



Keeping In Touch

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2013

Electronic Edition

Happy Summer Greetings to all of you wonderful gardeners!!



Linda G. Nelson
2013-2015 President
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

In This Issue:

- * The President's Message
- * President's Special Project and Award Information
- * NGC Joint Schools News
 - * Environmental Studies Schools
 - * Gardening Study Schools
 - * Landscape Design Schools
- * NGC Awards
- * Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Contest Winners
- * News from the Regions
- * Essay Contest Update
- * In Memoriam
- * President's Travel Schedule
- * Crown Bee Partnership

I have just returned home from my first full month of traveling to greet our members at their annual meetings. I am impressed with your accomplishments, your energy and service to your communities. It has been my pleasure to get to know you better, enjoy your company and be the recipient of your many kindnesses. I look forward to my upcoming visits and to working with you as we discover how our **Choices Matter** and that they are **MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE**.

This newsletter is an example of how NGC is hoping to make a world of difference in our efforts to communicate directly with the individual clubs. This newsletter, aptly named *Keeping In Touch* is sent to every local garden club as is our slick cover magazine, THE NATIONAL GARDENER. It is our hope that each club president will share the information and/or these issues, with the club members. This is why it is so vital that NGC headquarters has the name and address of the current club president. The NGC President or the editor encourages various committee chairmen to write articles to update our members on our various projects and awards offered. Please tell your members that these newsletters and magazines are also on line at www.gardencub.org where they can read them at their leisure. This is our trial effort to see what our members think about this method of distribution of information. We must realize that the very people we are hoping to gain as members already rely on web-based information and we must accommodate them or we may never convince them to join us. Change is hard, we know this, but we have got to face the fact that change **IS** the future! We are open to feedback on this venture. If we chose to do this, it might make a world of difference in our membership numbers ... wouldn't that be great!

My selected theme for the administration is **MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE - Choices Matter**. This theme is rooted in our Conservation Pledge "*I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of planet earth and promise to promote education so that we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.*" This broad theme was selected so that any of the projects that are the hallmark of garden club activities could be designed and executed in a way that protects and conserves our natural resources. It is my hope that we will search out information from many sources to help us determine if our gardening practices are helpful or harmful to our planet. Armed with knowledge, we can choose which practices we are willing to change to protect and conserve our beautiful earth for coming generations. I believe that when we know better, we will do better. In this issue you will find information for the awards being offered for the President's special projects by states and clubs during this administration. All Clubs are encouraged to participate in their favorite project in a manner that puts into practice our pledge. We are a force for good – the good of our earth!

Love to you all,

Linda

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE — Choices Matter

Marion Hilliard, Special Project Coordinator

The President's two-year Special Project, "Making A World of Difference - Choices Matter" will open new doors for in-depth and creative learning, and educational opportunities centered on the natural resources of planet earth - our air, water, forest, land and wildlife. It is important that members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. promote education as the "Key" in making responsible decisions for today and tomorrow. Educated garden club members are responsible stewards, who then are able to make wise choices for saving and protecting our Planet Earth and its natural resources.

The Special Project is divided into two categories for awarding purposes -- States and Clubs. Both states and clubs will have equal opportunities to participate. Through generous grants, National Garden Clubs, Inc. will present monetary awards and certificates recognizing outstanding achievements for projects in each named category. A project award application will be required and simple rules followed. The Book of Evidence deadline is March 31, 2015. No exceptions. Application and rules will be published in many venues and on the NGC website.

Research, scientific sources of educational and other types of information on air, water, forest, land and wildlife should be requested from the related Chairmen who serve on the project committee. National Garden Clubs' Chairmen representing related areas of interest are also readily available. General project information should be obtained from the Special Project Coordinator.

STATES --- DOES IT MATTER?

Education for Responsible Choices

States are asked to promote education through workshops, speakers, seminars, articles in newsletters, using one or any combination of available learning tools that will help in educating their members and the public, in making responsible choices that will protect and conserve our natural resources - our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.

