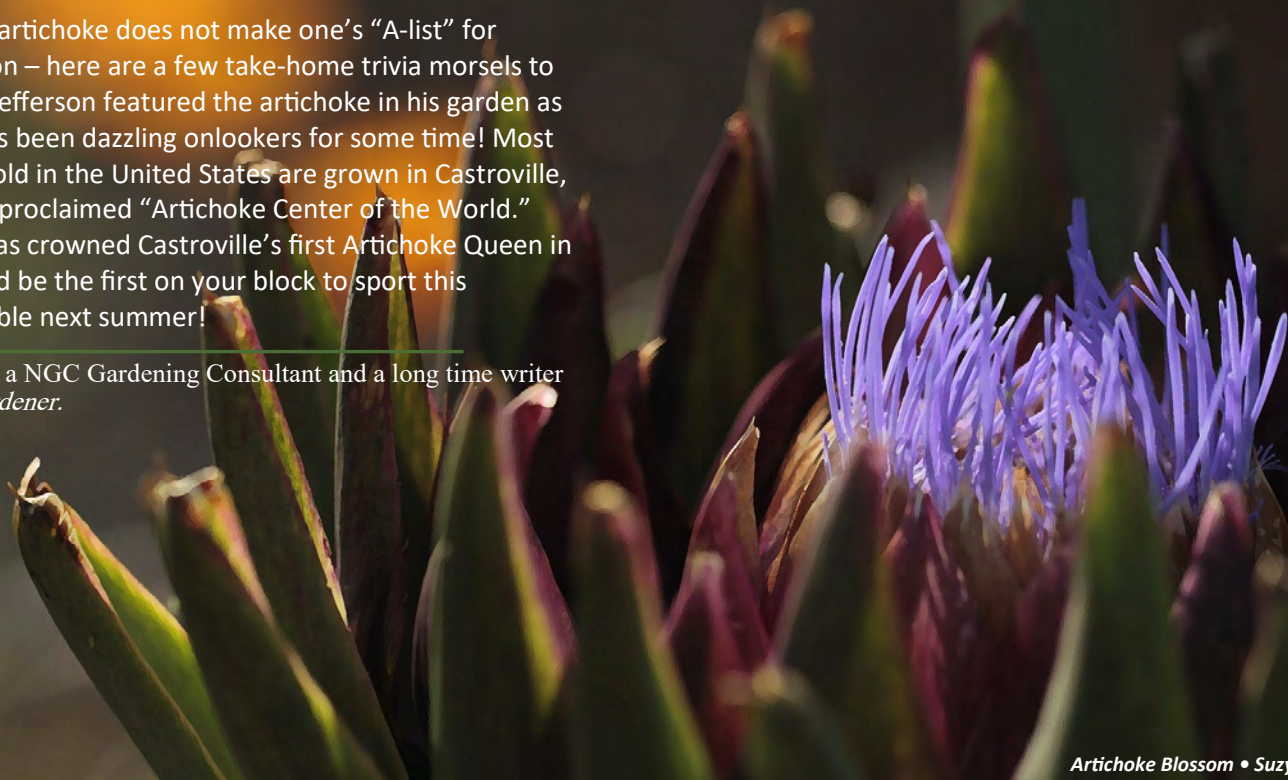
(Continued on page 8)

Artichoke Plant, inset - Artichoke Flower & Moths • Charlotte Swanson

From seed, the artichoke needs sixty days before setting out after the last spring frost. Root divisions are another option. 'Green Globe' is an improved variety that buds the first year and matures in 75 days.

Finally, in case the artichoke does not make one's "A-list" for planting next season – here are a few take-home trivia morsels to chew on. Thomas Jefferson featured the artichoke in his garden as early as 1767. It has been dazzling onlookers for some time! Most of the artichokes sold in the United States are grown in Castroville, California, the self-proclaimed "Artichoke Center of the World." Marilyn Monroe was crowned Castroville's first Artichoke Queen in 1948. You too could be the first on your block to sport this uncommon vegetable next summer!

Charlotte Swanson is a NGC Gardening Consultant and a long time writer for *The National Gardener*.



Artichoke Blossom • Suzy



You'll love his books. You'll also love his talk.

Neal Sanders' 15 mysteries draw rave reviews from readers. They call them 'addictive', 'intelligent', 'thoughtful', 'laugh-out-loud funny', and 'full of twists.' They also say his books, 'kept me up way past my bedtime' and are 'impossible to put down'.

All his books feature strong, independent women – some of whom solve crimes, and others who commit them. Many of his books use garden club settings and 'women of a certain age'. But don't mistake these for 'cozies': his plots involve everything from romance scams to 'protect your assets' schemes and fraudulent reverse mortgages.

You can **order his books in print and Kindle formats on Amazon**. Or, you can go to www.TheHardingtonPress.com to explore his titles and read first chapters. You can also purchase books directly from the author at www.the-hardington-press.square.site.

Neal is also one of the most entertaining speakers you'll ever hear. 'Gardening Is Murder' is equal parts humor, psychology, and gardening wisdom; a husband's point of view of what goes on in the garden. You can hear him in 2023 at the **NGC Deep South Convention** and at state conventions in **Connecticut, South Carolina, and Michigan**. To book him, write Neal02052@Gmail.com.



West Virginia

Welcomes You



Save the Date
MAY 2-4, 2023

National Garden Clubs Convention

The Greenbrier Resort | White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

Dear NGC Members & Guests,

National Garden Clubs, Inc. would like to invite you to the 2023 NGC Convention, on May 2-4, 2023, at the historic Greenbrier Resort, located in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The Greenbrier, established in 1778, is nestled in the eternal majesty of the Allegheny Mountains and is known for pampering guests with hospitality and luxury.

The Greenbrier offers spa services, championship golf courses, a casino, tennis and more. When you visit the Greenbrier, you will know that you are in good company. Twenty-eight US Presidents and numerous celebrities including the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Princess Grace of Monaco, Tony Bennett, Elizabeth Taylor, Bing Crosby, General Colin Powell, Maya Angelou, Serena and Venus Williams, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg have enjoyed the Greenbrier.



Scan the QR code for a full list of activities offered at the Greenbrier Resort. For more information, please visit their website: www.greenbrier.com



Enjoy a West Virginia Welcome

While the focus of your visit will be attending meetings doing the business of NGC, there will be plenty of opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2021-23 administration and connect with gardening friends. Our luncheon and banquet speakers include John Gillespie, Kevin Dodge and Jan Bills. We will have three special dinners: the first will be the Awards Banquet announcing the winners of NGC's awards program, the second will be the Design Banquet and the third will be the Inauguration Banquet.



John Gillespie
Design Banquet
A 100 Year Legacy of Gillespie's Flowers at the Greenbrier

John Gillespie is the President of Gillespie's Flowers & Productions and third generation owner in the family business, partnering with his siblings, Martha & Charley. The Gillespie family has been providing beautiful floral designs for the Greenbrier and its guests for 100 years, 1923-2023.



Kevin Dodge
Luncheon Speaker
Night Sounds of the Appalachians

Kevin Dodge, is director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program at Garrett College. Kevin will present an entertaining and educational introduction to the different hoots, howls, growls, and peeps heard at night in the mountains of western Maryland. As part of his presentation, he will weave together facts, stories and sounds to recreate a night in the Alleghenies.



Jan Bills
Luncheon Speaker
Comfort, Ease and Simplicity in the Garden

Jan Bills is the author of the book Late Bloomer, a national speaker, certified landscape designer, advanced master gardener, and entrepreneur. After a successful career in the corporate world, she made a major life reassessment and followed her heart: She traded in her heels for Wellies and started the Detroit-area landscape design company Two Women and a Hoe®. Jan's work can be seen at: twowomenandahoe.com.

Guest Speakers

Seminars

We have arranged four seminars that will expand your gardening/growing skills including:

How to Grow Orchids in the Home | Arthur E. Chadwick



Art is the author of 2 books celebrating his love for orchids. In 2006, he published the acclaimed book, *The Classic Cattleyas*. His second book, *First Ladies and their Cattleyas: A Century of Namesake Orchids*, is scheduled for release in 2023. In 1989, with his father, he founded Chadwick & Son Orchids Inc, which operates eleven greenhouses and two retail stores, and boards over 13,000 orchids for local clients. They have had the distinction of naming cattleyas orchids for the 6 most recent First Ladies. Art is a frequent speaker at orchid society events, including two World Orchid Conferences in France(2005) and Ecuador(2017). chadwickorchids.com.

A Home Cutting Garden | Claire Schuchman



Claire Schuchman is a landscape designer, owner of Exceptional Gardens and a Master Gardener for Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Claire is passionate about sustainable design and dedicated to the vision of her clients. Claire believes that a beautiful garden, large or small, can change our lives by giving us access to the beauty and healing power of nature. For more information see exceptionalgardensllc.com.

Photography | Frank Ceravalo



Frank's love of photography began with the beauty of a 1983 snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley, acquiring a 35mm range finder camera and 12-exposure roll of film to capture the beauty. He is self-taught through adult education classes and seminars. He has studied the work and techniques of top nature and landscape photographers and enhanced his skills through experimentation. Frank's photographic goal is to create an image composed of both form and light in a visually pleasing balance. Frank's work can be seen at vistawv.com.



 **Birding Essentials** | Jan Runyan & Bill Beatty



Naturalist, author and outdoor-education specialist Bill Beatty is a former interpretive naturalist for the A.B. Brooks Nature Center at Oglebay Park and instructor in outdoor adventure recreation at West Liberty University. He is a frequent lecturer in the West Virginia State Parks system. Jan Runyan is a former educator and a member and former president of Brooks Bird Club, currently serving on its Board of Trustees. She is passionate about birds and participates in bird banding programs.



Historic Tours

We have a full list of tours below that will introduce you to Wild & Wonderful West Virginia. During registration, you can select the tours that you would like from this list.

Greenbrier's Historic Bunker Tour

In the 1950's, a bunker was built to function as an emergency re-location site for the US Congress. The bunker remained in full operation until the end of the cold war.

