



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Aug-Sept-Oct 2012

## GREETINGS from Shirley Nicolai, NGC President

2011-2013 Theme - NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities



Greetings,

As my visits to state garden clubs mount, so does my appreciation for the community service and special friendships that abound among NGC members. The collective, diverse expertise is overwhelmingly impressive.

I've attended both one day and multiple day state garden club conventions; because of distances traveled, even one day events often require an over-night stay. Those of us in smaller states easily forget that one can travel several hundred miles and still be in the same state. When board meetings, State Standard Flower Shows and council meetings (Judges, Landscape Design, Gardening Study and Environmental) are integrated into the convention schedule, our busy volunteers actually save time otherwise spent in separate meetings.

Conference calls can also be time savers for meetings at all levels of garden club. With an effective chairman/facilitator and not too many people, certain business can be taken care of efficiently. Sadly, NGC recently lost our Treasurer, Patsy Ruth Miller. A Bylaws amendment passed at the Buffalo Convention enabled the Executive Committee to elect a replacement using a conference call that was preceded by an email notification. The election of Betty Grimes will be ratified at the coming Fall Board Meeting, but she is now serving and the Committee (from all 8 regions) did not have to travel to be in one place.

You are invited to submit applications for recognition, and perhaps a check, for "Plantings for Public and Special Places" and "Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems" projects. Applications go directly to NGC President's

Project Chairmen, who welcome early submissions. For details, please go to [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). Once there, go to Projects and then to President's Projects. There are lots of other award options to explore as well- and this is a great time to find a fit for your club's endeavors.

Most of your website needs can be filled by using the public section of the website. Forms, other than those for awards, can be found under Clubs. Awards forms can be found under Awards. Green links boxes at the bottom of the Home Page will take you to items used most often. Once school records and the optional digital version of *The National Gardener* are on the website, the member section will take on more importance.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and be willing to share your personal expertise with others. There are potential garden club members just waiting to learn from you. Practical information is what new gardeners crave.

With best garden club wishes,

*Shirley*

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## ASK ... Increasing Club Membership

Linda Nelson, President-Elect, NGC Membership Chairman

At the recent NGC convention in Buffalo New York, each state president gave a very short report on the activities of their state. Montana President Phyllis White reported on how their clubs had gained some new members. They gave them **"Trial Memberships"** .... **FREE**. And all those that **tried out** garden club liked it and paid dues to stay in the clubs. This unique approach paid off and it might be something that would work for your club too.

The NGC website ([www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)) has free downloadable membership flyers, posters, and hand outs that you can download and insert your local club contact information, print them and distribute at events, neighborhoods or give to members to hand out. Why not use these and the trial membership idea to grow your club.

Our brand new website has 3 levels of information. Every garden club member and the public can access the first level. The free forms can be found on the first level under **CLUBS** and then **FREE PUBLICATIONS**. The garden club member level is the second level and the words you need for access is user name **"member"** and password **"proud"**. I urge you to make use of the many free things we have made available to all members. I believe these print outs/pamphlets will be of help to you and your members. Also, available are pamphlets that will help current or potential club officers. The upgrading of our website is one of our efforts to **PROUDLY SERVE OUR MEMBERS**.

Ask them to join  
Share information  
Keep them busy

### You are invited to join SAGE & ROSES

At the Buffalo NGC Convention, President Shirley Nicolai reached in the basket and picked the state of Virginia as the lucky winner of the SAGE & ROSES \$1440.00 to purchase a Blue Star Marker and help with the landscaping. Consider participating in the SAGE and ROSES program and help your state be the 2012 winner.

Send **A** Greeting **E**lectronically  
and  
Recognize **O**ur **S**ervicemen's **E**very **S**acrifice

Send your NGC Board Member friends (or any friends) an email greeting at Christmas – save the cost of the card and stamp.

1. Send \$1.00 for each email greeting.
2. Money collected will purchase Blue Star Markers.
3. Each participant will be an entry for their state.
4. The drawing will take place at the May convention.
5. All monies collected will be spent in the same year for the erection and landscaping of markers.

## PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE



July 15-18 St. Louis, MO  
Headquarters Visit  
July 26-31 Anchorage, AK  
Pacific Region and State  
Conventions  
September 10-12 Binghamton, NY  
State Fall Conference  
September 14-15 Hayes, KS  
Rocky Mountain Regional Mtg  
September 25-30 Little Rock, AR  
NGC Fall Board Meeting  
October 4 Bentonville, AR  
Northwest District Meeting  
October 8-9 St. Louis, MO  
Central Region Meeting  
October 10-12 Abilene, TX  
State Fall Convention  
October 14-15 Providence, RI  
New England Region Meeting  
October 16-18 Starkville, MS  
State Board Meeting  
October 28-30 Cleveland, OH  
Central Atlantic Region  
Conference  
October 31 Plantsville, CT  
State Awards Meeting  
November 3-13 Argentina  
NGC Tour/Judging

### Deadline for the next issue of KIT:

**October 1, 2012**

Please send information, articles, etc.  
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## WANTED

Award Applications for *PROTECTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS* Projects

Awards offered for Small, Medium and Large Club winners in each NGC Region

National Winners selected in Small, Medium and Large Club Categories

ALL Award Money to be distributed in 2013  
24 Regional Winners 3 National Winners

Application guidelines available on NGC Website,  
*The National Gardener and Keeping in Touch*

Applications received by Project Chairman, Mary Sue Colvin  
from today's date until March 15, 2013

In the event there are less than 24 Regional Award Winners,  
that money will be apportioned to the winning applications.

## NGC President's Project - **PLANTINGS FOR PUBLIC AND SPECIAL PLACES** Betsy Steele, Coordinator

### 2011-2013 President's Project Plantings for Public and Special Places

When making plans for the coming garden club year, remember to apply DIRECTLY to NGC PPSP Chairmen for recognition and possible monetary awards celebrating *Plantings for Public and Special Places*. Many of NGC projects align perfectly with this President's Project and allow every garden club to receive a certificate for their participation.

**Visit the NGC website ([www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)) for specific details and application form.**

Enjoy and learn as you read below an article by Virginia Grandpré, committee member, *Gardens with Edibles*.

#### "Companion Gardening With Herbs"

Companion Gardening is the act of planting different plants close to each other so that their natural properties will allow you to use less fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides. Many plants act as deterrent or enhancement plants to their "companion" partners, thus reducing the need for more chemically based additives in your garden.

If you decide to use the companion gardening method, consider adding some herbs among your edible plants. Not only will they add another edible plant to your garden, but the benefits will far outweigh the small amount of space that they will require in the garden.

If you are hoping to enhance the flavor and growth of:

- Asparagus, peppers and tomatoes – plant **Basil** among the plants.
- Cabbage, cucumbers and onions – benefit from **Chamomile** plantings.
- Spinach planted with **Coriander** will not only give this green better flavor, but will give you more leafy greens
- Apples, broccoli, cabbage and other members of the brassica family along with carrots and tomatoes, are really enhanced with the addition of **Chive** plantings.
- Cabbage, corn, cucumbers, garlic, lettuce and onions do great with **Dill** among them.
- Apples, celery, cucumbers, garlic, lettuce, pears and peas flourish with the addition of **Garlic** in the same row or in near proximity.

*continued page 4*

- Peppers and tomatoes particularly like being planted with **Oregano**.
- All members of the brassica family such as broccoli and cabbage prefer **Mint**.
- Beans, cabbage, carrots and sage do great with **Rosemary**.

You will see that some edible plants like to be planted with more than one type of herb. No problem – choose one or more to ensure good favorable crops. After all, many different vegetables and herbs end up in a salad together, so why not in the garden?

If you are bothered with pests in your garden try these combinations:

- Aphids – really do not like **Chives, Coriander, Garlic, Nasturtiums, Petunias, Mint, Tansy or French Marigolds**.
- Cabbage moth – moves on when they encounter **Catnip, Celery, Hemp, Nasturtiums, Rosemary, Sage or Thyme**.
- Carrot fly – will fly away when **Coriander, Rosemary or Sage** is planted.
- Colorado potato beetle – is gone when **Flax, Green beans or Horseradish** is there.
- Japanese Beetles – **Garlic, Pelargonium (especially white ones) and Tansy**. (Use these deterrents around all of your other non-edible plants – especially your precious roses).
- Nematode – You won't have this problem if you plant **Asparagus, Calendula, French or African Marigolds**.
- Tomato Hornworm – Plantings of **French or African Marigolds, Borage and Opal Basil** will keep this big guy away.