CLUBS --- MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Protecting and Conserving Our Natural Resources

AIR -- WATER -- FOREST -- LAND -- WILDLIFE

Although water and air are recognized as our most essential and familiar resources -- forests, lands and wildlife are also very important concerns. National Garden Clubs are asked to get involved in the President's Special Project by planning and completing a project related to a local concern involving one or more natural resources. Education of both the members and community may be necessary in order to make responsible choices.

Club projects could be partnered with other community organizations -- including NGC Environmental Councils or Master Gardeners. Communities across the nation are different, with varied concerns that may be unique to a specific area, state, county or village. Club projects may have been started before May 2013.

Award Applications and further information will be available at www.gardenclub.org and from Regional Directors, State Project Chairmen or the NGC Special Project Coordinator.

Marion Hilliard, Special Project Coordinator
2902 Greenridge Road
Orange Park, FL 32073-6412
(904) 264-6619 marionh@bellsouth.net

Doris Jackson, Air Chairman
315 Venado
Los Alamos, NM 87544-2435
505-662-7563 dfcfx@aol.com

Mary Sue Colvin, Water Chairman
10473 Hwy. 562
Fort Necessity, LA 71243-5122
318-723-4725 mscolvin2@gmail.com

Phyllis Besch, Forest Chairman
5580 Broadway
Lancaster, NY 14086-2309
716-684-1289 pdbesch@aol.com

Caroline Wittman, Land Chairman
3512 N. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66617-1467
caroline.wittman@cox.net

Mary Jacobs, Wildlife Chairman
29 Chateau Mouton Dr.
Kenner, LA 70065-1902
504-469-4397 mary_gardens@att.net

Sandy Mangels, I.A. Chairman, Rua Angra dos Reis 267,
04643-060 S. Paulo, SP, Brazil 04543-060
sandymangels@yahoo.com

President's Project Award information on next page

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Choices Matter- President's Special Project Award Information

Marion Hilliard, Special Project Coordinator

Please retain this page containing awards listing and awards rules for the 2013-2015 Special Project

The President's Two-Year Special Project was initiated to highlight through State Programs and Garden Club Projects the basics stated in the NGC Conservation Pledge:

*I pledge to protect and conserve our natural resources of
planet earth and to promote education
so that we may become caretakers (stewards) of our air,
water, forest, land and wildlife.*

The National Garden Club firmly believes that education is the key that opens the doors to the responsible decision-making process that allows us to make responsible decisions pertaining to conserving and protection our natural resources —

AIR - WATER - FOREST - LAND - WILDLIFE

The Special Project will present outstanding NGC State programs and NGC Club projects with monetary awards and certificates of recognition. Remember **"You can't WIN if you're not IN"**.

AWARD APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE 2013-2015 PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO BOTH STATE AND CLUB APPLICATIONS

Award Application: Typed and preferably sent by email to designated chairmen. Postal mail acceptable.

To be received no later than March 31, 2015. Applications received after that date will be returned. Retain a copy for your records. Application will not be returned.

Application is limited to three (3) pages - letter size paper - printed on front of pages only. (No plastic or binder report covers allowed). Photos should be included (digital photocopies permitted)

Top of First Page must include complete name of applicant (State or Garden Club) exactly as it should appear on any award/certificate. Include each of the following: State or Club Category (Small, Medium, Large, X-Large), State Garden Club, Region, Contact Person with their email address and telephone number (verify information), and Title of Program or Project with a Brief and Concise Description.

Project or Program Summary should "tell the story" and include involvement of members, public, other organizations,

publicity expenses and/or funding sources, continuing involvement and follow-up if applicable, evaluation of goals or achievement.

State Award Applications Send to: Marion Hilliard, Project Coordinator - marionh@bellsouth.net

State Garden Clubs applications shall be judged according to size determined by number of members for whom NGC dues are paid.

A First Place (\$200) and a Second Place \$100) will be given in Category A, B, C, and D.