Historic Tour of Lewisburg

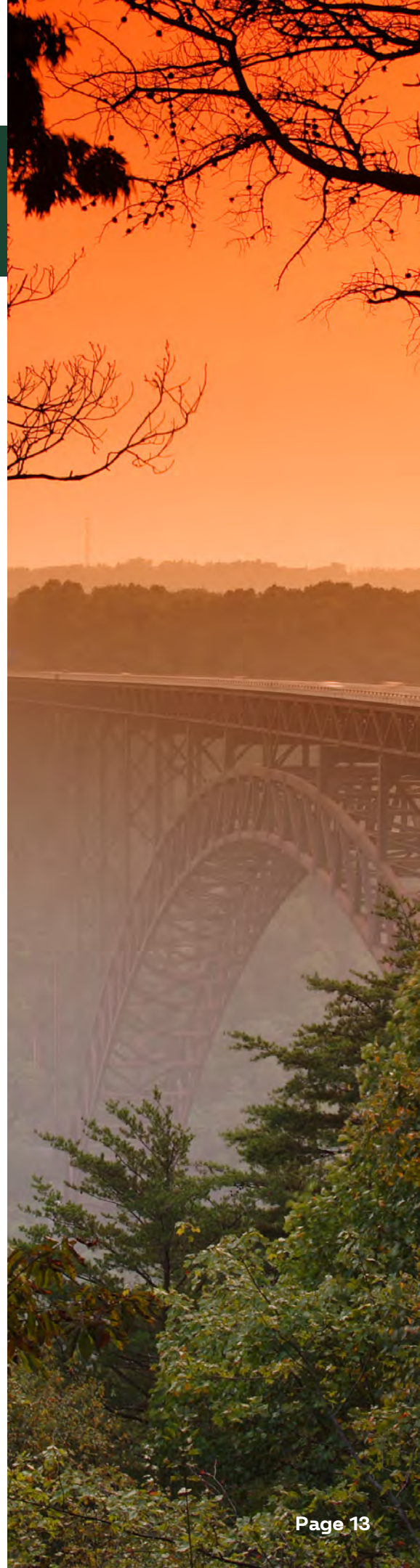
A 232-year-old town with many 18th and 19th-century buildings, where the steeple clock still tolls the hour and the church bells ring out on Sunday mornings. The tour will start at North House Museum, built in 1820 as a home and later serving as tavern and inn. After the North House tour, you are free to explore downtown Lewisburg, taking a walking tour, exploring the many galleries and shops, and/or have lunch at one of the many local eateries.

Greenbrier Floral Designer John Gillespie's Workshop & DIY Networks Barnwood Builder Store

Tour Gillespie's Flowers & Events floral workshop where the Gillespie family has been making floral arrangements for over 100 years. Your second stop is Barnwood Living, where the business of salvaging antique log cabins, barns and timber frames is married with easy sophisticated style to create a lifestyle brand that's reminiscent of simpler times.

New River Gorge National Park Tour

The New River is like a ribbon tying together all the people, places and events. Its course flows through time and protects a rich variety of history from the subsistence lives of the native peoples and pioneers, to the coming of the railroad, and ensuing boom and bust of coal mining and logging. You will also be able to take an optional guided walk on the catwalk below the New River Gorge Bridge. On your return trip to the hotel, you will stop at Tamarack Marketplace with products of more than 2,800 artists and artisans from West Virginia.



Local Tours

We also know that our spouses, guests, and traveling partners may want to experience more of West Virginia, so we have the following tours:

Distillery & Brewery Tours

Visit Smooth Ambler Spirits Distillery and Big Draft Brewing. At Smooth Ambler Spirits you will be able to sample their fine selections of bourbons, whiskey and rye. Also, you may take the production tour from fermentation to barrel aging, and see their philosophy in action. Next, you will visit Big Draft Brewing for a tour and lunch.

Greenbrier Falconry Tour

Beginners Lesson offers guests the rare opportunity to experience the 4,000-year-old sport of falconry, “the sport of kings”. After learning the appropriate techniques from our professional guides, you will get to hold a trained hawk on your fist. This is truly a once in a lifetime experience!

Greenbrier’s Historic Legacy Cottages Tour

We have arranged for all of the early birds two events on Sunday, April 30, 2023. You may tour Greenbrier’s newly renovated historic legacy cottages that have been used by generations of prominent families in the summer. Afterwards, there will be a dinner at a renovated 1912 Schoolhouse in White Sulphur Springs.



All the clubs in West Virginia are excited about showing off their beautiful state while hosting the 2023 NGC Convention. Our committee has been actively working for over 2 years to make sure you have an enjoyable experience. We are especially excited about the inauguration dinner, where our very own Brenda Moore will take the leadership of NGC. We are hosting a dessert reception after the inauguration of our new officers. The Greenbrier is known for this type of event, offering a wide range of delicacies.

RESERVATIONS: Scan the QR Code or call 844-826-6864
Registration closes April 15, 2023
Hotel Reservations close March 30, 2023





Sun., April 30 Pre-Convention

7am-7pm	NGC Staff Office/Storage Floral Workroom
2pm-5pm	Registration
3pm-5pm	Tour 1: Greenbrier Legacy Homes
6pm	Optional dinner at the Schoolhouse Hotel in White Sulphur Springs (pre-purchased)

Mon., May 1 Committee Day

7am-7pm	NGC Staff Office/Storage Floral Workroom
8am-5pm	Registration/Exhibits/Vendors
8:30am-11:30am	Organizational Study Committee Meeting
9am-11am	Nominating Committee Meeting Scholarships Committee Meeting Sponsorship Committee Meeting Gardening School Committee Meeting Environmental School Committee Meeting Landscape Design School Committee Meeting Flower Show School Committee Meeting
9:30am-3pm	Tour 2: Historic Lewisburg Tour
11am-12:30pm	Tour 3: Greenbrier Bunker Tour
11:15am-1:15pm	Optional Lunch (pre-purchased)
1:30pm-3pm	Tour 3: Greenbrier Bunker Tour
1:30pm-3:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting Membership Committee Meeting Meetings Committee Meeting Plant America Committee Meeting Schools Policy Committee Meeting
3:30pm-6pm	COMAAI General Assembly Meeting
3:45pm-4:45pm	PH&E Trustees Meeting
Dinner	On your own

Tues., May 2 Awards Day

7am-7pm	NGC Staff Office/Storage Floral Workroom
8am-5pm	Registration/Exhibits/Vendors
8am-11am	Executive Committee Meeting
9am-11am	Environmental Concerns & Conservation Committee Meeting Gardening Committee Meeting Grants & Natural Disasters Committee Meeting Horticulture Committee Meeting Photography Committee Meeting Virtual Resources Committee Meeting COMAAI Incoming Executive Meeting
9:30am-3pm	Tour 2: Historic Lewisburg Tour
10am-11:30am	Tour 3: Greenbrier Bunker Tour Tour 4: Greenbrier Floral Designer John Gillespie's Workshop & DIY Network Barnwood Builders Store
11:30am-12:45pm	Optional luncheon (pre-purchased)
12:15pm-12:45pm	State Presidents Awards Rehearsal
1pm-4pm	Board of Directors Meeting
6pm-7pm	Social Hour
7pm-9pm	Awards Banquet- Speakers: Award of Excellence Winners; State Awards

Wed., May 3 Design/Horticulture Day

7am-7pm	NGC Staff Office/Storage Floral Workroom
8am-5pm	Registration/Exhibits/Vendors
9:30am-3pm	Tour 5: Distillery/Brewery Tour
9am-11:30am	Business Meeting: Opening Session
noon-1:30pm	Luncheon-Speaker: Kevin Dodge "Night Sounds of the Appalachians"
2pm-2:45pm	Seminar 1: Art Chadwick "Orchids"
2pm-3:30pm	2023-25 Executive Committee meeting
3pm-3:45pm	Seminar 2: Frank Ceravalo "Photography"
4pm-5pm	Current and Incoming State Presidents & Region Directors Meeting
6pm-7pm	Social Hour
7pm-9pm	Design Banquet with John Gillespie "A 100 Year Legacy of Gillespie's Flowers at the Greenbrier"

Thurs., May 4 Inauguration Day

7am-7pm	NGC Staff Office/Storage Floral Workroom
8am-5pm	Registration/Exhibits/Vendors
10am-11:30am	Tour 6: Falconry Group Lesson
9am-11:30am	Business Meeting: Closing Session
noon-1:30pm	Luncheon-Speaker: Jan Bills "Comfort, Ease and Simplicity in the Garden"
2pm-2:45pm	Seminar 3: Claire Shuchman "A Home Cutting Garden"
3pm-3:45pm	Seminar 4: Jan Runyon & Bill Beatty "Birding Essentials"
2:30pm-3:45pm	Tour 4: Greenbrier Floral Designer John Gillespie's Workshop and DIY Network Barnwood Builders store
6pm-7pm	Social Hour
7pm-9:30pm	Inauguration Banquet Dessert reception hosted by West Virginia Garden Club

SINE DIE - CONVENTION CLOSES

Fri., May 5

7:30am-9:30am	2023-2025 Board of Directors Meeting with continental breakfast
10am-4pm	Tour 7: New River Gorge National Park and Preserve Tour - America's Newest National Park/Tamarack Marketplace
	Optional guided walk on the catwalk 25 feet below the New River Gorge Bridge

Registration & Transportation



Register for the 2023 Convention on the [Convention webpage](#).

Save paper with online registration!

Flights

The following airline information is subject to change. American Airlines with regional jet, Contour, has replaced United airlines at the Greenbrier Valley airport (LWB) in Lewisburg. They fly to and from Charlotte (CLT) on a daily basis. Check [American Airlines](#) or [Contour Airlines](#) for monthly updates.

Ground Transportation

Commercial Airline Flights are met by The Greenbrier Hotel Shuttle - The charge is \$28.80 per person, per transfer. *Reservations are required for all shuttles.*

Vehicle

The Greenbrier is located in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, and conveniently situated off Interstate 64 just west of the Virginia/West Virginia border and just east of Lewisburg, WV.



Sustainable Healing Garden = Food for the Soul

Chris McLaughlin

No one doubts that sustainable and regenerative gardening practices are keys to a healthy, thriving ecosystem. The restorative function of a flourishing garden space also brings peace to the human mind, body and spirit. Yes, nature pays us back in spades.

Healing powers from communing with nature and gardening have been well-established throughout history. Greek, Roman and Asian cultures utilized healing gardens as places to worship, commune and heal physically, mentally and spiritually. Knowing that gardens are a balm for depression, anxiety, as well as physical injury, modern medicine is implementing gardens and gardening as a healing tool for people of all ages and all journeys. Horticultural Therapy uses plants and gardens to improve mental, physical and emotional health. Today, gardens and green spaces can often be found at the center of medical facilities.

