



Keeping In Touch

August - October 2016



Sandra H. Robinson

*2015-2017 President
National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

In This Issue

- The President's Greeting and Travel Schedule
- NGC Schools News
 - Gardening Study
 - Landscape Design
 - Environmental Studies
- Bee a Wildlife Action Hero - Habitat...Let There Be Life
- Environmental Concerns
 - Blue Ribbon Pollinator Exhibit
 - Nocturnal Pollinators
- Smokey Bear By the Numbers
- **Plant It Pink!**
- Membership Ideas
- "The POD"
- *Leap Into Leadership!*
- News from the Regions
- In Memoriam

"In a world where people have a lot of choices, the story may be the deciding factor." Nick Morgan, author of *How to Tell Great Business Stories*.

Has your club achieved a major goal; finished an incredible project; made a difference in the life of a member or child; impacted the community through an outreach project; or celebrated a significant milestone? Tell your story. Stories grab our attention. Who are you? Why is your club/project important?

Our stories define us. They are valuable marketing tools that bridge cultural and age-related gaps. Stories shape our message and impact the audience in a heartfelt manner. We remember stories far longer than facts and figures. They reach us in ways other forms of communication cannot. We relate on an emotional level. They inspire and motivate us to join organizations, buy products, and invest in a cause.

We live in an information age and often feel bombarded with the numerous forms of communication, but one thing hasn't changed. Humans are storytellers. Advertising has moved from mass media outlets to stories that incorporate products into our personal lifestyles. Companies use their story to sell products. TOMS and IKEA successfully engage customers through their stories.

Clubs can use the same marketing tools to reach new members and awareness within their communities. Your descriptive narrative is "why" the club is important and "how" your audience can share in your mission by joining or donating. Share your story in the local paper, radio station, website, Facebook, Twitter, TNG, and KIT. Send testimonials of what garden club membership means to you to our webmaster Poss Tarpley. Testimonials are short, mini stories in two or three sentences that convey your message.

NGC's publications are one place to showcase outstanding clubs and members. Other clubs gain insight and ideas from sharing our accomplishments and project ideas. Please send articles and high definition photographs to our editors for consideration as space allows. We want to know your story.

- Keep it simple. Know your audience.
- What do you wish to tell? What is your message?
- Reflect on what you want to share. Why is it relevant? What is the point?
- Use a hook. Skip the unimportant details and go for the attention getter.
- Have everyone in the club telling the club's story.

Visiting our member states, I have heard incredible stories and met amazing members who often begin with how garden club membership has enriched their lives. Amazingly, I have met several 95-102 age members who are still actively involved and attending meetings. They talk of lifelong friendships, continuing projects that helped shape their communities, leadership roles and the impact of saying "Yes" when asked, or greater still, volunteering to assume roles within their clubs. Their stories need to be preserved and shared. Gardeners nurture plants and people.

I look forward to hearing your stories. **Leap into Action!**

Sandra H. Robinson

PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

August 18-19	Middlesboro, Kentucky Flower Show School
September 8-9	Fairbanks, Alaska Fairbanks Garden Club
Sept. 10-11	Anchorage, Alaska Annual Meeting
Sept. 15	Marion, Indiana Wildflower Workshop
Sept. 21-24	Portland, Maine NGC Fall Board Meeting
Sept. 25-27	Maine, Tri-Refresher
Sept. 28	Troy, New Hampshire Fall Meeting
October 7-9	Springfield, Illinois Central Region Convention
Oct. 10	Akron, Ohio Leadership Conference
Oct. 11-12	Cleveland, Ohio Symposium
Oct. 18 – 20	El Paso, Texas Annual Meeting
Oct. 22	London, Kentucky Mt. Laurel District Fall Meeting
Oct. 23-25	Saratoga Springs, New York Central Atlantic Region
Oct. 26	Southington, Connecticut Awards Meeting, The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

President Elect Nancy Hargroves is attending the Uruguay Tour in my place as I wait for the birth of twin granddaughters.



Nancy L. Hargroves is the NGC President Elect as of the close of the 2016 NGC Convention held in Michigan.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

[NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.](#)

**4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110-3406
(314) 776-7574 headquarters@gardenclub.org**

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

**GREG POKORSKI, ES, GS AND LD SCHOOLS
COORDINATOR**

Now is the time to Leap into Action to plan NGC schools and refreshers for the upcoming garden club year. These can help educate club members and the public about best environmental, gardening and landscape design practices. NGC provides the infrastructure for these time-tested programs. Each school is comprised of four courses, and each course consists of ten hours of instruction (that is generally presented over a two-day period). Schools and refreshers can be sponsored and conducted by the state federations, by districts and councils and by clubs. Use our schools to reach out to the public – gain publicity for your organization and attract new members.

Schools Committees will meet on September 22 at the Fall Board Meeting in Portland, Maine. Let us know if you have issues, questions or suggestions. We strive to maintain quality educational programs while working to simplify the administration of these programs. Our committees met at the recent convention in Grand Rapids. See the Summer issue of *The National Gardener* for suggestions and reminders that came out of those meetings.

We have heard many favorable comments about the Tri-Refresher held at the NGC Convention in Grand Rapids. These events can be educational highlights of NGC meetings, providing one more reason to sample the NGC meeting itself. This was an opportunity to see and learn about the beautiful Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the leading cultural destinations in the Midwest, as well as to hear presentations on butterfly gardening, outdoor living spaces, Japanese gardens and wildflower sanctuaries. These events are generally open to everyone, but also provide refresher credit for eligible NGC Consultants. A Tri-Refresher is offered for those who attend the NGC Fall Board Meeting in Portland, Maine. So far, there are two Multiple Refresher events scheduled in 2017. Remember to register new multiple refreshers with Lana Finegold, 1414 179th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98008. Forms are on the NGC website. Make check payable to NGC and send after approval of forms 1a-14 and 1b-14. Lana can be reached at lanafinegold@msn.com or 425-747-5742.