- A. Small State:** up to 999 members
- B. Medium State:** 1,000 -- 2,999 members
- C. Large State:** 3,000 -- 7,999 members
- D. X-Large State:** 8,000 -- or more members

SCALE OF POINTS: STATE APPLICATION

Presentation -- 5 pts. Neat, concise, includes all required information on first page of application.

Achievement -- 65 pts. Scope of program(s); goals; prior planning; brief history if ongoing or continuing; need; education programs and activities to attain goals; accomplishments and benefit(s);

Participation -- 15 pts. Numbers of members and clubs; involvement of clubs and members; youth; community organizations; government agencies; others. (not all must be involved)

Documentation -- 15 pts. Supporting applicable data; (may include labeled photographs, samples of publicity, program and speakers, letters of appreciation, financial report)
Photocopies accepted.

Club Award Applications Send to: The Project Chairman most closely related to the club's project.

Garden Club applications shall be judged according to size determined by number of members for whom NGC dues are paid.

A First Place (\$200) and a Second Place (\$100) will be given in Category A, B, C, and D. in EACH of the FIVE natural resources Air, Water, Forest - Land - Wildlife. If merited, a total of 20 club awards may be given.

- A. Small Club:** 29 -- members and under
- B. Medium Club:** 30 -- 59 members
- C. Large Club:** 60 -- 99 members
- D. X-Large Club:** 100 -- and over members

SCALE OF POINTS: CLUB APPLICATION

Presentation -- 5 pts. Neat, concise, includes all required information on first page of application.

Achievement -- 65 pts. Scope of project; need and fulfillment, benefit, accomplishment, history, comprehensiveness, evaluation of goals reached, prior planning, brief history if continuing project, other.

Participation -- 15 pts. Size of club, involvement of members, community youth, public, and others.

Documentation -- 15 pts. Supporting data, before and after photos (if applicable), clear, well-labeled photos, financial statement, letters of appreciation, community awards. **(Photocopies accepted).**

Project Chairmen [see page 2 for full contact information]

AIR - Doris Jackson dfcix@aol.com (Energy Conservation, Solar, Wind)

WATER - Mary Sue Colvin jhcolvin2@bellsouth.net (Xeriscaping, Rain Gardens, Aquatic Ecosystems)

FOREST - Phyllis Besch pdbesch@verizon.net (Trees, Native Forest Plants, Invasive Shrubs/Trees)

LAND - Caroline Wittman caroline.wittman@cox.net (Gardening/Planting, Native Plants, Organic Gardening, Therapy Gardens, Roadside Beautification, Wild-flowers)

WILDLIFE - Mary Jacobs mary_gardens@att.net (Bees, Butterflies, Endangered Species, Pollinators)



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOLS

Judy Newman, Environmental Studies School Chairman

The Environmental Studies School Committee is looking forward to working with the State and Local ESS Chairmen. The updated Environmental Studies Handbook, including the updated curriculum, forms, brochures and changes/corrections since the 2010 printing, is available at NGC Headquarters. All of the ESS Courses should be using the updated curriculum. There are two brochures available on the website; one is an overview of all of the ESS Courses, the second is a guide for all ESS students and consultants. It contains information about completing the four courses to be a ESS Consultant, obtaining out of state credit, applying for Consultant Cards, obtaining Refresher Credits and/or Extensions, Record Keeping, Reinstatement and NGC 4-Star and 5-Star Memberships.

Consultants may request a copy of ESS Courses and Refreshers, or to ask questions, by emailing me at newman9641@aol.com. There is a data base containing all of the ESS records. Please share this information with all of the ESS Students and Consultants.

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

Our schools chairmen continue their positions in this new 2013-2015 term:

Environmental Studies Schools – Judy Newman, Chairman

Landscape Design Schools – Jane Bersch, Chairman

Gardening Study Schools – Greg Pokorski, Chairman

Cathy Felton, Libby Coffey, Idalia Aguilar and Julie Schoenike continue with the committee, and we welcome new members Lana Finegold and Julie West.

Please contact any of our NGC Schools Committees Chairmen if you have questions and for assistance in conducting schools.