Naturally it is impossible to list every deterrent or enhancer for every plant in your edible garden. No method is completely foolproof, even the chemical based products do not guarantee complete results. However, it is hoped that this short list will peak your interest in trying a different and less harmful method of planting your gardens. Submitted by Virginia Grandpré

## PLANTINGS FOR PUBLIC AND SPECIAL PLACES Container Gardening

## NGC AWARDS 2011-2013 Bobbie Verser, Chairman

The growing season is in full swing and it is time to "Think Outside the Box" and implement the plans laid down by President Shirley Nicolai for PPSP. Certainly your club has a special project that members contribute to with time, effort and funds to help beautify your community, provide sustenance and add environmental value. This project provides an excellent opportunity to showcase these efforts and perhaps even win a monetary award. You will find the form and information at the NGC website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

Thank you to all who made the NGC Awards Banquet in Buffalo, NY, possible. It was a special night to highlight the accomplishments of so many.

After carefully studying our Awards List, we realized that a few changes should be made to make things easier for all of us. Check out the NGC website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), "Award List". Deletions are printed in red with a line through them, and insertions are printed in green. This will allow you to notice them quickly and make the necessary adjustments.

Consider your club's efforts in container gardening in a public or special place. Containers are versatile, portable and accessible, with limitless creativity. Perhaps your club has an ongoing therapy project incorporating containers. This is a wonderful teaching tool for children and provides endless opportunities. Maybe the club has enlarged a past project using containers. Imagine those old containers spruced up and brimming with added color. Remember to take before and after pictures. You will not regret the time and energy involved!

Best of luck with your projects, and thank you for sharing them with us through your outstanding entries.

Bobbie Verser  
NGC Awards Chairman

## VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR Jan Warshauer, Chairman

Vision of Beauty Calendar Reminder  
Entry Deadline August 1st  
Entry Form is on the website

Submitted by Colleen Weiler  
Container Gardening Committee, PPSP

## Memoriams & Personals

NGC Treasurer, Patsy Ruth Miller, passed away on May 20th. Patsy Ruth was a former Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. President and Director, South Central Region. She is survived by her son Michael A. Miller and her grandson Shaun T. Miller. Condolences may be sent to them at Route 2, Box 54, Selman, OK 73834-9626. NGC will honor Patsy Ruth through The Roll of Honor Book at Headquarters; should you wish to add to that donation, any amount is welcome.

Joan Pryor, Gardening Study Schools Accrediting Committee passed away from a brain tumor this summer. Condolences may be sent to her daughter Sue Pryor Kerslake at 862 NE339 Ave, Old Town, FL 32680-3416.

Tours Chairman Deana Roberts' husband passed away from lung cancer in July. Deana's address is 9306 Bonhomme Rd, Houston, TX 77074-6614.

## NGC SCHOOLS NEWS - Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

## GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS Greg Pokorski, Chairman

In this current era of the Multiple Refresher (Bi- and Tri-Refreshers), those involved in sponsoring and holding refresher events are reminded that each of these three educational programs (Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design) also has provisions for single-subject refreshers. These existed even before the Multiple Refresher came along.

Single-subject refreshers should conform with the appropriate NGC School Handbook or Operations Guide and be coordinated with the Chairman or Accrediting Chairman for that school. Multiple Refreshers are approved and processed a little differently - following Multiple Refresher Guidelines in coordination with the NGC Multiple Refresher Chairman.

Consultants may refresh at any accredited school course within that field (Environmental Consultants may attend any course of an Environmental Studies School, Gardening Consultants may attend any course of a Gardening Study School and Landscape Design Consultants may attend any course of a Landscape Design School). However, state garden clubs, consultants councils or other groups are encouraged to sponsor special interest programs that feature new and/or in depth information in the forms of symposia, conferences, forums, tours etc. These may be designed to offer greater versatility and interest to the Consultant than offered by attendance at a regular school course.