A California Bi-Refresher that had been scheduled for August has been canceled due to insufficient registration. Sometimes with garden club events it is all a matter of timing, not “location, location, location.” Summer may be a difficult time to hold events as many people are in vacation mode and most garden clubs operate on a September to June cycle. Some states never schedule July and August events. Plan ahead and consider all contingencies.

We recently learned that when a Consultant completed all four NGC schools (making her eligible for Four Star Member status) several years ago, members of her club presented her with a Four Star pin to honor her accomplishment. However, that Consultant recently found that she was not on the list of Four Star Members. You must apply for Four Star (and Five Star) status and that had never happened in this particular case. See the NGC website (Schools, Four & Five Star Program). State Presidents and Schools Chairmen should familiarize themselves with the program and requirements so that every qualified Consultant is recognized and honored. Just having a Four Star pin does not make you a Four Star Member.

Thanks to all who participate in and support NGC Schools. Please contact our chairmen with your questions about these valuable NGC programs.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

BARBARA HADSELL, CHAIRMAN

A question we hear from our members about attending NGC Schools goes something like this. "That sounds great, you're learning so much, now what are you going to do with it?" And we hear from others wondering if topics taught in the different schools relate. Here are some comments recently received from a local NGC School chairman, Nancy Richards, who receives *The National Gardener* and read our Gardening Study author Marie Harrison's article on "Reconciliation Ecology" found in the Fall 2015 edition and is our NGC GSS 2015-17 theme. Nancy says "After hearing the West Palm Beach Sustainability Director speak at ESS Course I recently in West Palm Beach, I decided to check to see if my city, Delray Beach, has a Sustainability Director. We do! I sent her a copy of Marie Harrison's article on Reconciliation Ecology. I received an email back thanking me for the article. In it, the director stated that this is a concept she's always believed in, and appreciated knowing that it has a name and that an organization like NGC is promoting it. I now have a 'foot in the door' to engage in discussions with her, and hopefully other city representatives. My goal is to have this lead to a native plant requirement for new developments, and to look at alternatives for St. Augustine grass in our swale areas." Please let me know if you would like copies of any **TNG** articles emailed to you in Word. "Cross Pollinating" does work!

Here is a summary of NGC's GSS activity, May 2015-April 2016. Twenty-two states conducted schools with 782 attending, 517 testing and 137 refreshing. GSS was held in three locations in Mexico, while Colombia and Uruguay have schools pending.

The eight Region Directors have been requested to check their states' websites for listings of upcoming NGC GSS Courses, which should include neighboring states' GSS School listings as well. And via this **KIT**, all State Presidents are asked to check their state's listing in the NGC GSS Directory for accuracy for both the GSS Chairman and also for the GS Council Chairman's contact information. This can be found on the NGC website under Schools, Gardening Study, Forms, <http://gardenclub.org/resources/gss-forms/gss-directory-schools-and-councils.pdf>. Please respond as soon as you are able to barbarahadsell@cs.com. If you are considering starting or "restarting" GSS in your state, please let this Chairman know as well. You Accrediting Region Chair can be of tremendous help to you in a startup situation. Their names are in this GSS Directory as well.

Bring Gardening Study School to your state!!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

JANE BERSCH, CHAIRMAN

This fall finds Landscape Design Schools scheduled throughout the states. Gardeners in Alaska and Arizona will be attending their first ever LDS Course. Nebraska will begin their second series while many states continue to hold Courses and are well into the numbers in Series planned. There are already three Courses to be held in 2017. Congratulations to the state Presidents and LDS Chairmen who have chosen to **Leap into Action**.

A reminder to LDS attendees that NGC cards are first issued when the student has attended the four Courses, passed the exam with a grade of 70 or more, and are thus a LD Consultant. Following the Refresher, either at a School or a Refresher event, cards are sent by the appropriate LD Accrediting Chairman to the state LDS Chairman for distribution to the attendees taking the event for credit. Distribution of cards and updating of files needs to be done in a timely manner. Should a Consultant attend a Course or Refresher out of state, they are required to inform their state LDS Chairman of such.

LD Council Chairmen are urged to send articles and photographs of any event, program or meeting involving the LD Consultants to the LDS Newspaper Editor Caroline Carbaugh, for inclusion in the next edition of the LD newsletter **Newscape**. All will enjoy reading about these get togethers and obtaining ideas for theirs.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOLS

What does Environmental School Offer Me?

Pat Rupiper ESS Chairman

There are many garden club members who have not taken advantage of the four school disciplines that are offered by National Garden Clubs, Inc. What is Environmental Studies School, and what are the benefits of taking the series of courses?

The four separate course units can be taken in any order available. Each stands alone, but they all work together. The units are divided into Ecology and Environmental Science, Life on Earth and Earth Stewardship. All tests are open book and have multiple-choice questions.

Course I is the overview of the biomes and how they interact or overlap. What biome is your home place? How can you influence or encourage what the local biome needs to be healthy? Is your home a place that offers a backyard habitat? What habits do you have that reinforce sustainability?

Course II involves the land and food production. We certainly all need to eat. What is a healthy soil for production, what plants grow in your area and how do you keep them strong and productive? Do you fertilize your lawn? What materials do you use for cleaning your homes or fertilizing your lawns? Is there an alternative way? Is your city a “tree city?” Did you know there are urban gardening and forestry zones? How about coastal zones, did you know there are Midwest areas as well as both coasts? Is there a way to encourage and provide for pollinators? Bring home your new knowledge from class and share with your club. Certainly, NGC has pollinator projects and awards that your club could apply for!