Healing Garden Design Ideas

Every garden space should speak to your individual taste. However, there are some considerations for healing gardens since they may have a specific focus. Sensory, meditation and aroma therapy gardens may call for different plants or ambiance. Regardless of specifics, each one of these designs will be a restorative space that offers peace to the mind and to the soul.

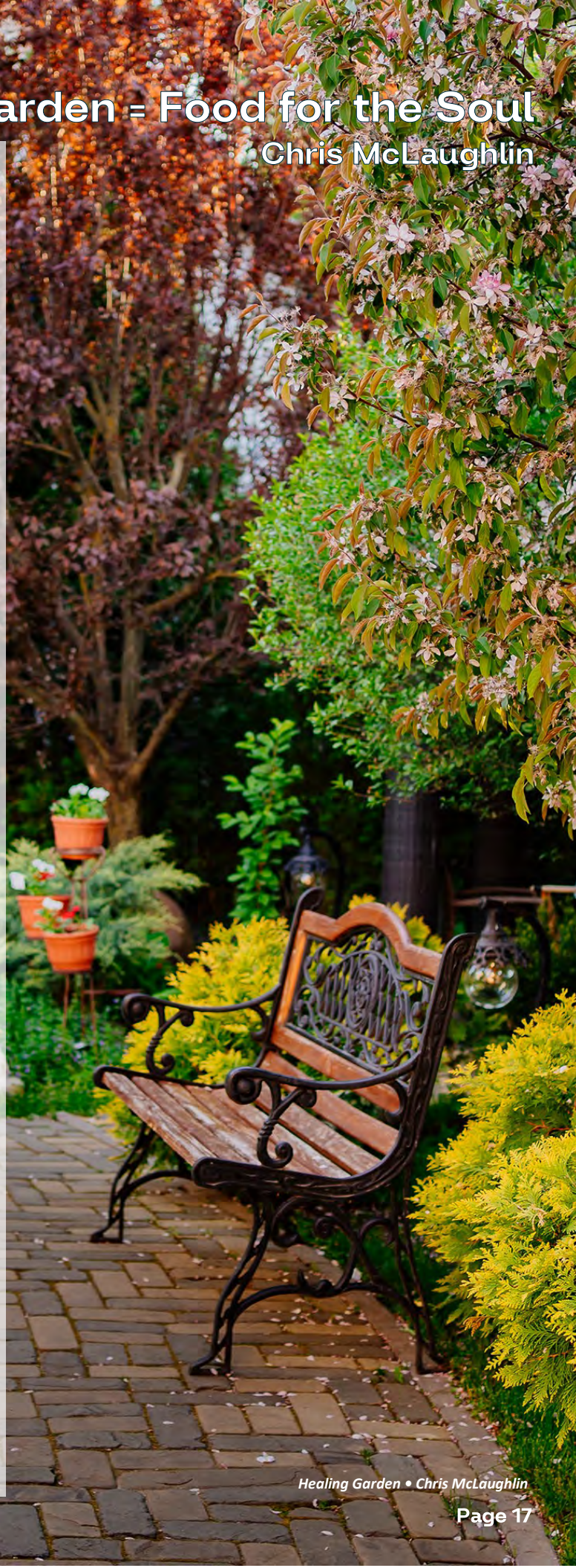
Creating a space to breathe deeply and decompress, healing gardens offer people a place to:

- Slow your roll, let your hair down and be your authentic self.
- Fully breathe and decompress so you can hear yourself think.
- Provide respite and reflection.
- Absorb a sense of belonging and well-being that nature fosters.
- Connect to those who have passed on from this world.
- Let out your joy unabashedly and do your happy dance.
- Mourn.
- Commune with your religious practices, the universe, spirit, source energy, etc.
- Be grateful.

Healing garden rejuvenation begins with engaging the five senses of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste.

Sight - When you plant for sight, stay focused on color, texture, size and form. You want blooming flowers to encourage butterflies and bees. Warm-colored flowers like red, oranges and yellows are uplifting and energetic, while cool colors like blues, pinks and greens feel relaxing. Speaking of green, make sure there is more going on than just flower blossoms. Interesting leaves and seed pods are great visuals. Look for unusual looking plants like passionflower, *Celosia*, pitcher plant, globe thistle, Bird of Paradise and amaranth aka Love-Lies-Bleeding. Sculptures, metal obelisks and gazing balls add even more interest, as well as a focal point.

(Continued on page 18)



Scent - The first thing people think of when it comes to scent is flowers. There is no doubt that you will want to have plants with wonderful smelling flowers like violets, Sweet William, lilac, wisteria, jasmine, petunias, roses and stocks. Flowers are not the only thing that offers a great scent. Herbs such as rosemary, thyme, lavender, lemon verbena, lemon thyme, basil, sage and oregano bring fresh aromas to outdoor spaces. Low-growing, aromatic herbs can be strategically planted between pavers or along a pathway so some of their leaves become crushed underfoot when someone strolls through. Thyme, lemon thyme, Corsican mint, chamomile, scented geranium and rosemary are all good candidates.

Sound - If you do not do anything else for sound, add a water feature. Running water naturally draws us in and calms the soul. Other ways to add sound are with plants that make music for the ears with a slight breeze or gentle touches such as switchgrass, quaking grass and *Lunaria*. Windchimes may be irresistible.

Touch - Examples of plants that beg to be touched are lamb's ears, mosses, cock's comb, conifers and feather reed grass. Other things that are nice or interesting to touch are thistles,

yarrow, bunny tail grass, pussywillow, tree bark (both smooth and rough types) and river rock.

Taste - This sense is, perhaps, the most obvious. Fruits, vegetables, berries and herbs leave you with a veritable smorgasbord in the garden. However, consider planting some unusual things for visitors to discover such as Alpine strawberries, pomegranates, cucamelons, ground cherries, Indigo rose tomatoes, kohlrabi and pineapple guava.

Create a spot place to sit and rest your bones. - Metal and cement benches are nice, however, choosing furniture such as willow chairs or a loveseat with cushions and pillows allows our body to feel comfortable and supported. Sustainable and restorative backyard gardening habits create a thriving natural world. We humans have everything to gain from it.

Chris McLaughlin has been gardening and studying plants for over thirty-five years. She is the author of eight books plus her most recent [*The Good Garden: How to Nurture Pollinators, Soil, Native Wildlife, and Healthy Food—All in Your Own Backyard*](#), due for publication in February 2023.



Stream Bed • Chris McLaughlin



Flower Show School

News to Use

Jan Warshauer

A new [NGC Flower Shows](#) page has been added to the [NGC Website](#) under “Programs” on the homepage. It is dedicated to topics that relate to Flower Shows either in a general manner or specifics. Please read the information and let us know what else you want to see added. Sample schedules for flower shows are also available on the [Flower Show Schools Resources](#) page.

Keep the creative juices flowing this winter when planning your club’s next Flower Show by trying some of the advanced designs listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*. Download the [Handbook](#), for free, on the Flower Show Schools Resources page. Check out the chapter on design, which describes many different design types from traditional to creative and on to the more advanced design styles. Like any floral design, advanced designs need some practice and perhaps some special instruction. Some members in your club or a neighboring club may have that special expertise. Ask them to provide a series of classes focused on complex designs. The judges in your district or state can also provide this kind of instruction. Ask them if they might provide a virtual demonstration.

Handbook for Flower Shows, Clarification

A Plant Society Show or a Major Flower Show, as described in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, will determine which divisions NGC Accredited Judges may judge in their shows and qualifies as a Judging Credit for all NGC Accredited Judges. *Rationale: These gardening groups have their own judging criteria. Judging these shows affords experience and opportunities for all National Garden Clubs’ Accredited Judges.*

The Flower Show School Committee looks forward to a new year with new ideas and concepts under development. Remember *Flower Show Procedure* is available via a virtual platform such as Zoom. For information, contact the NGC FSS Accrediting Chairman for your region listed on the [FSS Resources](#) page. Stay tuned and check out the NGC website for all things in the gardening world.

[Jan Warshauer](#), of New Jersey, is the NGC Flower Show School Committee Chair. [Click for Jan’s article as a pdf.](#)



Vision of Beauty 2024

Florence Leysse

The *Vision of Beauty* Calendar Committee met many times to review all the submitted entries of flower designs, botanical arts and gardens from designers all over the world. We will produce another outstanding calendar for 2024 based on the high quality of the submissions.

With so many entries and such limited space in the calendar, we can only publish a certain amount. Please continue to send us your beautiful photographs as we are already accepting new entries for the 2025 calendar. There is a new email address to submit your entry form and image. It is vob@gardenclub.org. Be sure to check the [NGC Forms](#) page (under awards) for the [VOB Entry Form](#) which includes the submission requirements.

[Florence Leysse](#), of New Jersey, is the NGC *Vision of Beauty* Calendar chair.

Schools Open!

Pat Rupiper

Just a note to remind everyone that Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools (Tri-Schools) are happening around the country – in person and virtually. Please help others in your garden clubs learn more about these wonderful opportunities. The chairs of our schools worked with the NGC Virtual Team to create short videos informing you about an individual school and how to access the current courses. Please make your way to the [NGC Schools](#) page and scroll down to see the videos. View each video by clicking on its name. These are very short presentations (about 2 minutes) that give a general overview of what each school offers. Please stop by, view and share with your members and others.

We, also, highlight each of the Tri-Schools and Flower Show School in upcoming [Membership Mondays](#) in January, February, March and April. Please sign up to participate and learn more about all our schools.

Remember, anyone may attend a school, however, only National Garden Club members receive credit for becoming a consultant/judge. Contact any School Chair for information: Environmental: [Pat Rupiper](#), Flower Show: [Jan Warshauer](#), Gardening: [Charles McLendon](#) and Landscape Design: [Greg Pokorski](#).

Pat Rupiper is the NGC Schools Policy Chair. She lives in Ohio.



Heptacodium Seven Times the Beauty Bruce Crawford



On numerous occasions, I have heard homeowners question the worthiness of hiring a professional to help with designing their garden. After all, what could be so challenging about arranging plants? One challenge for me was understanding the flexibility of large shrubs, whose stature can approach heights of 20'. Typically, they relegate to the tasks of screening unattractive views or creating the "walls" for an outdoor room. Yet, for several shrubs the act of removing the lower limbs magically transforms the plant into a small tree, often exposing beautiful bark as a bonus. Several plants come to mind, but one of the best candidates is Seven-Son Flower or *Heptacodium miconioides*.