New NGC President Linda Nelson's president's theme is "MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE: Choices Matter," and her President's Special Project has the purpose of highlighting through state programs and garden club projects the basics stated in the NGC Conservation Pledge. The pledge incorporates themes (protecting and conserving the natural resources of the planet earth, promoting education, making us caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife) that tie in with the purpose of and subjects included in our NGC Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Schools programs. The Schools Committees challenge states to promote education by holding schools and refresher events during these two years. See how you can use the president's theme and project to promote your schools and let your schools emphasize education that reinforces the Conservation Pledge.

We have had reports that Consultants have sought refresher credit by attending one day of an NGC school. Please be reminded that in order to receive refresher credit by attending a school course the consultant must attend all classes that comprise the course (must attend both days of a two-day course).

We have received questions about the processing of refresher certificates for those who attended the Tri-Refresher at the NGC Convention in Seattle in May. We are pleased to report that the Event Chairmen have completed the attendance rosters and other required forms and these are now being routed to the NGC Accrediting Chairmen for each school who will verify that refreshing consultants are eligible to receive credit and then issue refresher certificate/cards to the state school chairmen for distribution to the consultants. Consultants who have taken an out-of-state refresher should notify their home state school chairmen to anticipate receipt of these cards for distribution.

Thanks for your participation in and support of our schools – a major benefit of membership in NGC. Our schools can make a world of difference to our members and our communities.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Jane R. Bersch, Landscape Design Schools Chairman

A new NGC administration has begun and the NGC LDS Committee welcomed several new members. The entire committee and their contact information are posted on the NGC website. Janet Kinney, jh.jbkinney@verizon.net, has taken over the responsibilities of LDS Instructors' Chairman and Terese D'Urso, TDurso98@aol.com, is the LDS Reading/Literature Chairman.

State LDS Chairmen should be aware that they will be contacting new LDS Accrediting Chairmen. Heidi Kost-Gross, heidikost@verizon.net, will be LDS Accrediting Chairman for South Central, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Regions. Carol Bullard, carol.m.bullard@gmail.com, will be LDS Accrediting Chairman for New England and Central Atlantic Regions. Alexis Slafer, ASlafer@ca.rr.com, is LDS Accrediting Chairman for South Atlantic, Deep South and Central Regions. Victoria Bergesen, victoriabergesen@gmail.com, continues as LD Councils Chairman and *Newscape* Editor. The LDS IA contact is in the capable hands of Maria Renee Diaz, reneediaz@yahoo.com. We are all here to assist you in staging either a Course in the LDS Program or a Refresher. Please feel free to contact us.

State Presidents are requested to send the name and complete address, including email, of their state LDS Chairman to Victoria Bergesen so that they may receive *Newscape*, the LDS newsletter. She would also like to hear about your state landscape design projects, schools and refreshers to share in *Newscape*.

If the state LDS Chairman has not yet obtained a copy of the 2012 NGC LDS Operations Guide, I strongly recommend that they order one from NGC Headquarters in St Louis. All Schools must use the 2012 LDS Forms even if the state is 'grandfathered' to complete a series using the previous Operations Guide 2007 curriculum. The forms are on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org, under LDS "forms".

State LDS Chairmen will want to download from the web a copy of LDS 2c, titled *Areas of Expertise for Instructors*. The 2012 Operations Guide obtained from Headquarters prior to the May Seattle Convention may not contain LDS 2c. LDS 2c will serve as a guide when selecting instructors for the various topics in a Course. On LDS 22, please correct at d) Plant selection: *softscape*, not *softsoap*. LDS 4 will be adjusted to show the *Subject(s) for which instructor is being accredited* and will be on the web shortly. Please use it when it becomes available. This form is sent to Janet Kinney, LDS Instructors' Chairman.