Course III focuses on air. What creates the ozone level; what makes up your household carbon footprint? The rainforest provides a great deal of oxygen for our consumption. What is occurring worldwide that is changing that region? Is there a group in your Region that is working towards a healthier world, and, if so, how can others work with them? How about the schools in your Region? They frequently offer programs to create a better world.

Course IV is water based and focuses on wetlands, aquatic plants, aquatic animals, and sustainability. There are ways to be an effective steward of the land. What is offered to the youth of the area to help them understand stewardship and how to protect their future?

Every session offers a two-hour field trip. These trips are excellent applied education. The opportunity to be up close

with the educators allows for a more personal experience. Many of the schools have class rosters under 20 or so students. Where else can you get college instructors for such a reasonable price?

Attending this school will change your life and how you view your world. Please consider giving the classes a go (and bring a neighbor)!

BEE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO!

COMMIT TO GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

BECKY HASSEBROEK, HABITAT CHAIRMAN

LET THERE BE LIFE

What a difference a few years makes in our outlook. I’ve personally always loved wildlife. But I grew up in southern Texas where there were many, many bugs, and maybe because of that, they didn’t garner my affection. It was common to “spray” for bugs – all types of bugs. I certainly didn’t consider them “wildlife” at the time!

As an adult, that mindset stayed with me. Years ago, when I had a small fruit orchard and citrus grove in Florida, and even after Master Gardener training, I had my huge *Ortho* book as a handy reference to identify the bugs in my garden. It told me what chemicals to use to annihilate bugs from my fruit trees and other precious plants. There were so-called “good bugs” and “bad bugs,” and if it happened to fall in the “bad bug” list, watch out! I wasn’t smart enough to know that I was killing the good along with the bad, or that they were all beneficial in one way or another.

After I had stopped using sprays, I went to systemics, thinking that was the answer. We all now know better than that! *It’s just amazing that any of our pollinators are left!*

Even five years ago when working in my garden, I’d frown at the bee that whizzed by, and want to kill every wasp that I encountered. I would get stung every so often – not because these “bugs” were focused on me, but because they were trying to save their lives.

Now, thankfully, knowledge about the value and plight of our pollinators has brought it all front and center – these “bugs” are responsible for the future of a large part of our food supply, and our children’s and grandchildren’s. We need them! We can’t exist without them! We have to protect them!

I was just in my perennial garden – the delphinium are over my head, and the rest of the perennials are waist high. I stood in the middle of this garden in awe at the “life” all around me. Insects of all kinds doing their “thing.” I didn’t

worry about getting stung – these pollinators were not aggressive because I wasn't threatening them. Mosquitoes were there, too (our State bird, you know – have to put in a plug about Alaska), but the swallows were catching most all of them to feed to their babies – what would they do without them? Their lives also depend on our "bugs."

I've added and protected many native plants and trees in my garden. Like the rest of you, I am genuinely entertained by our birds. We are fortunate to have experts like Doug Tallamy, noted author of *Bringing Nature Home*, to prove to us that most of our birds depend on the soft caterpillars found on trees to feed their young. If these trees are not found in our gardens, the birds can't be there, as well. These caterpillars will not live on our fancy ornamentals; natives are so incredibly important!

Garden club members are very lucky to have access to this knowledge so we can have healthy habitats - for the pollinators and other wildlife that will frequent them, for our pets, and for our children and grandchildren.

I am continually amazed when I see people at the stores buying "weed and feed" for their lawns, herbicides for their weeds, and plants that have been treated with neonicotinoids. They don't mean to do harm; they just don't have the knowledge.

I, for one, have removed deadly chemicals from my garden and practice sustainable gardening. I know many of you have done the same. Thanks to the education being provided by NGC and the other partners in the "Million Pollinator Garden Challenge," we are being given the knowledge. It's our duty and privilege to pass it on. So, "Bee a Wildlife Action Hero," commit to Garden for Wildlife, share your knowledge, and register your gardens on the SHARE map at Pollinator.org for the world to see. Let there be life all around you, right down to the smallest little critter. Your life will be so much richer!



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS / CONSERVATION AND PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECTS

**JULIE WEST, MONARCH WATCH VICE CHAIRMAN
BLUE RIBBON POLLINATOR EXHIBIT**

Bay Ocean District of California Garden Clubs, Inc. entered an educational exhibit at the local San Mateo County Fair. The display featured posters of Butterflies of Central California, the life cycle of a Monarch, as well as a tri-fold of plants and butterflies coordinated with the plant list handout. Habitat signs from the National Wildlife Federation,

Xerces Society, Monarch Watch, North American Butterfly Association and Million Pollinator Challenge were also on display to enhance public awareness of each organization's certification programs available. Handouts for the public to take included the NGC President's Special Projects: 2015-2017 rack cards for pollinators and *The Frightened Frog*, along with a local butterfly plant list of both larval and nectar plants with eight easy steps to create a butterfly garden.

There were eight educational exhibits entered in total. Bay Ocean District's entry won not only the blue ribbon for their \$2 entry but also won \$300 prize money! Does your club or district have a similar opportunity to promote pollinators and the NGC President's Special Projects for 2015-2017?

Eight hundred of the colorful rack cards were ordered from NGC Member Services, and the only charge was for the postage. Include display copies of NGC's free educational publications available for download from NGC's website: *Inviting Butterflies into Your Garden, Pollinator Power, and Ecology Warriors*. County fairs, home and garden shows, plant sales, standard flower shows, etc. provide excellent opportunities to promote a club or district as well as NGC's objectives.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS / CONSERVATION AND PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECTS

**DORIS JACKSON, AIR QUALITY CHAIRMAN
NOCTURNAL POLLINATORS**

It is commonly known that many creatures, including most species of butterflies and moths, perform some type of pollination function. When feeding on nectar from flowers, pollen is deposited on their appendages and transferred to the stigma of the next flower they visit.