Seven-Son Flower is a member of the Honeysuckle Family or Caprifoliaceae and is monotypic, meaning the genus only has one species. It is a native of China and like so many garden-worthy plants, it has an interesting history of how it arrived in our gardens. Its most notable discovery was by the renowned plant collector Ernst Henry Wilson in 1907. He only found two specimens perched on cliffs nearly 3,000 feet in elevation in the Hubei province of Western China. He called the plant *Heptacodium*, honoring the whirl of six flower buds surrounding what appears as a seventh bud. *Hepta* is from the Latin for seven while *codium* refers to a poppyhead since the radiating lines atop a poppyhead resemble the flower structure. Wilson sent the specimens back to the Arnold Arboretum where botanist Alfred Rehder published the genus and species in 1916. Rehder selected the specific epithet (species) from the physical similarity to the tropical genus *Miconia*.

Interestingly, Wilson was not the first to "find" *Heptacodium* in the wild. In 1877, William Hancock, an Irish botanist who served as an agent for the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service found a plant near 3,000 feet in Eastern China. He sent dried specimens to Kew, the Royal Botanic Garden in England where they remained, presumably unnoticed until 1952. The English botanist Henry Kenneth Airy Shaw took notice of the herbarium sheets and believing the specimen to be unique from that described by Rehder, he named the species *Heptacodium jasminoides* as the flowers do resemble flowering jasmine.

It was not until 1980, that American botanists, at the Hangzhou Botanical Garden in Eastern China, saw a living plant and collected seed. The collection was part of the Sino-American Botanical Expedition, with a plant exchange between China and the United States. The botanists sent seed to the Arnold and National Arboretum, which in turn shared small plants with the New York Botanic Garden. It was from these three Arboreta that the nursery trade finally introduced the plant under the name *Heptacodium jasminoides*. As mentioned, *Heptacodium* is a monotypic genus and in 2011 it became apparent the two species were, in fact, one and the same. In such instances, the initial name becomes the accepted name and Rehders' name prevailed.

(Continued on page 22)

Down the Garden Path Landscape Design School News



Heptacodium's Fall Color • Bruce Crawford

For designers and homeowners, the challenge with new introductions does not focus on the botanical name but on determining how best to use the plant. Growing 20' tall and 15' wide, the American trade introduced *Heptacodium* as a large upright shrub. However, in China, they describe it as a small tree with an arching, branching habit! This is a plant whose shape and use in the garden are truly determined by its training. Rather awkward in youth with stems growing at irregular angles, it is best to thin plants to, at most, four dominant stems that show promise for not rubbing.

Although the dark green foliage is attractive, the main summer attribute is the floral display. During July, the flower buds appear at the tips of the stems. They, however, merely serve to tantalize the gardener since they do not open until late August! The fragrant white flowers are, individually, only ½" in diameter, but they produce amply and glow against the dark green foliage. They appear in whirls of six. What appears like a seventh unopened central bud is an extension of the floral stem rather than a flower bud.

As the flowers fade the calyx, or the outer set of protective leaves that initially covered the flower buds, gradually enlarges throughout October and turns red. These become highly ornamental and give the appearance of bright red fruit clusters, as displayed in the above image of a 20-year-old plant. Each bright red calyx sits atop a single seed, which also

turns red with time. Although the wind distributes seeds, seedlings are rarely seen and, in my experience, I have only seen one seedling!

Not to be outdone by the floral display, the bark also has a magnetic appeal for gardeners. As the stems and trunk expand, the medium brown to gray-brown bark exfoliates in long thin papery strips, revealing a light tan inner bark. Removing the lower limbs to expose this very appealing bark is a great reason to grow the plant as a small tree. Consider planting it outside a room with a prominent winter view or next to a major path, allowing you to appreciate the bark year-round! Best in full sun, plants are reliably hardy from zones 5-9 and are incredibly tolerant of various soil types and pH.

The potential of large shrubs for enhancing the garden sadly remains unrealized by many gardeners. Considering how best to display the ornamental attributes of a plant occasionally requires different thoughts on how to prune and position a plant in the garden. It took me a long time to understand the versatility of plants like Seven-Son Flower – a plant that provides the garden with seven times the beauty of many other large shrubs when pruned and sited properly.

Bruce Crawford, of New Jersey, is the Manager of Horticulture, Morris County Parks Commission, Morris Township, NJ. He received an NGC Award of Excellence in 2021. [Click for Bruce's Article](#) as a pdf along with additional images.

NGC NEWS



MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

Despite a mostly decreasing trend of losing members, nineteen states have actually seen increases in their numbers. Congratulations to the top five states with increased membership, by percentage: Alaska (35%), Indiana (16%), Kentucky (7%), South Carolina (6%) and a tie of 4% by Massachusetts, Oregon and Vermont.



BY THE NUMBERS

NGC gives back to our communities, to date, cumulative totals:

- ★ Scholarships: \$3,900,000
- ★ Blue Star Markers: 3,498
- ★ PLANT AMERICA Grants: \$264,000
- ★ Wildflower Workshop Grants: \$29,000
- ★ Natural Disaster Grants: \$165,722
- ★ Penny Pines: \$775,000



MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Members asked, NGC answered and members responded with great enthusiasm.

- ★ *Membership Mondays* registrations average 736 with 486 people attending live.
- ★ *The National Gardener* subscriptions increased by 31% to 6,854 subscribers
- ★ *NGC Webinars* registrations average 175 with about half attending live.



IA SYMPOSIUM SUCCESS

Flower Show Schools Symposiums recently were offered in the three International Affiliate Regions in the countries of Mexico, Guatemala and, for the first time, in Ecuador. During the Symposium in Ecuador, there is a special detail to report. Emilia Luna, who has served as an NGC IA Instructor for 33 years, presented an extraordinary review that included how to exhibit Horticulture online and the requirements of the new Monarch NGC IA online Awards. Please note that Emilia and two of her students are over 90 years old! Having the IA Symposiums online allows members of all ages to update their credentials. This has been a great benefit to avoid the troubles of international travel and of course, overall expenses are reduced. In addition, we believe that having the support of the IA Technical Committee has allowed our IA Instructors to focus only on teaching and have greatly helped local chairs with the online planning of their events.

ARGENTINA

URUGUAY



Erythrina crista-gallis • Ana Calegari

National Flowers of South America Flores Nacionales de Sudamérica

Ana Calegari

National flowers are those flowers that symbolize a state or a country. These flowers, like flags and shields, are recognized by other people of the world as symbols of a country. Some of them dating back thousands of years and others more recent.

Many times they are chosen because they grow naturally in a particular geographical location. Others, because they were used as symbols representing heroic characters, families and even wars. This is the reason that national flowers represent history, cultural and ethical values, as well as historical figures, emphasizing identity, a sense of belonging and the cultural legacy of each town or region.

The flower of the Cockspear Coral Tree (Ceibo) *Erythrina crista-gallis*, is shared by the Argentine Republic and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, since both have geographical closeness, similar idiosyncrasies, history and aboriginal peoples in common.

On November 22, 1942, the government of Argentina declared, by law, that the flower of the Ceibo was designated as the official national flower of the country. Uruguay has also adopted this particular flower for its great historical and cultural value, teaching it in schools and celebrating it as the national flower, however, never declared it official.

According to an old verbal tradition of a famous Guaraní legend, the indigenous princess Anahí was arrested and sentenced to die at the stake. She was tied to the stump of a tree and while the flames rose to the sky, Anahí sang a love song in her sweet young voice to her brave people, her beloved jungle and gods, giving her heart before dying. The next day that stump became a beautiful tree covered in red flowers, as we know it today. This is why the meaning of the beautiful flower of Ceibo is that of valor and courage, something that is characteristic of the people of Argentina and Uruguay.

Dr. Ana Calegari is an international writer/editor of feature articles for *TNG*. Ana lives in Uruguay. [Click to view more National Flowers of South America.](#)

Las flores nacionales son aquellas flores que simbolizan un estado o país. Estas flores, al igual que las banderas y los escudos, son reconocidas por otros pueblos como representantes de un país. Algunas de ellas remontándose a miles de años y otras a tiempos más cercanos.

Muchas veces son elegidas por que crecen en forma natural en ese lugar geográfico, otras porque se utilizaron como simbología de familias o guerras. Es por esto que las flores nacionales, representan la historia, los valores culturales, los valores éticos, a veces a personajes célebres, enfatizando la identidad, el sentido de pertenencia y el legado cultural de cada pueblo o región.

La Flor de Ceibo es compartida por la República Argentina y la República Oriental del Uruguay, ya que tenemos cercanía geográfica, similar idiosincrasia, historia y pueblos aborígenes en común.

Desde 1942 por un decreto ley de la Nación Argentina, se marcó el día 22 de noviembre como el día de la Flor de Ceibo. En Uruguay no hay aún ninguna ley al respecto, pero el uso y costumbre del pueblo uruguayo, ha impuesto a dicha flor por su gran valor histórico y cultural, ya que en las escuelas y en los hogares se la enseña como la flor nacional.

Según la tradición oral de una leyenda guaraní, la indígena Anahí fue apresada y condenada a morir en la hoguera. Fue atada al troco de un árbol y mientras las llamas se iban elevando al cielo Anahí cantaba invocando a su aguerrido pueblo, a su selva, a sus dioses, entregando así su corazón antes de morir. Al día siguiente el árbol al que estaba atada Anahí, amaneció cubierto de flores rojas, tal como lo conocemos hoy. Por esto es que el significado de la flor de ceibo es el de valor y coraje, algo que caracteriza a los pueblos de Argentina y Uruguay.

La Dra. Ana Calegari es escritora/editora internacional de artículos destacados para *TNG*. Ana vive en Uruguay. [Haga clic para ver información adicional sobre Flores Nacionales de Sudamérica.](#)

Top Images: Argentina • Muhammad Syafrani
Uruguay • Susana Gonzalez

The best collection of garden club members in one place.

Membership MONDAYS


We're so excited to have you with us!


JOIN US!


Trish Bender


The NGC Membership Committee is excited to offer ALL NGC members the opportunity to learn more about National Garden Clubs and the good work that we do for our clubs, members and communities. Register for Membership Mondays, virtual, live and interactive events, with the links below, on the Member Resources page or [subscribe](#) to *The National Gardener* for early notification of all NGC sponsored seminars. Register early, space is limited.