Over the summer as plans are made for the new administrations, I encourage states to include a course or two of the Landscape Design Schools. Why not hold a refresher for the Landscape Design Consultants? Offer a most educational opportunity to all gardeners.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

Catherine Felton, Gardening Study Schools Vice-Chairman

By now, most Gardening Study School students and Consultants know that a new Botany text has been added to the list of Recommended books for our school. *Botany for Gardeners* by Brian Capon is a comprehensive and easy-to-understand text for gardeners. Part 1 is titled Growth and deals with Cells and Seeds, Roots and Shoots: How Plants Mature. The second part is titled Organization and focuses on the inside of plants – the stems, roots and leaves. Part III is about Adaptation. Some of the topics in this section are Protection against Animals, Wound Healing, Protection by Camouflage, Competition between Plants and Adaptations for Water Storage. The book is full of good, useful information. Survival and germination of seeds are critical to all plants. Some seeds are colored specifically to blend in with the soil or are so small that they can be buried before animals can eat them. Plants can be camouflaged, too. South African Lithops (Living Stones) are uniquely camouflaged to look like rocks. Since water is at a premium in the deserts where they are found, the fleshy, succulent Lithops are less likely to be eaten by predators.

All gardeners should understand how plants respond to light, why hormones are used and why temperature is a factor in plant growth. Part IV of this book titled Functions continues with information about Osmosis, Cold Hardening, Soils, Photosynthesis and Minerals needed by plants for good growth. The final section in *Botany for Gardeners* is on Reproduction and includes information on flower parts and their functions, pollination and seed dispersal.

This book is readily available at most book stores (in paper back) or can be ordered through on-line book dealer and it is also available in e-book format. I would recommend this book for anyone who loves gardening and would like to understand more about why plants grow.

NGC AWARDS

Bobbie Verser, NGC Awards Chairman

Hopefully you have had time to look over the 2013-2015 Awards List on the NGC website. One noticeable change is with the members of the Awards Committee. Four of my faithful members are relocating to fill other board positions. I welcome four new and eager assistants. A welcome is also extended to my experienced returning members.

Many of your states have new Award Chairs. We are anxious to work with all of you and will be available to help in any way. We are just a phone call or a key pad away. Best of luck as you study the opportunities that are available. Remember to think and plan ahead. It will make completing your applications much easier.

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

It is not every year that one school produces three winners in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest; but, that is what happened this time. One art teacher voluntarily taught a few students who went on through the local, state, regional, and national competition to take first place in their grade levels. Two winners are brother and sister and one winner is the child of the art teacher.

The best posters by Grade Level were:

- ◇ First Grader Bohmi Yoon sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club of California
- ◇ Second grader Gauri Chugh sponsored by the South Barrington Garden Club of Illinois
- ◇ Third Grader Solomon Baik sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club of California
- ◇ Fourth Grader Crystal Baik sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club of California
- ◇ Fifth Grader Brianna Joy Morris sponsored by the Bonner Springs Garden Club of Kansas

The Grand Prize Winner selected by the USDA Forest Service is Crystal Baik of Porter Ranch, California. Also, the Forest Service awards a trophy to the state chair with the most participants, and this year Barbara S. Ohmsen of Virginia was present to accept the honor. The total number of participants in the contest this year was 24,324. It has been an honor to serve as NGC's Chair for Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl. The new Chairman is Jennifer Moreno of New Mexico who has all the new materials for the contest. Good luck! Elaine Dates



NEWS FROM REGIONAL DIRECTORS

New England Region

Maria Nahom, Director

"Call of the Wild" Protecting Wildlife, Wildflowers and Open Spaces is the New England Region's theme, and all of our state presidents are on board with projects that protect and conserve natural resources. Connecticut ("Bee Kind to Pollinators, Plant Natives, Create Backyard Habitats") and New Hampshire ("Bee Aware, Bee Concerned, Bee a Friend to Pollinators") are stressing the importance of bees and the threat they are under. They will lead the rest of us in adding Mason Bees to our gardens with the Bee Gap program.

We will all work together to involve our local clubs through education and communication. Scheduled Landscape Design Schools, Gardening Study Schools and Environmental Studies Schools are a good place to begin. Because our region is small in area, our members can easily attend the schools in neighboring states.