Day-blooming flowers and day-visiting insects (bees, butterflies, flies, etc.) are pollinators that we are most aware of. The daytime pollinators usually prefer warmth and sun to feed on and visit flowers. In fact, their muscles require a certain critical temperature to function.

There are, however, less familiar groups of pollinators, moving about and living in the darkness.

These are the nocturnal pollinators: creatures such as moths, bats, and owls. They tend to be better adapted to cold temperatures and have senses that allow them to fly in the dark. Flowers that bloom and give more nectar at night in locations such as the Sonoran Desert depend on these nocturnal beings, releasing aromas that encourage creatures like the Sphinx or Hawk Moth to find them.

Hawk Moths typically show up on a regular schedule. They are large, fly silently and resemble hummingbirds, unfurling their tongues and drinking while suspended in air. Moonflowers, evening primroses, Nicotiana and Morning Glories attract and provide food for these pollinators and other nocturnal visitors as well.

The Desert Southwest is home to another nocturnal pollinator, the bat. Some bats, such as the Mexican Freetail Bat and the Lesser Longnosed Bat, migrate north 1000 miles or more from Mexico into Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to feed on the nectar and pollen from the blooms of native cacti and agaves. Most cactus bloom at night, are strongly scented and produce big flowers with abundant nectar. This is a perfect combination for these migrators to complete this symbiotic relationship, because, without bats, the landscapes of the West wouldn't produce and display the scented flowers of saguaros, barrel cacti, and prickly pears.

Another type of pollinator, the squash bee operates not in complete darkness, but at dawn or dusk, following the schedule of squash blossoms.

Numerous studies have been done on the damaging effects of air pollution and how it negatively affects the ability of pollinators to find the fragrances of flowers. Due to pollution from automobiles, power plants and pesticides, pollinators must travel increasingly further to find nectar. In turn, flowers receive inadequate pollination to reproduce and diversify. Smog and pollutants destroy scents released by flowers, causing concern about the fate of nighttime pollinators who rely on scent to find these flowers. In order to keep fruits, nuts and vegetables in our diets, the birds, bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles and bats need help. Poor air quality has damaging effects on the environment in many unforeseen ways, which is why we must become ever more aware and conscious of what is released into the air and take measures to reduce this pollution.

HORTICULTURE - TREES AND SHRUBS PHYLLIS BESCH, CHAIRMAN

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE ON THE ATTACK

What is happening to our forests? Another destructive insect is decimating many of the areas of the United States. For several months many of our wildlife biologists have been noticing that our pine trees were dying at an alarming rate!

The culprit is the Southern Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis* Zimmermann) that can attack in unbelievable num-

bers and kill pine trees. It happens quickly with just a few of the beetles arriving and burrowing under the bark. A pine tree can look vibrant and green in the spring, but after the pine beetle arrives, can drop their needles leaving a stark skeleton behind! These pests are considered one of the most destructive pests because they attack all species of pine trees. They actually began attacking many of the pines in the southern area of the United States in the last century. These pests must attack a tree in large numbers to totally decimate them.

One of the ways to control the spread of this insect is the "cut and leave" method. Once a tree has been infected by large numbers of these insects, they should be cut and left on the forest floor. This type of control disrupts the insects.

Other strategies that homeowners should consider are diversity in their selection of the type of trees to plant. Be on the lookout for foliage discoloration. The crowns of dying pines change color from green to yellow to red before turning brown and falling from the tree. Check the base of the tree for a brownish-orange boring dust and tiny white pitch pellets, these are tell-tale signs of infestation.

Consider more resistant species such as longleaf pine and slash pine in place of loblolly pine. (Plant the right tree in the right place!)

If you are in the process of planting pines, please consider the seriousness of this destructive insect. Be Aware-Take Care!

2015-2016 Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Poster Contest by the Numbers

Jennifer Moreno, Chairman

Total number of participants: 19,776

Total number of posters received: 5,478

State with the most poster entries: Virginia (submitted 1,185 posters)

State Chairman award: Barbara S. Ohmsen

Region with the most poster entries: South Atlantic (received 1,791 posters)

Region Chairman award: Barbara S. Ohmsen

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2017 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles. See the NGC website for more information.

Hot days are still with us...not always the best time to plant. As the days grow shorter and the temperatures begin to drop, please look forward to October, breast cancer awareness month. Be making plans for your Plant It Pink Projects.

It is nearly time for 'back to school!' Contact local schools... many require a community component to their school and district plans. Administrators and teachers alike would welcome a garden club's involvement in a school project. Your club may want to start, or assist an existing, youth club. Pick an appropriate area for a Plant It Pink Garden on the school grounds or an appropriate place for a pot. Have the students plant pink tulip bulbs. This would be a great way to kick off October, and the students would be eager to see their own Plant It Pink Garden in early spring. After the tulips are gone in the spring, have the students plant pink flowers to bloom all summer long until time for pink tulip bulbs again! Your club could work with these students on a regular basis if desired, teaching and promoting many of our NGC projects. Even club membership may grow.

Some churches now have community gardens and would love to have a Plant It Pink Garden to provide beauty next spring before many of the vegetables appear in abundance. Again, plant pink flowers after the tulips fade away.

Don't forget tourism centers. Community involvement is an important aspect to visitors that come to the centers... potential businesses and factories who want to establish in communities that are active. City halls, libraries, city parks, and hospitals are all strategic places for a Plant It Pink Garden.