Trish Bender is the Membership Committee Chair and resides in South Carolina.

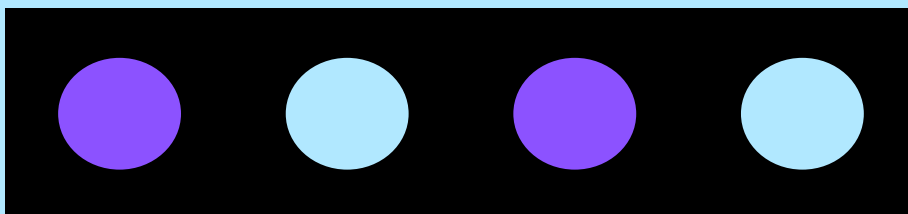
 **January 2023 - People, Plants, and Programs a 4 part series on NGC Schools. Part 1 - Gardening School** - What can you learn. How does it work. Learn directly from the NGC Gardening School Chair about this wonderful program. [Register here](#) on the Member Resources page.

 **February 2023 - People, Plants, and Programs - Part 2 - Flower Show School** - learn directly from the NGC Flower Show School Chair about this wonderful program of Design and Horticulture Study which enables you to become an accredited Flower Show Judge. [Register here](#) on the Member Resources page.

 **March 2023 - People, Plants, and Programs - Part 3 - Landscape Design School** - learn directly from the NGC Landscape Design School Chair about this wonderful course which enables you to become a Landscape Consultant. [Register here](#) on the Member Resources page.

 **April 2023 - People, Plants, and Programs - Part 4 - Environmental School** - learn directly from the NGC Environmental School Committee about this timely course which enables you to become an Environmental Consultant. [Register here](#) on the Member Resources page.

Did you miss any of the previous Membership Monday sessions? Go to the [NGC Video Café](#) and grab a Mocha Grandé (aka Club Resources) to get a taste of this delicious free resource for everyone. Enjoy!





Let's
COOK!

CARROT CAKE

Pat Greathead

Over four decades ago, my best friend's sister-in-law shared her recipe for what has become our son's favorite cake. It's moist and wonderful any time of year. I hope you enjoy it with your loved ones soon!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup yellow raisins
- 3 cups finely shredded carrots
- 1 cup drained, crushed pineapple

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cream the sugar and oil, add eggs and vanilla then beat well. Mix flour, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg, and baking soda. Combine nuts and raisins, then toss with 2 tablespoons of the flour mixture. Add flour to the sugar/oil mixture. Add nuts and raisins – mix well but do not overmix. Add carrots and pineapple. Bake in greased and floured 9" x 13" pan for 45-50 minutes until an inserted toothpick comes out dry. (Alternately, it can be baked in two 9" pans.) Cool and frost.

FROSTING

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1/4 pound butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 pound confectioners' sugar

Directions: Cream together the cream cheese and butter. Add vanilla, then beat in sugar until smooth.

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

[Click here for a printable recipe.](#)



*Design Stories:
Past & Present
by Pilar*



Telling Stories, Still Life Design Contando historias, Diseño de Naturaleza Muerta Pilar Medellín

Have you ever noticed that one of the things that most attracts your attention, or that catches your interest as a spectator in an artistic presentation, is when it leads you to a story? Still Life design is the art of telling a story within a space where the objects should stand out while accompanied by flowers and plant material. The purpose: to tell a story.

While contemplating this artistic expression, you may discover the awakening of different emotions such as joy, admiration, nostalgia, curiosity or plain interest. When you take a closer look, you will start identifying and even searching, in your own memory, for all those things the designer is presenting you in order for you to find the story. This also gives you, the viewer, the opportunity of being an observer while imagining your own story.

The beauty of these types of expressions is that they allow your mind to relax and rest a little from its constant activity. The search for association and meaning, relating the pieces to each other help create and invent stories with the avid imagination of a child.

You will find all of these sensations in this type of design. Although they are less frequently presented at the NGC Flower Shows, I believe they should be taken up again because they are so enormously rich. Let us bring Still Life design back to the Flower Shows! Let us activate the magic of creativity to tell a story through objects and flowers. Let us awaken in those who observe it, the idea and the narrative of what you want to show while using objects that take you to a place, an activity, diverse characters or scenarios.

We wish the observer to discover and identify everything, why each component is used, whether it has a decorative essence or it is simply plant material. The gaze must travel with an open mind to understand what it sees. It should interpret and imagine, so that everything, absolutely everything, has harmony and meaning that brings an image to mind and the fantasy of the story being told.

Pilar Medellín de Miñarro, is a TNG international feature writer and NGC Instructor. She lives in Mexico. **Click to view more images of [Pilar's Still Life Designs](#).**

¿Te has fijado que una de las cosas que más llama tu atención, o que atrapa tu interés como espectador en una expresión artística, es cuando a través de ella te cuenta una historia? *El* Diseño de Naturaleza Muerta es el arte de representar un relato en un espacio en donde se deben destacar principalmente los objetos que van acompañados de flores y material vegetal, con un propósito: contar una historia.

Cuando contemplas esta manifestación artística, ella puede despertar en ti distintas emociones como ser júbilo, admiración, nostalgia, curiosidad o interés y al mirar más detenidamente, inicias identificando o buscando en tu memoria todo lo que el diseñador te muestra para que encuentres la narración, incluso, dándote oportunidad a que como observador, tú, imagines tu propia historia.

Lo lindo de este tipo de expresiones es que permiten que tu mente se relaje y descanse un poco de su actividad incesante y busque asociaciones y significados, relacionando las piezas e inventándose cuentos con la avidez de un niño.

Todas esas sensaciones es lo que tú puedes encontrar en este tipo de diseño, que se presenta con menos frecuencia en las Exposiciones de Flores NGC y me parece que hay que retomarlo, porque es de una riqueza enorme. Volvamos a llevar este Diseño a las Exposiciones de Flores! Que se active la magia de la creatividad para contar una historia a través de objetos y flores. Poder despertar en quien la observa, una idea de la narrativa que quieres mostrar, utilizando para ello, cosas que te lleven a un lugar, una actividad, personajes o escenarios diversos.

Que se pueda delinear todo cuanto les muestras e identifiquen por qué se usa cada componente, que tenga unidad decorativa o solo material vegetal y que su mirada recorra con la mente lo que ve, lo que interpreta, lo que imagina, para que todo, absolutamente todo, tenga armonía y sentido y surja en la mente una imagen y la fantasía de esa historia que quieres contar.

Pilar Medellín de Miñarro, es escritora internacional de artículos especiales para TNG e Instructora NGC. Ella vive en México. **Haga clic para ver más imágenes de [Diseños de Naturaleza Muerta de Pilar](#).**



Tree & Shrubs for the *Winter Garden* Melinda Myers

As gardeners, we always seem to be evaluating our landscapes, fine-tuning garden designs and planning for new additions or major changes. For those of us in colder regions, we have a bit of downtime, other than shoveling snow, to dedicate to planning. Those of you gardening in milder climates need to squeak in a bit of planning while caring for your winter gardens. No matter where you live now is a good time to evaluate your winter landscape and start planning for needed changes.

Start by checking the views from inside your home looking out into the landscape. When temperatures drop to the single digits this may be the only way you want to view your garden. Even where the weather is milder, an inspiring view from inside looking out is always welcome.

Next, check out the garden from all vantage points throughout the landscape. View the landscape around your home from the sidewalk and street. Evaluate the views from decks, patios and balconies when looking into individual gardens and various areas of the landscape. Take a few pictures of what you want to keep and areas that need improving.

Look for inspiration and ideas with a walk around your neighborhood or hike through a nearby park or public garden. It is a great way to burn off some holiday calories while gathering ideas for your winter landscape. Take pictures or record the names of any plants that capture your attention. Note neighboring plants and how the plant fits into the overall landscape design. This will be helpful when trying to identify the plant and may provide ideas for incorporating it into your landscape. Then stop, listen and look for any songbirds nesting in the shelter of evergreens or dining on winter seeds and berries. Including plants that attract and support songbirds is another way to add color, motion and interest to the winter garden.

Plants like coral bark Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum* cultivars), paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), and Seven-Sons flower (*Heptacodium*) are just a few trees with interesting bark. Plant these in front of a backdrop of evergreens to further boost their winter interest. Shrubs like red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) and its many new cultivars are still a favorite for the landscape, winter containers and arrangements. Ninebark's peeling bark is striking against the winter sky. Many of the new introductions have colorful foliage extending their beauty throughout the growing season and increasing their popularity.

(Continued on page 29)



Witch Hazel • Billy_Fam

Sprinkle color throughout the fall and winter landscape with the help of colorful winter fruit. Crabapple and hawthorn trees are traditional favorites. Look for more disease-resistant cultivars and those with persistent fruit or better bird appeal if you plan to add these to your landscape. Rose hip covered stems make great additions to winter containers and arrangements but also help brighten the winter landscape and feed songbirds. The red or black chokeberry (*Aronia*) fruit persists on the plant well into winter. Even the birds wait for the fruit to soften and ferment a bit before dining on this astringent berry.

Evergreen hollies (*Ilex*) are festive and landscape favorites. The bright red fruit on the bare stems of deciduous winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) makes it a real standout in the winter garden. Plant one male plant for every one to five female holly plants for pollination to occur and for fruit to develop. The blue fruit of junipers looks like berries but are actually fleshy cones. This prickly evergreen comes in various sizes and shapes. It provides food and shelter for the birds while adding year-round color to the landscape.

Add some floral beauty to the winter and early spring gardens. Some of us will need to wait for the snow to clear while southern friends are enjoying new winter blooms. The large *Camellia* blossoms brighten winters in milder parts of

the country. Another southern beauty is the Paperbush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*) with its slightly fragrant creamy yellow flowers that typically appear in March or April. Yellow, orange, red or purple blooms of Japanese, Chinese, intermediate and vernal witch hazels appear in February or March and a bit later in their northern hardiness range.

Perhaps not a stunner in the landscape, but a favorite for spring arrangements and containers, are the pussy willows. *Salix discolor* is native to the eastern United States while *Salix caprea*, also commonly sold as pussy willow or goat willow, is native to Europe. Add a twist to the garden with Harry Lauder's walking stick (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'). The contorted branches of this European filbert combine nicely with the spring flowering bulbs and perennials in designs.