All refreshers do not have to be built from the ground up. Many schools, botanic gardens, nurseries and other entities offer educational programs and seminars on topics related to the fields of study within our schools. These can be submitted to your Schools Committees for review and determination of qualification as an NGC refresher. If the required number of study hours is met and the subjects and instructors meet our criteria, then such events can be pre-registered with the NGC Schools Secretary as refresher events. In these cases, the Consultant pays the program fee to the organization offering the program and merely pays the \$5 NGC refresher fee to whomever is designated to coordinate the NGC paperwork, who will verify that all seeking credit in fact attended the event and who will process the post-course paperwork. No heavy lifting involved! What is essential here is that the program be qualified as a NGC refresher prior to the event. Consultants may not attend such events for credit unless eligibility for NGC credit is established in advance.

When it comes to refreshing their certificates and updating their good standing, our Consultants have a number of options. Work with our Schools Committees to provide refreshers to meet your needs and to be sure that those attending will be eligible to receive NGC refresher credit.

Greg Pokorski - [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)  
ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

Please note that some changes in committee membership and assignments took place at the recent convention in Buffalo, and sadly, we learned just prior to the deadline for this publication of the death of committee member Joan Pryor. Mary Ellen Alden has left our committee, and we welcome Bonni Dinneen to the committee.

GSS Accrediting Chairmen:

Central and South Central Regions - Bonni Dinneen (new address), 279 Wentworth Avenue Lowell, MA 01852, 978-455-0875, [bonni.dinneen@gmail.com](mailto:bonni.dinneen@gmail.com).

Rocky Mountain and Deep South Regions - Judy Pitcher, 1931 Rollingwood Road, Mosinee, WI 54455-8435, 715-359-0291, [wgcjudy@aol.com](mailto:wgcjudy@aol.com).

Central Atlantic and South Atlantic Regions (no change) - Sally Priebe, 17007 11th Place SW, Normandy Park, WA 98166-3425, 206-244-4937, [rpriebe2@comcast.net](mailto:rpriebe2@comcast.net).

New England and Pacific Regions - were handled by Joan Pryor - now vacant and to be determined - States in those regions with questions and issues that would normally go to the Accrediting Chairman should contact GSS Chairman Greg Pokorski or GSS Vice Chairman Cathy Felton in the interim. Greg Pokorski, 512 Newton Street, San Fernando, CA 91340-2421, 818-361-7873, [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net); Cathy Felton, 42 William Fairfield Drive, Wenham, MA 01984-1010, [camafelton@comcast.net](mailto:camafelton@comcast.net).

State presidents, please be sure that your state GSS chairmen are aware of these changes.

Thanks. And remember, it is **Gardening** (not Garden) **Study** (not Studies) **School**.

## SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST Elaine Dates, Chairman

Congratulations to our 21,975 participants and the garden clubs that sponsored them in NGC's Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl 2012 poster contest. The State Chair with the highest participation of youth was once again Barbara S. Ohmsen of Virginia. The winner for the First Grade was Georgia Raguz, the Highland Heights Garden Club, Ohio. The Second Grade winner was Amir A. Mohaideen, the Wellington Garden Club, Florida. The Third Grade winner was Emma Henry, the Marvell Garden Club, Arkansas. The Fourth Grade winner was Collin Sharp, the Water Valley Garden Club, Mississippi. The Fifth Grade winner and the Grand Prize Winner are Caroline Tan, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club, New Jersey. Look for their winning posters on both the Forest Service's website and NGC's website. Also, it is not too early to get the news out about next year's contest. See those new documents on the website. Contact Elaine Dates - [elainedates@comcast.net](mailto:elainedates@comcast.net) or 802-658-4061 for further information.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOLS - Judy Newman, Chairman

### “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time”

The video, “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time”, was approved at the NGC Convention Meeting held May 17-20, 2012 in Buffalo NY as the option instead of a speaker, for the following Environmental Studies School topics: Course I “Earthwise Lifestyle”, Course III “Environmental Ethics”, or Course IV “Sustainability”. The video is 72 minutes long.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation requires all screenings of Green Fire be registered through their online system and after the screening/showing an evaluation form must be completed. Judy Newman has the public viewing license. Requests to include the video, Green Fire, in an Environmental Studies Course must be made to the NGC Environmental Studies Chairman, Judy Newman, [newman9641@aol.com](mailto:newman9641@aol.com). Indicating School, Course, Topic/Subject, Location, and Date. Five multiple-choice questions for the written exam will be sent with video. This video will also be available for ESS Refreshers, Bi- and/or Tri-Refreshers. The cost will be the expense of mailing the video.