Are you familiar with the pink pumpkin? It is too late in the year to plant pumpkins for this October, but keep them in mind for next October. The Porcelain Doll F1 Pink Pumpkin seeds can be purchased and planted in time for sale in October. Students could plant them before school is out for the summer and would love to watch them continue to grow after school is back in session, turning a light pink as they mature.

Package pink bulbs in a clear bag tied with a pink ribbon and labeled Plant It Pink...Planet Pink! for a donation that can be given to your local oncology department.

'Hurry up and wait' seems to be the theme for the Plant It Pink Markers for your gardens and pots. We are hopeful they will be available from Member Services soon. And we are still working to see if Plant It Pink tee-shirts can be made available as well.

MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

SANDY DENNIS, COMMITTEE MEMBER

We all hear the drum roll that our clubs need new members to remain viable, and many of us have heard, seen, or written various ideas about generating club membership. NGC has a very attractive tri-fold brochure, "Grow Your World and Green Your Community by Joining a Garden Club," available at no charge, that can be used to interest people in attending local club meetings and becoming members. Most state organizations and many local clubs have also created similar brochures to attract new members, these having a more localized content.

Informative brochures are a helpful support tool, but let me propose that building club membership is based upon the "three-legged milk stool" approach. One leg would be the current members who reach out to new people and spark their interest. The second leg is a well-run club meeting with interesting programs. And third is members who follow-through - inviting someone to a club meeting, sharing information about the club's activities, suggesting that a guest join the club, and getting to know the new members and their interests in gardening. The key is that it takes effort on the part of all the current membership to have success in attracting new members. Perhaps the real truth to growing club membership is that it takes those dedicated members who step out of their way to speak to new people, talk with them about gardening and flower shows, and invite them to the club meeting. The invite may even be reinforced with an offer to pick up the person and bring them to the next meeting or activity.

My challenge to each of you reading this – which leg of the "membership milk stool" are you? And, do you give support to the other two "legs"? What is the process your club has for encouraging a guest to consider membership? If each of us invited just one person to come to our garden club, think how our membership growth would **Leap into Action!**

We invite you to explore the NGC information available on the Internet and promote your club, state and NGC on social media.



COMING SOON!

STATE PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS

- Excited that gardeners want to join a club but frustrated that you can't find a club close enough for them to join?
- You are willing to help them form a club but they are uncomfortable about organizing a club. Unfortunately, the potential club is too far away for members to organize.
- Do you know gardeners that want to join a club but are too busy with work and family obligations to join a local club?
- You know people that are knowledgeable gardeners but they are too shy to participate in a club.

THE SOLUTION TO YOUR FRUSTRATION!

LOOK FOR

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. ASSOCIATES' WEBSITE

THE POD

LEAP INTO LEADERSHIP! DEVELOPMENT

ROBIN POKORSKI, CHAIRMAN

Your NGC *Leap Into Leadership!* team (Leapers) are working to bring Leadership training to our members across the country. I have been privileged to present programs, workshops and all-day seminars to several clubs, districts, and states this spring and summer. I learn from these workshops as I hope those attending learn from what is presented. I am fully convinced our states should have scholarships available for president-elects and vice-presidents "on the chairs" to visit other states' meetings. Here is some of what I've learned in my travels:

From Montana Federation Garden Clubs (MFGC): Many states have the problem of people attending the state annual meeting but feeling the convention hotel is too expensive. They make other lodging arrangements, but MFGC has, in addition to its regular full-time and one-day convention registration and meal fees, a \$30 fee if you do not register at the convention hotel AND live outside of a 50-mile radius of the convention city.

MFGC begins its convention meeting the same as most of us but very shortly business is stopped, and the Awards Chairman presents the Garden Club Member of the Year. The winner received flowers, and most importantly in my book, a tiara to wear and a place at the head table for the rest of the convention business.

From Garden Clubs of Idaho, I learned that all five of their District Directors are members of the state Nominating Committee. What a great idea! Who would know people in their own districts better than the Directors, and the state is assured of complete coverage of representation.

I am convinced that we can do a better job of sharing information and good ideas from state to state. Part of the problem is that we don't know what we don't know. Too often helpful ideas are not shared because we assume that another state knows what we know and does what we do. That's not always the case.



The *Leap into Leadership* Committee has been presenting seminars all over the country. Since the new year, I have presented training sessions in California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Michigan, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Arkansas. If you have been wanting to participate in one of

these entertaining and informative forums, but have not had one in your state, visit an upcoming seminar in New Mexico or Oklahoma by contacting the State President (or District Director) to see about attending. Ask your state officers to bring a *Leap into Leadership* Committee member to your next meeting. Bring a friend, and share the travel expenses!



Workshops in Oregon and Washington.

NEWS FROM THE REGION DIRECTORS

NEW ENGLAND

Vera Bowen, Director

<http://www.ngcner.org>

The New England States are resplendent in color!

In the past three months, this director has had the pleasure of visiting four of our six Annual State Meetings. Rhode Island and Massachusetts held their Annual Meetings in April and May respectively. The workshops, speakers, and designers were enjoyed by the members.



The Presidents gave their reports, Awards were distributed, and it is so rewarding to know that we are a part of such a great movement to improve our towns, cities, states and planet.

The Maine Annual Meeting was held in beautiful Bar Harbor. The three-day event had workshops, a garden tour, a Life Member Recognition Cocktail Party, a container design challenge which pitted nationally known Tovah Martin against two GCFM members. An early morning trip to view the sun coming up over Cadillac Mountain, the business meeting, luncheon and awards presentation which included an inspiring talk by Acadia National Parks former Superintendent Sheridan Steele. If this meeting is any indication of what we might expect when we visit Portland in September for the NGC Fall Board meeting, we are all in for a wonderful time!