Once you find a few favorites do a bit more research on the plants. As always make sure the plants you select will fit the space when they mature and thrive in your garden's growing conditions. This way you will have years of enjoyment with minimal care.

Melinda is a TV and Radio host, author, columnist and speaker. She is the instructor for the *Great Courses: How to Grow Anything* DEV and Instant Streaming series. She has a Master's Degree in Horticulture and over 35 years of horticulture and gardening experience. Visit www.melindmyers.com for gardening tips, webinars and more.

Power of Plants

Julie Schoenike

Plants are superheroes with the power to heal. We depend on plants for our basic human needs, from the air we breathe to the food we eat. Healing also is enhanced by plants. Hospital patients benefit from plants with a more positive attitude, lower blood pressure and less stress. Plants boost feelings of calm and speed recovery from injury. If surrounded by plants, people may reduce their dependency on painkillers.

We all have experienced mental fatigue. Sometimes, we feel the need for a break but cannot get a much-needed “fresh air” moment. We can remedy this with arranging plants around our work area.

Along with *Aloe vera*'s burn-soothing properties, its purifying specifications include being one of the best plants for eliminating formaldehyde from the air. NASA takes credit for recommending a bamboo palm to effectively clean the air of commonly found indoor toxins.

Looking at the green *Monstera* can be restorative and can allow you to re-focus on your troublesome thoughts. Stress can be reduced by touching the smooth surface of a *Kalanchoe* leaf. Students studying with plants nearby can deepen concentration as well as improve memory. Plants help to make new friends by trading cuttings and can improve lingering relationships. Embrace the healing power of plants!

Julie Schoenike, of Wisconsin, is a Five-Star member and the NGC Indoor/Container Gardening Chair.



Soothing Plants • FollowTheFlow

Looking for Life Members

Gail Manna

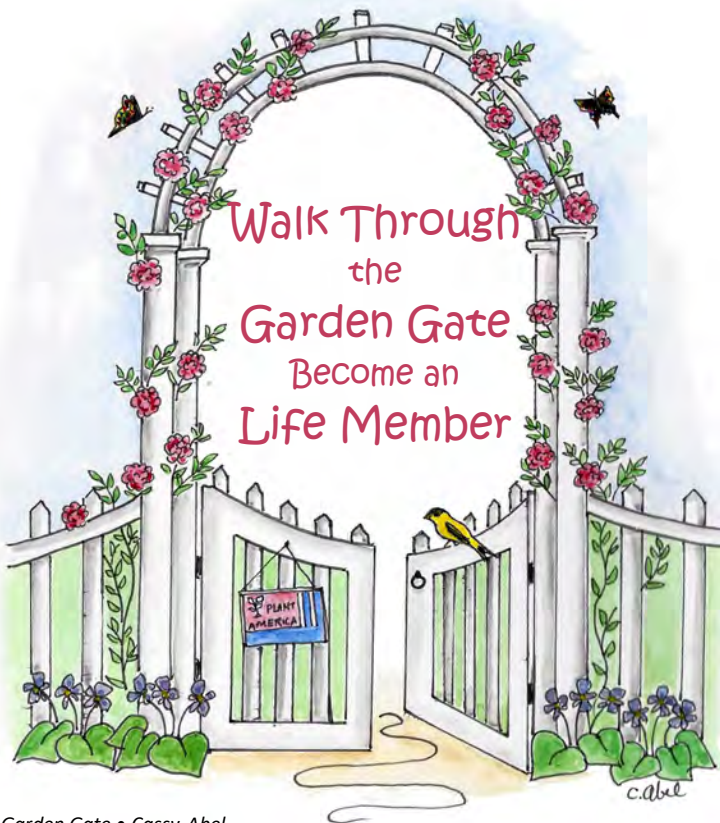
When you become a National Garden Club Life Member, you join a special group of people. These are people who care and want to give back to our Headquarters and Membership. They also strive to maintain and encourage NGC projects and goals. To date, during Mary Warshauer's term as NGC President, we have 53 new Life Members, 24 during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. It is so wonderful to have so many added to the Life Membership ranks.

Your donation of \$200 aids the following two wonderful programs that benefit local clubs, states and our NGC Headquarters.

- ✦ **PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND**
- ✦ **PERMANENT HOME AND ENDOWMENT FUND**

Do you want to be part of this prestigious group? Join today or better yet, give a gift membership to an individual or deserving group or honor/remember someone in your community who shares your passion for garden club interests. Applications and more information are on the [Life Membership](#) page. *Life Members do make a difference!* JOIN TODAY.

[Gail Manna](#), of Florida, is the NGC Life Member Chair. Contact Gail with any questions.



Garden Gate • Cassy Abel

"Roses By the Sea" "Rosas frente al mar" Adriana Oviedo



Adriana's Garden • Adriana Oviedo

"Roses by the Sea", what more could this be than an ideal little paradise or a reminiscence of a wonderful summer in front of the sea. The name of the place is Playa Chapadmalal and the house, which is the reason for this article, is called Udaondo. The name is the maternal surname of my political family and in Basque, if separated, it means: good summer. The house was built in 1950, and from inception the garden was an integral part of the home.

The house is located in Argentina, Mar del Plata, Chapadmalal Beach. It faces the Atlantic Ocean. The salty winds are always harmful; however, the roses live magnificently happy sheltered from the wind that comes from the South.

The English style rose garden is a square surrounded by *Buxus sempervirens*. It all surrounds a cistern in the center. There are 250 hybrid tea rose bushes and Austin English roses. On each side there are climbers placed on iron columns and two half-circles with 100 specimens of multicolored rosebushes that frame and close this entire garden.

The process was trial and error because some species acclimatized better than others. The soil is very rich in humus with very good drainage. The temperature does not drop below 41° degrees Fahrenheit nor does it reach over 86° degrees in summer. What else can I say about my passion for my roses?

Blanca Niño Norton presents *Roses by the Sea*, an article and images by Adriana Oviedo, a member of Garden Club Argentino - Grupo Margaritas. Blanca Niño Norton, of Guatemala, is our *The National Gardener* International Affiliates Conservation writer. [Click here to see more images of the magnificent "Roses by the Sea" Gardens.](#)

"Rosas frente al mar", qué más puede significar esa idea que un pequeño paraíso o hacernos evocar ese maravilloso verano frente al mar.

El nombre del lugar es Playa Chapadmalal y la casa, que es el motivo de este artículo, se llama Udaondo. El nombre es el apellido materno de mi familia política y en vasco, separado, quiere decir: buen verano. La casa fue construida en el año 1950, y desde esa época el jardín es una parte integral del conjunto.

La casa se encuentra en Argentina, Mar del Plata, Playa Chapadmalal. Está situada frente al Océano Atlántico. Los vientos salitrosos son siempre perjudiciales, sin embargo las rosas viven magníficamente reparadas del viento proveniente del Sur.

La rosaleda de estilo inglés consiste en un cuadrado rodeado de *Buxus sempervirens* con un centro que corona un aljibe. En este lugar se encuentran 250 rosales híbridos de té y rosas inglesas Austin. A los lados del mismo, trepadoras colocadas en columnas de hierro acompañan de un lado y del otro y 2 medias lunas con 100 ejemplares de rosales multicolores que enmarcan y cierran este entorno.

El proceso fue ensayo y error, ya que algunas especies se aclimataron mejor que otras. El suelo es muy rico en humus con muy buen drenaje y la temperatura no baja de 5 grados, sin alcanzar más de 30 grados en verano en condiciones normales. ¿Qué más puedo decir de mi pasión por mis rosas?

Blanca Niño Norton presenta "Rosas frente al mar", un artículo e imágenes de Adriana Oviedo, miembro del Garden Club Argentino - Grupo Margaritas. Blanca Niño Norton, de Guatemala, es nuestra escritora de The National Gardener International Affiliates (COMAAI) sobre temas de medio ambiente. [Haz click aquí para ver más imágenes de los magníficos jardines "Rosas frente al mar".](#)



Cedar Waxwing • Anita Easley Barnwell



Long Island Sound • Colette Driscoll Long



Etlingera elatior • Sandy Mangels

Photography Outside of the Flower Show

Carol English

Many clubs are having photography shows independent of their Flower Shows.

Can they do that? Of course. Sometimes the venue for a flower show does not have the space for photography classes. Sometimes a club will do a competition as a monthly program or even a yearly program. States also have photography contests.

So, what are the rules? The sponsoring organization sets the rules. They decide how many photos each member can enter, subject matter, size of the photo, how it is to be displayed, etc. Consider it in the same way we do in a Flower Show schedule.

The club decides if the photos are going to be judged and by whom. In an NGC Flower Show, photos must be judged by a qualified panel of three that includes a professional photographer. Those professionals are often difficult to find especially for a small exhibition. A show or competition, not in an NGC Flower Show, might choose to have a different panel but should always try to find three of the most qualified people available.

The scale of points used to judge must be decided upon ahead of the competition if not using the NGC Scales of Points. If awards are to be given, they cannot be the NGC ribbons we use in NGC Flower Shows, but a club can make up its own ribbons, stickers, etc. Special awards can be determined by the organizing group. They should list criteria in advance so exhibitors can prepare accordingly and so judges understand the boundaries. This is also possible in an NGC Flower Show. The schedule would list the special awards with all the requirements including ribbon color or other description of the award.

Should your club do this? Yes! It is a great way for members to explore their photographic skills and present their talents. Having a guest speaker, in advance, to discuss techniques and other skills, helps members to be prepared and often they will enter better photographs. You can keep it simple and not competitive. If possible, have someone critique the photos so it becomes a learning experience. You can have state or region exhibitions at any local meetings to give exposure to your members.

Need more ways to encourage your members in Photography? Join us on Facebook in the group [NGC Photographers](#) and post in the weekly themes as seen to the left. You only need to answer the group questions to be admitted. For information on how to stage photography in a competition, go to [Flower Shows](#) page on the NGC website. You will also find information under Programs if you click on [Photography](#).

Carol English is the NGC Photography Chair and is an Administer of the NGC Photography Facebook Group. She lives in New York.



ORGANIC

A natural in the garden since 1929.



ESPOMA ORGANIC AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS
WANT TO HELP YOUR CLUB

Plant America!