Our state presidents will have an opportunity to report on their plans and progress at our 79th New England Region Annual Meeting to be held October 14-15 at the Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook, Connecticut. The program following our business meeting will be *"Saving Our Wild Areas, One at a Time."* We are so pleased that President Linda Nelson will be joining us. The 46th New England Symposium will immediately follow on October 15-17. Details can be found on www.ctgardenclubs.org.

Central Atlantic Region

Mary Warshauer, Director

This summer, Jane Bersch, C.A.R. Alternate Director, and I look forward to working with the warm, hard-working and diversely passionate states of the Central Atlantic Region as we move full steam ahead with our new initiative – "Rally Our Region – Restore, Refurbish, Replant."

At the heart of this theme lies our continued commitment to support our local communities through beautification of areas that are in need. As part of this initiative we will continue to rally support across the region for the entire NGC, by:

- * Renewing, reinventing, and rebuilding membership
- * Refreshing our local waterways.
- * Captivating the interest of young adults and children as future gardeners through social media and hands-on projects.
- * Remembering and respecting our Armed Forces with Blue Star Memorial marker dedications and Wreaths Across America.
- * Rebuilding areas by supporting Habitat for Humanity.
- * Promoting, encouraging and supporting all NGC schools.
- * Conserving and protecting our Natural Resources.

Let's Rally! The Central Atlantic Region **will** make a difference.

South Atlantic Region **Martha Morgan, Director**

The theme for the next two years in SAR is "A World of Opportunities-Be Involved." We know the value of our garden club friendships, but unless we become involved in projects and programs beyond just our club level, we are missing many of the opportunities we have to grow, not only as gardeners, but also as citizens of our community.

We should all take advantage of the Schools offered by NGC: Gardening Study, Landscape Design, Environmental Study, and Flower Show Schools, as well as the various Refreshers and Symposiums offered. We have excellent instructors available and Regional and National Chairmen are willing to help those who would like to sponsor a School in their areas.

At the SAR Convention in Lexington, I introduced everyone to SAR-A, the Busy Bee (as in BE involved). She will be showing up at many of our meetings over the next two years. She met a new friend at the NGC Convention in Seattle – "Blossom" the Bee was invited to help with membership emphasis. As we all know, without new members, and retention of all members, we cannot grow, so we all need to remember to support the bees!

Let's be aware of our responsibility to help preserve and protect this wonderful country we live in – as members of the National Garden Clubs, we accept that duty! BE involved!

Deep South Region **Gloria Blake, Director**

The DSR Officers, the six state Presidents, and appointed Chairmen are "set and ready" for the 2013-2015 administration! The theme is "Share the Beauty of Gardening" and the Regional Project is "Community Gardens." The project fits our theme as it exemplifies what our members do best, and that is to share. We share our time and talents in many ways to be good stewards of the earth.

This also works with NGC President Linda's theme, "Making a World of Difference - Choices Matter". Deep South Chairmen have been appointed to promote our natural resources of Air, Water, Forest, Land and Wildlife and to help the states with their projects.

A new venture for DSR is a newsletter, to be entitled "Deep South Matters". This will be the "tool" by which we in the Deep South can "Keep in Touch". Features will include a calendar of events, articles on membership, horticulture, design, natural resources, etc. DSM will also be sent to the NGC Officers and the Regional Directors.

Florida will host the 2014 Deep South Convention, "Spotlight on the South," at the Hilton in St. Petersburg, a beautiful site to hold a Convention. The Deep South Convention will be held on April 12-13, and the FFGC Convention will follow on April 15-16. A Flower Show, "In The Spotlight" will be held, to continue on through the FFGC Convention, for all to enjoy. Stay tuned for further details in future issues of KIT. We look

forward to celebrating with our many gardening friends. Save the dates!

Central Region

Gerry Ford, Director

Central Region's theme, "*Share, Care, to Protect our Future*" was chosen to encourage all members to share their knowledge, their energy and talents with friends, neighbors and their communities. Planning a meeting around community concerns and welcoming visitors is just one way to share garden club activities. We do care for our gardens, the environment and those in need by working with senior members, at nursing homes, community plantings and all activities that concern garden clubs.