The road to Vermont from Maine was festooned with Blue Lupine. Amazing! The Vermont meeting at the Shelburne Museum was a joy to experience. The awards were presented, and the members were so supportive of two-time President Susan Hinke. After the meeting, a chance to tour the Museum, a "Must See," if you are ever in the area.

New Hampshire displayed a poster at a meeting that gave the following information: Last year the clubs dedicated 18,286 hours to community service! Do they ever sleep? Connecticut President Jane Waugh has, as I have mentioned before, a project to help reforest Connecticut. Oaks are being planted all over the state and Jane, in honor of the Anniversary of our National Parks, is encouraging us to visit our National Parks and enjoy the splendor.

The best part of being NER Director is being able to visit the States and see what the clubs are doing first hand. It's always amazing to me to see how hardworking, dedicated and accomplished our Garden Club members are. Thank You All.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC

Anne M. Bucher, Director

<http://www.ngccar.org>

Summer time is usually a quiet and restful period. However, if you are planning a region conference in October and dealing with proposed changes for the Region from the Executive Board of NGC, your days become more driven with miles of computer and paperwork time and less fiction reading.



In June, the National Capital Area Garden Clubs had an excellent Leadership Workshop which I attended along with NGC President Sandy Robinson. It was held at the National Arboretum and approximately 70 members attended.

In July, I flew to New York to visit the site of our Central Atlantic Conference in October. Conference Chairman Jeanne Nelson and I will tour the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs to review the conference space and finalize the details for planning this event. To date, we have many people registered to attend this conference.

In August, I will be traveling for personal reasons and hopefully will have some time off for good behavior.

In September, the garden club members are back to work, and I will be visiting them in New York and Ohio as well as the Fall Board Meeting of National Garden Clubs in Portland, Maine. In New York, I will be attending a Conference Meeting as well as a Leadership Workshop meeting. In Youngstown, Ohio I will be attending a Leadership Workshop meeting.

The highlight of the Region will be our Central Atlantic Conference in Sarasota Springs in New York on October 23 – 25, 2016. In addition, our National President Sandy Robinson will be attending. There will be a VIP dinner, a Ghost Tour and Welcome Reception on Sunday night. On Monday, there is a breakfast for Council Chairmen and School Chairmen. This will be followed by a tour of the historic area in Sarasota Springs and a luncheon at an exclusive golf club. There will be workshops and vendors available in the afternoon. A program "Hunting the Elusive Orchid" will be held Monday evening.

Tuesday will have another tour of the area in the morning as well as the Region Board of Directors Meeting. The Luncheon program will feature On Thai, an excellent floral designer from the New York area. The afternoon will have workshops and vendors available to shop. The evening program will honor all those affiliated with the Region both past and present with a Celebration program. This is going to be a very special event for all those who attend.

The Central Atlantic Region is alive and well and working very hard. Its' future is still in the balance, but we are persevering.

SOUTH ATLANTIC Sarah Ann Parler, Director

<http://www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org/>

As Region Director, I have recently experienced several weeks of intense travel to four SAR State Conventions and to the NGC Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Throughout the whirlwind of activity, the exceptional hospitality and talents of our SAR members shone through.



Each State provided me a personable, knowledgeable page which helped make the conventions a truly enjoyable experience. I especially appreciated the beautiful designs created in my honor at the State Conventions. The tours were excellent, and I enjoyed the visit to "Poplar Forest," Thomas Jefferson's plantation in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Traveling through those same mountains to the General Butler State Park in Carrolton, Kentucky, was a breathtaking experience! Awarding six Scholarship winners a total of \$10,450.00 was remarkable. I will hold dear my Honorary Membership in the Garden Club of Kentucky.

An excellent and informative workshop for youth was presented by Darene Honeycutt in Durham, NC. As SAR Children's Gardens/School Gardens Chairman, she has a wealth of information and is willing to share with all our states.

As I told the members present at these four State Conventions, Southern Hospitality abides in the South Atlantic Region. To be welcomed at an unfamiliar airport by a smiling face, to walk into a hotel room to find a welcome basket filled with treats, to enjoy table designs that embellish a gracious Southern meal...what could be more heartwarming? The perfect ending to this journey was to return to the familiar faces of my friends in South Carolina and to share in the dedication of "A Children's Native Plant Garden" at Riverbanks Botanical Garden. Our guest designer at the NGC Convention SAR Breakfast was Pauline Flynn. All attendees agreed she was a talented designer and speaker. Nearly 50 SAR members attended the NGC Convention.

West Virginia GC will be hosting the SAR Convention at the Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs on March 26-28,

2017, followed by the WVGC Convention on March 28-30, 2017. Our prayers are with them as they experienced major flooding in this area (June 2016). Keep them and our Region in your prayers.

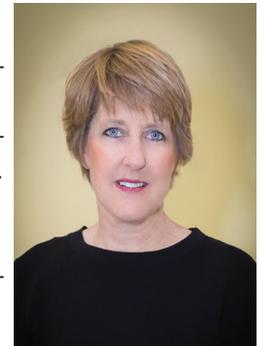
NGC President Sandra Robinson will install our incoming 2017-2019 SAR Director Judy Barnes and Alternate Director Mary Lou Goodman from NC. Elected to serve on the 2017-2019 NGC Nominating Committee from WVGC will be Representative June Ashworth and Alternate Carolyn Patterson and elected to serve on the 2017-2019 NGC Nominating Committee from the VFGC will be Representative Mary Owen and Alternate Phyllis Steele.

The SAR appointed committee is making progress with obtaining a 501 (c) 3 status for our South Atlantic Region before May 31, 2017.

DEEP SOUTH Carol M. Bullard, Director

<http://dsregion.org>

The Deep South Region is in the process of attaining 501(c)3 status to comply with NGC's decision to dissolve the Regions by May 31, 2017. This is a long process but even with no guidance or clear direction from NGC, I feel certain we will accomplish this before the deadline.