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



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





Clockwise: Bench Building, Studying, Stump Classroom • Los Osos GC



PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grant

Los Osos Valley Garden Club - California

David Robson

Baywood Elementary School, located in Los Osos, CA, is a Title I school which serves a 40% poverty-level community. The school is transitioning to a dual language immersion program for the 345 children attending. The Los Osos Valley Garden Club created a garden on a slope on the school grounds, close to a well-traveled street, by removing vegetation and creating level surfaces for raised beds.

The club's PLANT AMERICA Community Project grant proposal was to increase the number of beds, as well as to install a potting table, garden sink, seating and watering ability. Their proposal also included an educational component to provide gardening information in English and in Spanish.

Assisting the club with its efforts were the Baywood School teachers, the local PTA and local businesses. The NGC grant was matched by donated labor and donated supplies, as well as, contributions from the Los Osos Valley Garden Club, creating a budget of just under \$2100.

Members cleared additional space to install three additional raised beds to accommodate additional classes participating

in the garden. Additional seating was considered, with the final decision made on benches, ten tree stumps (also used as writing surfaces) and buckets. The pails serve the dual purpose of carrying water to the raised beds as well.

PLANT AMERICA funds were used to purchase two benches, the potting table, the wash table and ten watering cans. Donated items include the buckets, three raised beds, soil, plants and stumps.

Club members, school children and volunteers helped assemble raised beds, benches, the potting table and sink.

The garden is used regularly by the teachers and students. As an addendum to the project, Baywood School was also able to get another grant to fund a bilingual garden teacher from the "One Cool Earth" non-profit organization, thus increasing the gardening project.

[David Robson](#), of Illinois, is the NGC PLANT AMERICA Community Projects Grants Chair. Consider applying for a grant for your project in 2023. See the [PLANT AMERICA](#) page for more information.



Atkins' Acres Farm • Kimberly Atkins

Atkins' Acres Educational Farm

Kimberly Atkins

In 2020, Kim and Mark Atkins (both Air Force Veterans) purchased a 17-acre farm in Millstadt, IL. The property consisted of fully stocked ponds, woodlands, many rows of blackberry bushes, asparagus and acres of leased row crops. They saw this property as an opportunity to further expand the gardens as well as create events and classes to share with youth groups. Kim is a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist. Mark is the master builder of all projects.

They took many acres of row crops out of service to build a "barndominium," plant trees, create pollinator beds, build raised vegetable beds and embark on the journey of a prairie restoration area. During the house build in 2020, they were able to plant 160 trees from the Missouri Department of Conservation and Heartlands Conservancy. The builder let them work some of the land but access was limited due to the heavy construction equipment. With this property moving from farmland to installing a driveway off a highway, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) became involved. Once they learned about the mission of the farm, they suggested Kim request a permit to plant pollinators on the right-of-way. The permit allows for planting and IDOT will not mow or spray. The farm is an official [Monarch Waystation](#) with hundreds of supporting plants.

The initial process of working the land was difficult due to a lack of equipment but once things progressed, they purchased a tractor and side-by-side with a trailer. During the summer of 2021, the standard day consisted of working outside until the sun went down before they would stop to

have dinner. It was not a good plan but necessary to take advantage of daylight.

In October 2021, they moved into their home and began working more of the land. After many years of farming, much of the soil was depleted and restoration is in the works. The prairie restoration is possible through a grant from [Project Wingspan](#) which provided 100 native plant plugs and a large variety of native plant seeds.

In January 2022, Atkins' Acres Educational Farm became a 501(c)(3) organization. They conduct classes on topics such as winter sowing, pond health, amphibians, pollinators and trees. Over the summer, many people visited the farm from garden clubs, library reading programs, summer school programs and STEM homeschool groups. They also participated in the University of Illinois iPollinate project, St. Louis Open Yards and the Shutterbee Community Science Program. In fall, they held two Atkins' Acres 4-H Cloverbuds meetings and look forward to growing a solid future with this group. In 2023, they will conduct a pilot program through the University of Illinois for Junior Master Naturalists.

Kim and Mark are both members of the O'Fallon Garden Club where they continue to attend meetings and assist with projects. If you would like to learn more about the farm, visit their Facebook site [Atkins' Acres Educational Farm](#).

[Kimberly Atkins](#) is an Air Force Veteran of 28 years. She is the Awards and Youth Chair for the O'Fallon Garden Club and recently joined the St. Clair County Garden Club. She has an Education Specialist Degree which is the foundation of her love of teaching.



Proposed NGC Bylaw Changes

to be voted on by the
2023 NGC Annual
Meeting Delegates

Donna Donnelly and Patty Arndt

Key - underline means insert words. ~~Strikethrough~~ mean to omit words

Adopted by the NGC Board of Directors at the 2022 Annual Meeting

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. VOTING MEMBERSHIP

B. Application

Application shall be submitted by the State Garden Club to NGC Headquarters and approved by the NGC Board of Directors. ~~from the State Garden Club.~~ Application shall be accompanied by per capita dues and a typewritten list of names and addresses of state officers in order of rank, and state chairmen; and names of member clubs in alphabetical order including the names and addresses of the Presidents.

Rationale: Membership applications will be submitted to NGC Headquarters and approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP

A. NGC Life Members

NGC Life Membership shall be accorded to an individual who is a member or a non-member of a garden club by submitting an application and contribution through the NGC Life Membership Chairman. ~~All NGC Life Members shall receive a subscription to *The National Gardener*, if requested.~~

Rationale: The TNG is free and available to both the membership and the public.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP

B. 2. International Affiliate Membership--Organizations in a foreign country.

Affiliate Membership may be accorded to such organizations by the submission of an application and required dues to NGC Headquarters.

Admission shall be by approval of the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. Affiliate Members shall receive the **Call to the NGC Convention** ~~in the Winter issue of *The National Gardener* mailed to the address designated. on the COMAAI and NGC websites.~~ Affiliates shall also be able to receive the Call by electronic device. All other communication shall be ~~by e-mail.~~ electronic.

Rationale: TNG will be sent via electronic device to all that have subscribed.

ARTICLE VII - DUES, FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 1. DUES

A. 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 First Vice-President/President-Elect and Liaison to the State Garden Club Presidents and Region Directors ~~at that meeting.~~

Rationale: Headquarters shall request State membership counts prior to sending an invoice for dues payment.

ARTICLE VII - DUES, FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 1. DUES

A. 5. Additional dues payment for new members not included in the ~~original report~~ State Roster shall be remitted by a State Garden Club to NGC Headquarters prior to March 31 of the following year. These additional dues will be utilized in tabulating the number of delegates to the NGC Conventions.

Rationale: Define "original report."

ARTICLE VII - DUES, FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 1. DUES

B. Annual Dues of Affiliate Member Organizations

1. Annual dues of each National Affiliate Member organization shall be \$30.00 per annum, as approved by the Board of Directors, and payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31.

2. Annual dues of each International Affiliate Member organization shall be \$35.00 per annum, as approved by the Board of Directors, and payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31.

Section 2. FEES

One annual fee for all Youth Gardener groups within a State Garden Club or country shall be \$10.00 per state or country, as approved by the Board of Directors, and payable by October 31.

Rationale: All NGC dues amounts shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 2. FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

F. ~~Attend the meetings~~ Serve as a member of the Organization Study Committee ~~as a guest and participate except for including the right to make motions and to vote.~~

Section 4. SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

E. ~~Attend the meetings~~ Serve as a member of the Organization Study Committee and participate ~~except for including the right to make motions and to vote~~

Section 5. THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT

D. ~~Attend the meetings of the Finance Committee and the Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees and participate except for the right to make motions and to vote.~~ Serves as a member of the Finance Committee.

E. Serves as an ex officio member of the Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees

Rationale: Conforming. As NGC officers, the Vice President's accumulate much experience and knowledge and should be granted the right to make motions and vote at the committees in which they participate.

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 5. THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT

The Third Vice-President shall:

E. Be responsible for publishing changes to NGC Standing Rules and shall provide the entire revised document to the website for posting.

Rationale: Changes to Standing Rules shall be placed on the NGC Website by the Third Vice President.

ARTICLE XII - CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS

Section 3. CREDENTIALS

A. ~~Credentials of Each State Garden Club President shall send a list of official delegates and alternates shall be signed by the State Garden Club President and mailed to the NGC Credentials Chairman one month prior to the NGC Convention. and this shall be the official list of delegates and alternates of that State Garden Club.~~

Rationale: Each state shall have delegates at the NGC Convention.

ARTICLE XVI - COMMITTEES

Section 6. ORGANIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE

The Organization Study Committee shall consist of the Third Vice-President serving as Chairman, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, and no more than eight six members appointed by the President. ~~The Second Vice President, The Parliamentarian and the Executive Director shall attend the meetings and participate except for the right to make motions and the right to vote. serve as ex officio non-voting members. The First Vice President may attend as a guest.~~

Rationale: *The NGC Vice Presidents will be members of the Organization Study Committee and have the same rights as any other member.*

Adopted by the NGC Board of Directors at the 2022 Fall Board Meeting

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Section 12. PERMANENT HOME & ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES DIRECTOR

G. Serve as a ~~member~~ chairman of the Performance Evaluation Committee.

Rationale: The PH&E Trustees Director, having the longest association with the Executive Director, shall serve as chairman of the Performance Evaluation Committee which performs the annual Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director.

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 2. FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The First Vice-President shall:

D. Coordinate the rotation schedules of the Nominating Committee and Region Directors.

RELETTER

Rationale: *There is no assignment for the management of the Nominating Committee and Region Director rotation schedules. This duty shall be assigned to the First Vice President.*

Article X - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. Structure

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of a ~~Chairman, Vice Chairman,~~ three members of the Board of Directors and ~~two~~ one ~~members~~ member from each Region. There shall be one Alternate for each member position. ~~The Vice Chairman shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall attend each meeting of the Nominating Committee as a non-voting member~~

Rationale: The Nominating Committee will be represented by board members and Region members. Alternate members have been discontinued.