For more information Green fire can be purchased at [www.greenfirefilm.net](http://www.greenfirefilm.net).

Judy Newman - [newman9641@aol.com](mailto:newman9641@aol.com)  
Environmental Studies Schools Chairman

## NGC LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS - Jane Bersch, Chairman

There are many opportunities to attend Landscape Design Schools this fall, with Schools scheduled in Michigan, Texas, Montana, Kentucky, Maryland, Washington, Ohio, Nebraska and Massachusetts. Multiple Refreshers are planned in Florida and Wisconsin. State Presidents are urged to encourage their members to take advantage of these outstanding educational events. The Committee looks forward to learning that other state Presidents have decided to hold a LD School.

The update of the Landscape Design Schools Operations Guide has been completed and following review and approval by the Publications/ Brochures/ Manuals Review Committee, will be submitted for final approval by the NGC Executive Board at the Fall Board Meeting in Little Rock. Until the Operations Guide and its forms are approved, the forms currently on the NGC web site, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), are to be used. The LDS Committee is here to help you should there be any questions.

Jane Bersch - [janebersch@aol.com](mailto:janebersch@aol.com)  
Landscape Design Schools Chairman

## WEBSITE NEWS - Kathy Thomas, Chairman

NGC's New Website  
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

### Member sign in and Password

Sign in = member

Password = proud

NGC has been very busy designing a new and exciting web site, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) stayed the same but there are now 3 levels of security, The public side has no security. The member side which is for every garden club member has a sign in and a password. Sign in, MEMBER password PROUD. Please share this with your garden club members via emails or in your newsletters, but please do not publish on your web site. The NGC Board member Password was given to all board members at the last meeting in Buffalo. We hope you enjoy our new site.

## YOUTH AWARDS - High School Essay Contest Elva H. Davidson, Chairman

### High School Essay Contest

With Labor Day just around the corner, now is the time to start thinking about our Youth Contest for NGC. The Essay Contest theme for 2012 is, “**Ways We Can Protect Aquatic Ecosystems**”. The contest is open to students in grades 9 –12 and a \$1,000 NGC Scholarship will be awarded to the National winner and second place winner will receive \$100. The length of the essay should be between 600-700 words. For complete rules to the Essay Contest please visit [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), go to the link Youth and then Contest.

Elva H. Davidson  
High School Service Award & Essay Contest Chairman

## NGC PRESIDENT'S PROJECT PHOTO ARCHIVING-Robin Pokorski, Chairman

Who's still NOT on Flickr?

Our NGC Flickr site has nearly every state (and National Capital area) represented. There are three (3) states not yet on Flickr. Is your state one of them? Could you send a picture from your club or district of a civic beautification project? A Blue Star Memorial Marker planting site? Arbor Day tree planting? Come on, I know you're doing things out there, now just send me a couple photos and show me!

Email pictures with a short description identifying the group, project and location to Robin Pokorski at [RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com).

Then visit our Flickr site ([Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs](http://Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs)) - YOUR online idea book!

### NEW ENGLAND REGION

JOYCE A. KIMBALL

As a result of the *Habitat for Humanity* programs a number of our members are now or soon to be involved with HFH through their garden clubs and state organizations. The New England Region recently received the distinction of having collected the largest amount of donations *per capita* for *Habit for Humanity* this year—a total of \$4,445 in cash or in-kind donations! This achievement was announced during the NGC Convention in Buffalo. A good percentage of the 57 New Englanders attending the convention also walked in the “Habitat for Humanity Walk-A-Thon” held in the Buffalo area at 6 a.m. one morning.