Congratulations to the state winners in the Louisiana Garden Club Federation's Cleanest City Contest – Fenton, Loreauville, Jean Lafitte, Farmerville, St. Martinville, Abbeville, Hammond, Lake Charles and Lafayette. Great job! Jean Gilstrap, Cleanest City Chairman, and I presented the plaques to the winners on May 26 and 27th.

On Memorial Day, May 30, 2016, Abbeville Garden Club installed a Blue Star Highway Marker, a Blue Star By-Way Marker, a Gold Star Family By-Way Marker, and two Prisoner of War Memorial Markers. There were beautiful and moving ceremonies at three other locations: the Vermillion Parish War Memorial, the Louisiana Hall of Fame and Military Museum, and the Louisiana National Guard Armory. We were reminded at each of the ceremonies that "freedom is not free".

The Garden Club of Georgia held a fabulous workshop at State Park, Amicalola Falls. We included youth at this workshop, and they were so excited to be able to take part. NGC President Sandra Robinson was in attendance. Our Judges'

Symposium and Wild and Wonderful Youth Camp are getting underway. Blue Star Memorial Markers are still being installed throughout our state. We appreciate our veterans so very much as well as the family members of the veterans. Districts are planning their District Board Meetings and getting ready for the Annual District Meetings in October. We are still enjoying the celebrating of anniversaries of our garden clubs throughout this state.

In June, Alabama Gardeners celebrated "Butterfly Day" at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. A partial tour of the gardens and the Butterfly house was a treat with lunch in the main building. It is business as usual with the State Board meeting August 3rd in Montgomery, Alabama. Planning is under way for district meetings the last two weeks of October; State Convention April 4 – 6, 2017.

This summer, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs flower show judges are busy judging State Fair Flower Shows and getting the word out about how to join a garden club. Our president's membership project, "Invite a Friend (What IF)," has increased our membership list. TFGC gained a new garden club in June and will be voting in two new youth garden clubs in the fall. A Flower Show Symposium is scheduled for August in Nashville. Since late spring, two clubs have dedicated Blue Star Markers, and two more dedications are being planned to take place in early fall. Gardening Study School, Course II will take place in September in Chattanooga. Plans are underway for our "Fun with Flowers" events which will be held in each district in October. These events are educational, fun and profitable for TFGC and the four Districts within the state. They are open to the public giving TFGC an opportunity to promote the goals of NGC, DSR, and our organization.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs members continue to enjoy NGC Schools being held throughout the state. Flower Show School Courses have just been completed in Fort Myers and Port St. Lucie and Course III will be held in Bradenton. Landscape Design Course IV will be held in Sarasota with Course I beginning in Clermont the spring of 2017. Gardening Study Course III will be held in Miramar and Environmental Study Courses will be held in Jacksonville, West Palm Beach, and Silver Springs. FFGC continues towards our goal of remembering our Military Men and Women who fight to keep our country safe by placing Blue Star Memorial Markers in each of our Districts throughout the state.

The Garden Clubs of Mississippi's Spring District Workshops were highlighted by a President's Workshop to help prepare club presidents to lead their clubs for the upcoming garden club year. Workshop topics included: floral design, flower shows, awards, garden rooms, fairy gardens, cell phone photography tips, and butterflies. GCM's annual Lanoux

Youth Nature Camp for ages 9-12 promoted planting for pollinators. Each camper was sent home with their very own pollinator plant. GCM's annual Mississippi State University Horticulture Summer Camp for ages 15-17 will cover landscape architecture, floriculture, floral design, nursery management, turf, vegetable production and fruit production.

CENTRAL
<http://ngccentralregion.org>

Judy Newman, Director

What a joy it was visiting the seven states in the Central Region witnessing their enthusiasm, dedication, and support of all on the projects and activities promoting the objectives of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Every state reported on plans to install one or more Blue Star Markers. Displays, reports, programs, even centerpieces focused on the NGC President's projects promoting pollinators and increasing awareness about the value of frogs and toads to our environment.



Central Region is "Cultivating Connections" with the NGC, member states, districts, clubs and most important our members. One of my goals for this year is to increase award applications. More members and clubs need to apply for District, State, Central Region and National Garden Club Awards. This an easy way for clubs to earn money and receive recognition for some of the wonderful projects our members are doing.

It is time to register for the Central Region Meeting to be held October 7-9, 2016 in Springfield, Illinois at the Abraham Lincoln Double Tree Hotel. "Find your Inspiration in Abe Lincoln's Hometown" by attending some of the many wonderful tours and workshops on applying for CR and NGC Awards and Leadership.

I am delighted to announce Central Region is now Incorporated and in the process of completing the 501 (c) 3 application. I have enjoyed working with all of the other Region Directors as we strive to make NGC and the Regions more unified. Thank you for all of the support as members of Central Region continue to cultivate new and stronger connections.

SOUTH CENTRAL

<http://ngcscr.com>

Barbara S. Baker, Director

To further the SCR Project, Protecting the Migratory Path of the Monarch Butterfly, more clubs have reported that their mayors have signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Pledge. Garden clubs are working with Park Departments, Master Gardeners, USDA, Fish & Wildlife, etc. to create habitats for the Monarch Butterfly on public property such as courthouses, libraries, parks, and municipal golf courses. Planting milkweed must be done this fall and early winter as the plants must be in full foliage in our Region by mid-March and April for the female to lay her eggs as they leave Mexico on their north and east migration.