ARTICLE X - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. STRUCTURE

A. Chairman and Vice Chairman

~~1. To be eligible to serve as Chairman or Vice Chairman, each nominee shall have served a minimum of two years as an elected officer of a State Garden Club, a minimum of four years as a member of the NGC Board of Directors and shall have attended two of the three previous NGC Conventions prior to assuming that position.~~

~~2. The A Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be elected from among the members of the Nominating Committee by the Executive Committee subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at the Fall Board of Directors' Meeting held in the even-numbered year. Recommendations may be sent to the President and the Recording Secretary by members of the NGC Board of Directors and by State Garden Clubs at least four (4) weeks prior to the Fall Board of Director's Meeting held in the even-numbered year.~~

Rationale: *The Nominating Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be elected based on their experience and up-to-date understanding of NGC. The Executive Committee selecting the Chairman and Vice Chairman from among the committee members allows the committee to be a smaller and more efficient group, and the individuals selected are knowingly committed to the work of the committee.*

ARTICLE X - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. B. Members

1. Three Committee Members shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among the current members of the Board of Directors.

~~1. 2.~~ To be eligible to serve as a Member **representing a Region**, or ~~Alternate Member~~, each member shall have served ~~two~~ years as an officer of a State Garden Club, a minimum of two years **of the prior six years** as a member of the NGC Board of Directors and shall have attended ~~two of the previous five NGC Conventions prior to assuming that position.~~ The Member or ~~Alternate Member~~ must reside within the Region represented.

~~2. 3.~~ The States from which the Members **representing a Region** and ~~Alternate Members~~ are selected shall be determined in rotation, as established in the NGC Standing Rules and must include each State Garden Club within the geographic areas designated in Article IV.1.

~~3. 4.~~ The Member **representing a Region** and ~~Alternate Member~~ shall be elected by the Governing Board of the State Garden Club during the even-numbered year prior to service.

~~4. 5.~~ If neither the Member **representing a Region** nor the ~~Alternate Member~~ is able **unable** to attend a meeting, the Region Director shall appoint a member from the Region already serving on the NGC Board of Directors to attend that meeting.

***Rationale:** Three Committee members shall be Board Members to ensure the goal of including individuals who have a current and knowledgeable understanding of NGC. The members of the Nominating Committee will be comprised of representatives from the regions, ensuring a nationwide voice in the nominating process. The prerequisite changes allow for candidates to have a recent association with NGC and removes the candidate-limiting rules.*

ARTICLE XV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. Duties

The Board of Directors shall:

A. Transact the business of NGC except as otherwise provided for by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws.

B. Act on matters presented by the Executive Committee.

C. Consider recommendations of the President to fill vacancies in chairmanships.

D. Authorize Official Publications, and publication of any information designed to advance objectives of NGC.

E. Keep minutes of its meetings and report its actions to the convention delegates at the next NGC Convention.

F. In the event an NGC Convention cannot be held due to a National Emergency, act on behalf of the voting assembly to conduct business via electronic meeting and/or voting.

***Rationale:** When an NGC Convention cannot be held due to a national emergency, authority will be granted to the Board of Directors to act on behalf of the assembly, so that Bylaws and other necessary business can be completed without interruption.*

ARTICLE XVI - COMMITTEES

Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES (pg17)

B. Unless otherwise prescribed by these Bylaws, Chairmen and Committee members are appointed for the term of the current President. ~~They may continue by re-appointment, not to exceed three consecutive terms. Exception: Chairmanships that require expertise and knowledge in their field and International Affiliates may serve more than three consecutive terms.~~

***Rationale:** Standing Committee chairmen and members shall be determined by the President and shall be members of the Board of Directors for that term.*

ARTICLE XVII - FINANCES

Section 3. FINANCE COMMITTEE

B. Duties.

The Committee shall:

~~6. Approve salary and salary adjustments for staff; salary schedule to be effective January 1 for a period of one year.~~

~~Adjustments for increased responsibilities may be considered at any time.~~

***Rationale:** The Headquarters staff salaries will be determined by the Executive Director.*

ARTICLE XXII - AMENDMENTS

Section 3. NATIONAL EMERGENCY

If an NGC convention cannot be held, in the event of a national emergency, these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote with previous notice by mail ballot or by balloting using an internet service that supports anonymous voting following the procedures outlined in ARTICLE XI, Section 1. (May 2021)

Ballots shall be sent by electronic device or postal mail to the Board of Directors.

All ballots must be received by the Recording Secretary within 30 days of the start of the voting period.

A plurality of the votes returned shall determine the results.

Rationale: *To give specific instructions for amending Bylaws when an NGC Convention cannot be held due to a national emergency.*

ARTICLE XXII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. WITH PREVIOUS NOTICE

These Bylaws may be amended at any NGC Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting, provided that the proposed amendments shall have been presented in writing to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors and published in the Winter issue of *The National Gardener*, posted on the website.

Rationale: *To provide notice for bylaw amendments in a timely manner. Currently, notice is allowed only one time per year in the Winter Issue of the TNG.*

Donna Donnelly, of South Carolina, is the NGC Third Vice President and chairs the Organizational Studies Committee. Patty Arndt is the NGC Parliamentarian. Patty lives in West Virginia.

...and the Nominees are...

Marge McGoff and Judy Grots

The NGC Nominating Committee is thrilled to nominate the following candidates for the 2023 - 2025 Term of Office. The elections take place at the 2023 NGC Annual Meeting. Please note, Brenda Moore is the president-elect and this office is not voted upon by the assembly.

Marge McGoff, of Michigan, is the NGC Nominating Committee Chair. Judy Grots is the Vice-Chair and resides in Oklahoma.



Congratulations Brenda Moore,
NGC President-elect



First Vice President - Donna Rouch

After serving many state responsibilities, she served as the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska President from 2013-2015 and their Website Developer/Web Master from 2011 to present. Donna attended Creighton University,

where she received Doctorate of Pharmacy after receiving her bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Donna serves as the NGC Second Vice President during the current term and is a four-star NGC member.



Second Vice President - Donna Donnelly

Donna served as many state chairs before becoming South Carolina State President from 2017-19. She served the South Atlantic Region in many responsibilities including Corresponding Secretary. Donna is a licensed nurse in both New York State and South Carolina having a number

of specialties including Instructor for Expectant English/Spanish speaking parents. Donna, currently, is the NGC Third Vice President. She is a long time member of the National Flower Arrangers.



Third Vice President - Gerianne Holzman

Gerianne served in many capacities for the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation before becoming President from 2015 - 2017. She is a Veterinary Technician, Emeriti from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Gerianne is a five-star NGC member having reached master status in all four schools. She currently serves as the Corresponding Secretary and the editor of *The National Gardener*.



Recording Secretary - Monica Hansen

Monica has served the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State in many capacities including State President from 2017 - 2019. Monica is a flower show judge and serves on the NGC membership committee. She is the current

Recording Secretary and looks forward to the opportunity to continue that role.



Treasurer - Lynette Jeffres

Lynette enjoys working with the members of the Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs where she is a member of the Riverton Garden Club. Lynette studied agribusiness at the University of Wyoming and is the owner of

Lynette Jeffres Accounting in Riverton. Lynette serves on the NGC finance committee. She is the current NGC Treasurer and looks for more opportunities to serve NGC members.



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President Mary’s Travels

- ❖ January 27: NGC Tour, Hawaii
- ❖ February 25: Inst. Symposium, Albuquerque, NM
- ❖ March 5: Southern Atlantic Region, Roanoke, VA
- ❖ March 13: Deep South Region, Kenner, LA
- ❖ March 13: Kentucky Garden Clubs, Berea, KY
- ❖ March 27: Maryland Garden Clubs, Ellicott City, MD
- ❖ April 4: Arkansas GC, Little Rock, AR
- ❖ April 11: New Mexico GC, Albuquerque, NM
- ❖ April 14: Arizona GC, Tempe, AZ
- ❖ April 17: Missouri GC, St. Louis, MO
- ❖ April 20: South Carolina GC, Myrtle Beach, SC
- ❖ May 1: NGC Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WV

President-Elect Brenda’s Travels

- ❖ April 18: Ohio GC, Toledo, OH
- ❖ April 21: Pennsylvania GC, Monroeville, PA
- ❖ May 1: NGC Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WV

Looking for Events?

- ❖ Search the [NGC Calendar](#) for upcoming in person and virtual events near you or across the globe.

Coming Soon

- ❖ January - November: [Environmental Schools](#)*
- ❖ January - April: [Flower Show Schools](#)*
- ❖ February - April: [Gardening School](#)*
- ❖ January - May: [Landscape Design School](#)*
- ❖ March: Scheduled: [Multiple Refreshers](#)
- ❖ March: [Symposiums](#)*
- ❖ [International Events](#)*

*Clicking on the above links takes you directly to the most up-to-date course listings and details on the website. Looking for a specific course? Click on Course 1, 2, 3 or 4 on the course listing chart.

[Subscribe to TNG](#) to assure email notification of NGC events: Membership Mondays and President Mary’s Webinars.

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Sitting on the Porch

Gerianne Holzman, Editor

It is way too cold, here in Wisconsin, to sit on the porch and ponder these winter thoughts. So instead, I sit in the sunroom on a sunny frigid day and watch the hardy birds enjoying the seed we provided for them. The birds are an inspiration as they fight the cold to survive. Inspiration comes into all areas of our lives. Recently, during a floral design presentation, a member asked what inspires me while creating a design. Where does one start after receiving a class title for a show? The answer was not so easy as sometimes titles just speak to you and shout in your head exactly what to do. While at other times, there is a whisper of an idea that usually does not work out at all. A piece of fabric might pop out as perfect for a staging panel, then it is time to fit the design components to the fabric or it might be a treasured container or sculpture.

During the last year, I reassessed my goals – both personally and as a volunteer. At times, I thought, perhaps I am getting too old for all of this. Then, Idalia Aguilar shared the blurb about an IA instructor teaching an online course even in her 90s! (See NGC News on page 23.) Talk about an inspiration! If this lovely lady can learn how to transition to virtual teaching, continue her studies and share it with others, I know we can ALL achieve dreams no matter what comes our way. Age is just a number reminding us to embrace those years of experience and perhaps use them to inspire others.

It's never too late to be what you might've been.
George Eliot.

We appreciate all of the amazing stories, articles and images in this issue of *The National Gardener*. Send comments and suggestions for future issues to [Gerianne Holzman](#), editor. We encourage all NGC members to submit articles.

Virtual Resources

What's Ahead this Winter....

Webinars: must register

Please subscribe to *The National Gardener* and receive notices of upcoming NGC events

January 23, 2023 @ 2:00 pm

Bees: An Ancient Story with Dr. Gene Kritsky

February 15, 2023 @ 2 pm.

Flower Trials with Krystal Snyder

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