Having just recently concluded my visitations of the NER States 2012 annual meetings, I am more impressed than ever with all the good work our members are doing within their respective states. Hearing the Presidents and their committee chairs reports, witnessing the recognition of each state’s members for their devoted service and many accomplishments was both eye-opening and inspiring. Garden club members are the best!

The NER will hold their 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and 45<sup>th</sup> Symposium in Providence, RI on October 14-15 and 15-18, respectively.

### CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

JEANNE T. NELSON

As director of the Central Atlantic Region, it was a pleasure for our members to “Welcome” the 999 attendees to the National Convention this past May to one of our 7 states. It is always fun sharing some of the historical sites and interesting venues within a region. This communiqué gives our region the chance to thank the New York & Ohio members who were instrumental in making it a happy event. A Salute for a job well done.

At the C.A.R. breakfast in Buffalo the initiation of a Life Membership in C.A.R. for additional scholarships was met with great enthusiasm. Our “Perennial Bloom” award to honor individual members in clubs has opened up opportunities for planting shrubs and trees. The concept of community gardens has been embraced by clubs. Our Garden therapy Chairman has put together a new award to be given in the region when a club partners with a nursing home or assisted living facility etc. Look to our website for news on the program “Therapy Partnerships” ([www.ngcCAR.org](http://www.ngcCAR.org)).

The region is looking forward to the October conference in Ohio.

### SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

MARY DIXON

This Director thanks the members of the Central Atlantic Region and New York for a wonderful NGC convention. The entire event was lots of work for the state and I appreciate the hospitality and planning for such a grand event.

I was so proud of the membership for all that was done this year as we saw by all of the awards given out at the awards ceremony. I heard about plans for the future reported while visiting the states this year. Members are truly in for lots of educational opportunities.

States have had many tours this spring and plan to continue these next year. Also Blue Star markers are being dedicated as well as refurbished! What a wonderful way to remember those serving our country now and in the past. Some of these may include Plantings for Public and Special Places in their landscape plan.

To all members I hope your Fourth of July was special and I look forward to seeing the board members in September in Little Rock, Arkansas. Have a wonderful summer.

### DEEP SOUTH REGION

SARA LANIER

Deep South members want to thank the members of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State for a fun filled time at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention in Buffalo.

Florida started the summer off with over 100 youngsters per week participating in their summer camp program. Florida has a BLOG that parents and members can follow the daily activities at camp...check it out [wekivayouthcamp.blogspot.com](http://wekivayouthcamp.blogspot.com). Georgia has been celebrating many state/public park activities. Over 500 of Georgia’s members and friends enjoyed a day at the Gibbs Gardens to raise funds for the Historic Preservation. Georgia awarded three State Parks \$3,000 each for a reclamation project. Louisiana Garden Club’s Live Oak Society has registered 7,023 Live Oak Trees from many states in the USA. Their Environmental Study School has graduated 12 consultants and two will receive their **4 star pin!** Tennessee members are really proud of completing and publishing their TN Native Plant Book. They have dedicated 4 Blue Star Markers and now are working on their Fall Conservation Camp. The Garden Club of Mississippi had 6 spring workshops, a State Flower Show, Summer Horticulture Camp for high school students and just finished a 700 recipe cookbook.

### CENTRAL REGION

FLORENCE SMITH

Congratulations are to be given to the seven State Presidents for their glowing reports at the National Convention in Buffalo. They spoke about their annual accomplishments and future plans for their state. Many reported their concern for increasing membership. All the states continue to support National goals and objectives, as well as, the Central Region’s Unified Project.

I’ve highlighted two exceptional state projects: You probably all heard about the tornado that hit MO on May 22, 2011. It was a mile wide category EF5 and went thru two counties. The Garden Club of MO Tractor/Trailer Re-leaf Project provided \$60,000 in large trees to aid storm ravaged areas on the east side of MO and around the town of Joplin.

Michigan reported that their partnership with the MI - USDA Forest Service (since 1937) to develop the *Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary* in the Manistee National Forest is proceeding. Their goal of \$20,000 for a teaching pavilion has been accomplished. Phase two is restrooms. YEAH!