The challenge to each club in our seven states is to hold just one event that is open to the community. It could be a garden walk, a flower show that also has educational information, or a community project. Hands-on workshops on flower arranging, horticulture tips or environmental concerns would be of interest to members and guests. We can "*Make a Difference*" by "*Reaching Out to Share Gardeners' Talents*." Members can find the "Share, Care Photo Gallery" on our website (www.NGCcentralregion.org) and we are looking forward to seeing lots of pictures there of club activities.

The 81st Regional Meeting will be held in Middlebury, Indiana at the Essenhaus Inn, October 16-18. This is Amish country, a beautiful area, and our Indiana hosts have planned a wonderful program.

South Central Region

Nancy C. Voyles, Director

The theme for SCR is "Learning, Living, Leading." Learn from yesterday, live for today, and lead for tomorrow. The regional project, "Providing Educational Opportunities-A Pathway to Better Living" will involve activities/projects which will lead to making good choices in our lives. We are looking forward to the opportunity to participate in the projects of our NGC President. They will be such a benefit to our members and communities.

The four states of SCR have common goals and concerns. By working as a team, our members are committed to making a difference. During this director's term we plan to focus attention to the many resources available from NGC. Members have already been busy this summer attending Symposiums, Flower Show Schools, Landscape Design School, Environmental Study Schools and Gardening Study Schools. Members are looking forward to becoming better educated gardeners and garden club members.

Texas members will host the SCR Convention in Dallas in 2014. Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. is very busy preparing for the NGC Convention in May of 2014. Arkansas and New Mexico members plan to put forth their efforts to increase membership in their clubs. We all are looking forward to spending time together as we learn, live and lead.

Rocky Mountain Region

**Beverly Heidelberger,
Director**

We are encouraged to walk through nature gently, as not to disturb it, but leave as Mother Nature has designed. To keep this theme "Tread Lightly on Land and Water" and the National President's Project in mind, this director is asking that the Conservation Pledge be recited at all meetings.

Regional Project "Make Water Choices for a Green World" Water! water! water! It is so important to our economy and our life style in the RMR area. From drought to floods, from deep snow packs to open winters, it is an annual challenge. Water needs to be conserved and kept clean. Let's start in our own backyards by watering lawns and gardens wisely and by preventing contaminated water runoff. The overuse of chemicals could filter into the water cycle causing further problems. Just keep water in mind with whatever you do inside and outside of you home.

I am looking forward to the RMR Convention in Salt Lake City September 13-15 and visiting all eight RMR states. It was a pleasure to attend the South Dakota and the Colorado Convention before the recent fires.

Pacific Region

Elaine Gunderson, Director

National President Linda Nelson's 2013-2015 Theme, "Making A World Of Difference – Choices Matter," opens venues for educational opportunities centered on the NGC Conservation Pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of air, water, forest, land and wildlife.

Pacific Region's Theme, "Expand Horizons – A Conservation Rainbow" dovetails it with our Pacific Region's Project, "It's Our World! It's Our Responsibility! - Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship."

Why rainbows? Just like the Pacific Region states, rainbows are diverse. Unique! Magnificent in varieties!

National Garden Clubs is committed to educating the public and its members. When you educate, you come to understand and commitment turns into action.

How can Pacific Region Expand Horizons to uphold the NGC Conservation Pledge? Just like the diversity of rainbows, there are countless possibilities.

Over the coming months:

- ◇ Appoint State NGC/PR Projects Chairman
- ◇ Record State and Local Garden Clubs' conservation and environmental activities. Be creative! Have fun!
- ◇ Broadcast to the media.
- ◇ Submit for Pacific Region Director's Award. Pacific Region's goal is 100% participation of all 8 States.
- ◇ Apply for NGC Award of Excellence #24.

Find more information at www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org and www.gardenclub.org.

At the end of a rainbow there is a pot of gold. What will your pot of gold illuminate?



In Memoriam

Former NGC President Lois Shuster's husband, Raymond, passed away June 26, 2013 in Florida. Cards may be sent to Lois at 777 Water Wheel Dr., Champion, PA 15622

Former WV State President and Golden Circle Member, Marjorie Hollandsworth's husband, James, passed away June 21, 2013.



President's Travel Schedule

August 10-16	Bogata, Columbia Flower Show
September 12-15	Salt Lake City, UT Rocky Mountain Regional Mtg
September 24-29	St Louis, MO NGC Fall Board Mtg
October 8-10	Tennessee
October 13-15	Westbrook, CT New England Regional Mtg
October 16-18	Middlebury, IN Central Regional Mtg
October 24-27	Bethesda, MD Central Atlantic Regional Mtg
November 4-10	San Juan, Costa Rica flower show/GSS, ESS bi refresher
November 11	Portland, OR Blue Star dedication

High School Essay Contest

Themes:

2013-2014 — Today's Choices Affect Tomorrow's World

[Due date for filing is 1/1/2014 to Regional Chairman, 2/1/2014 to NGC Awards Chairman]

2014-2015 — Choosing to Make a Difference for a Better World

[Due date for filing is 1/1/2015 to Regional Chairman, 2/1/2015 to NGC Awards Chairman]

Submissions to KIT are due October 1, 2013.

Please send articles to Phyllis White, KIT Editor,
gardens@bresnan.net.

Regional Directors should send information to
Jan Sillik, Assistant Editor, gluegunjan@aol.com.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Website: www.gardenclub.org

Find Us On Facebook - National Garden Clubs Inc.

4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

(314) 776-7574 headquarters@gardenclub.org

NGC Member Services

To place orders call 1-800-550-6007

Keeping In Touch Web Extra!!

NGC's Newest Partner, Crown Bees

The honey bee crisis affects one third of our pollinators. As part of Linda Nelson's President project, **Making a World of Difference - Choices Matter**, NGC is partnering with Crown Bees, a Washington State bee pollination company. This partnership provides NGC the opportunity to be part of the solution. Crown Bees can help gardeners worldwide raise gentle mason bees to pollinate their gardens thus saving our food supply one garden at a time. Look for information about these five exciting programs in future NGC publications and on NGC's website:

♦ **Bee Speakers Bureau:** Receive a presentation package and support to become a local "teaching" bee expert for garden club, nursery and community events. A great outreach program to increase your club's membership, too!

♦ **Fundraising Opportunity:** Receive discounts on bee products to enhance your club's plant sales.

♦ **Education Program:** Learn best practices for healthy garden yields.

♦ **Youth Program:** Continue educating youth about pollinators.

♦ **BeeGAP Program (Gardeners Adding Pollinators):** Raise mason bees to pollinate your garden. Crown Bees then purchases the excess to send to commercial farms to supplement honey bee pollinators.

"Bee" sure to explore www.crownbees.com to learn how you can Make a World of Difference.

Debbie Skow, Chairman
NGC Native Bee/BeeGAP Partnership
d.sk.1159@gmail.com



Revolutionary Gardens

Past, Present and Future

Botanic Garden Benefit - Traverse City, Michigan



September 29 - October 2, 2013

A conference featuring lectures, technical tours of gardens, vineyards, historic farms, local craft food and wines in scenic northern Michigan's Leelanau County, during peak fall color.

For more information:
NorthwestMichiganGarden.org

Accommodations:
FountainPointResort.com
231.256.9800

THE BOTANIC GARDEN
OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN



Featured Speakers:

Andrea Wulf - Award winning author of *Founding Gardeners*, *The Brother Gardeners*, and *This Other Eden: Seven Great Gardens and 300 Years of English History*.

Peter Hatch - Retired director of gardens and grounds at Monticello since 1977 and advisor for Michelle Obama's White House garden.

Warren Byrd - Acclaimed Landscape Architect and designer of Flight 93 Memorial and other healing gardens of national significance.

Hosted by the Fountain Point Inn & Club, Michigan's oldest waterfront resort and national historic district. 20 cottages ideal for garden club sharing