The seven Central Region State Presidents were pleasantly surprised by the awards they received and especially Minnesota. They won the NGC Award #15B for the State Garden Club per Capital Increase in Membership (as of October 31, 2011). Congratulations.

### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

JUDY GROTTIS

The Awards Chairman and her committee have been working hard since the Arkansas convention getting the Bird Award clarified and updating the Awards Booklet which will be on the website later this month.

National Convention in Buffalo, NY, if you did not attend, you missed a beautiful flower show. At our South Central Regional Breakfast we had a wine spokesman that was one of the top growers and of the best sold brand in the area. He explained the growth cycle and type of soil, water and light needed to grow grapes for wine.

While we were still in Buffalo the news of Patsy Ruth Millers death reached us. Patsy Ruth was a past South Central Region Director, 1989-1991. Regional money was sent to the NGC Scholarship Fund in her memory. Some states chose to send it to their state scholarship fund. She will be missed; she was a leader and “take charge” kind of person.

New Mexico was the site of a Blue Star Memorial dedicated June 23, at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park in Albuquerque. The Environmental Studies

**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER - Mary Warshauer, Chairman**

Blue Star Memorial News From Iowa

School in Angel Fire, NM, was canceled but will be held later this year. A notice will be sent as soon as the information is confirmed. Arkansas Blue Star Dedication will be in November. The Environmental School is still an ongoing project in Tyler.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION  
TERRY KROKE**

Congratulations to the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs! MFGC celebrated the 75th birthday of their state garden club at their Diamond Jubilee Convention in Bozeman. "Diamonds in the Big Sky", their first standard flower show in 25 years, that was held in conjunction with the convention was open for public viewing. There were several educational tours and workshops, including an Ikebana design workshop by Naomi Tanaka, a student of the Ohara School in Tokyo. Other highlights of the convention included members wearing period clothing from the 1930s and '40s, an antique car show, and a visit by NGC President Shirley Nicolai.

Congratulations on your new name, North Dakota State Garden Clubs! The North Dakota Federation of State Garden Clubs shortened their name when they completed the final adoption of their updated by-laws at their state's annual meeting in June.

**PACIFIC REGION  
DEBBIE HINCHEY**

As a unified project I asked for members to keep track of the time and cash donated to their communities over one year. This was harder to do than I thought. Not only are we so busy giving service that it is hard to stop and write down the time involved, and we seem to be modest.

At Nevada's convention one of the speakers was from the United Way in southern Nevada. One bit of information she shared was the value given for each volunteer hour in their area - \$18.72 per hour. She said that each part of the country has its own dollar value to use.

Using the \$18.72 value means that for every ten hours a garden club member donates is a \$187.20 contribution to the community. I suspect that anyone reading this can multiply that figure many times, easily coming to \$2,000 and more per member per year!

I hope that my club gets their totals in early so the Mayor of Anchorage has this data when he welcomes the Pacific Region Convention attendees. Showing that we also work hard to make the city a better place to live.

Iowa has the only Blue Star Counties in the nation, by having a Blue Star Marker in every town in each county. In 2004 Buena Vista County was the first county to honor Veterans by having a Blue Star Marker in every town in the County. There are 10 official towns in Buena Vista County with a total of 14 Blue Star markers.

In 2006, Cherokee County became the second Blue Star County in Iowa. There are 9 towns in Cherokee County with a total of 14 Blue Star markers in the county. Some of these towns have populations of less than 300 people. The towns have worked with the garden club to raise the funds for the markers.

Presently, Iowa is working on two more Blue Star Counties, Clay County in NW Iowa, and Benton County in Eastern Iowa. *We have only \$120 to raise in order to install a large marker in the small town of Robins, Iowa, in eastern Iowa.* There is a Blue Star Marker in Linn Grove, Iowa, a town with the population of 211 people and a By-Way marker in the Linn Grove Cemetery. Iowan's love their Veterans and appreciate our Freedoms.

Congratulations to Iowa and Pam Claassen, Iowa Blue Star Chairman, for your enthusiasm and dedication for this most worthy project.

**State and Club Presidents ,  
Please share the KIT with your  
board and club members for  
further distribution.**