Mary Ann Holman announced that Oklahoma Garden Clubs has a new home; the official opening will be in October with a Flower Show staged by the Oklahoma Council of National Accredited Flower Show Judges. Taking the idea from National, they are offering a new President's Project of \$100 grants to clubs for promoting youth pollinator gardens. There are many plans for 2017 including another "Leadership Workshop" with Robin Pokorski to be held in February in Tulsa and a Butterfly Celebration in April at the state Capitol. OGC has received a Proclamation from Governor Mary Fallin for promoting the preservation of the Monarch Butterfly and its Pathway. Membership is always an important project - Garden Clubbers everywhere "Let's Get Growing!"

The Arkansas State Flower Show "Dream, Design, Discover" was a fantastic success and viewed by 10,000 people. Beautiful flower shows have been presented by Dardanelle Garden Club, Camden Garden Club, Verna Garvan Design Study Club and the Southwest District with 13 clubs participating. One of AFGC President Rose Knight's goals is being met with the increase in local flower shows around Arkansas. "I truly believe that our greatest outreach and educational tool is our flower shows." Robin Pokorski was invited back to SCR to speak at the mid-year Board Meeting. "With Robin's visit, we will have had the honor of presenting Sandy Robinson, NGC President, Barbara Baker, SCR Director, and Robin to our state members. The opportunity to get to know national leaders will undoubtedly strengthen our ties to NGC." Members also toured the "First Ladies Garden" at Harding University - the dream and hard work of Liz Howell, past AFGC President.

President Susy Andregio reports that "New Mexico Garden Clubs has started out the summer busy! We have dedicat-

ed two Blue Star Memorial Markers and a butterfly garden. We have plans for another Blue Star Memorial dedication this summer and a fourth in October. We have been busy preparing for Environmental School 4, which will be held at NM Tech University, in Socorro, NM. Several NM Tech Environmental Science Dept. professors are volunteering their time to teach us! We will have a week long Youth Sunflower Camp, which celebrates its 10th year of promoting gardening and the environment to youth. Many members will host and attend garden tours around the state to enjoy the beauty and diversity of New Mexico and the landscapes that thrive here! We continue to plant many seeds for our future!"

Texas Garden Clubs President Carol Moore continues to promote education. TGC continued to sponsor all four NGC Schools and gave four college scholarships totaling \$7500.00. Members at the 88th Fall Convention in October will have a unique opportunity. While El Paso has long been known for its exciting Wild West history and its two-culture community, visitors now are discovering the renovated University of Texas at El Paso campus with exotic architecture straight out of the ancient Himalayas. Thanks to a hundred-year-old connection to the tiny country of Bhutan, the University features the only Bhutanese architecture in the Western Hemisphere; the dazzling centerpiece is a hand-carved gilt and painted Buddhist temple, a gift from the Bhutanese government. The campus also offers several examples of wise water usage.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Darlene Skari, Director

<https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/>

As director, I have visited two state conventions this year: Kansas and Montana. The variety of ways that the states function illustrates the ways garden clubs adapt to their area and membership while still maintaining the connection to NGC. They also promote the goals of the national group through their choice of activities they are able to do. The states in RMR have a limited membership, so they tend to view the many specific suggested activities as opportunities rather than requirements.



The Montana convention was held in mid-June and featured a tour of four local gardens. Since Missoula, where the convention was held, is known as the Garden City, this was a treat for the members. Robin and Greg Pokorski were

guest speakers. The information they shared was just the sort of thing active members need to hear about maintaining and growing their organization.

North Dakota members held their convention mid-June and elected Les Westgard to fill out the term of President Angie Mayes who moved out of state. With the Region meeting next year and a National Fall Board on the schedule later, the members are busy reorganizing and finding officers for 2017.

Both Kansas and Nebraska had spring conventions. Sandy Robinson visited the Nebraska convention which was held in the area where Arbor Day was started. I found the Kansas members to be great members with enthusiasm, love of growing things and a very friendly attitude. Colorado is about to begin a new school. With the grant they receive from working with the yearly Denver garden show, they are able to support schools.

The Utah Federation now has a functioning, safe website. Use the link on the National Website to access it because it is a new address.

This year's Region meeting will be in Riverton, Wyoming on September 9-10. Going to Riverton will be a new event for many of us as it is a little out of the way of the big highways. These meetings provide a way to learn more about our neighbors. I observed at this year's convention how many times RMR members were visiting with other Region members. The friendships formed (especially in our large-in-area Region) are invaluable.

With the help of an accountant who is an officer of the Region, we are proceeding to acquire our IRS status as a charity with a 501(c)3. Like the other seven Regions, most of our members feel what they get out of Region membership promotes their state clubs, and encourages support for and understanding of NGC. Also of concern are decisions made by a small group without broad input from the larger membership. The culture and growing conditions in this large country vary greatly. Regions help to consolidate our national center.

Green Thumb -- Common condition suffered by gardeners in which the skin of the thumb develops a greenish hue as the result of handling large amounts of currency at nurseries.

from A Gardener's Dictionary

PACIFIC

<http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org>

Kristie Livreri, Director

We just want to garden. We just want to meet with our little friends and teach them about this beautiful earth. And wouldn't we all want to eat a BLT with homegrown tomatoes? But adult problems just keep getting in the way. These adult problems are necessary for our growth, and the way we handle these adult problems sets the example for those that follow. The trail we blaze today must be clear cut and easy to follow.



As Director, I have traveled around our Region visiting the eight states of Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska and Hawaii. I found the common thread binding us together as a Region of Garden Clubs is the love of the world around us. We care for our land and so we want to share with others what we know. We want to show off what we have learned and help others. When visiting California last winter, Ruth was so proud to take us on a tour of San Pedro, where she had been born and raised. She pointed out lovely landmarks, and we learned from her. Don't all of us share that desire to bring friends to our hometown and show off a little? Without the opportunity to visit the states, I would never have met Ruth and shared her stories of San Pedro. If given the opportunity, we must meet together and share with one another.

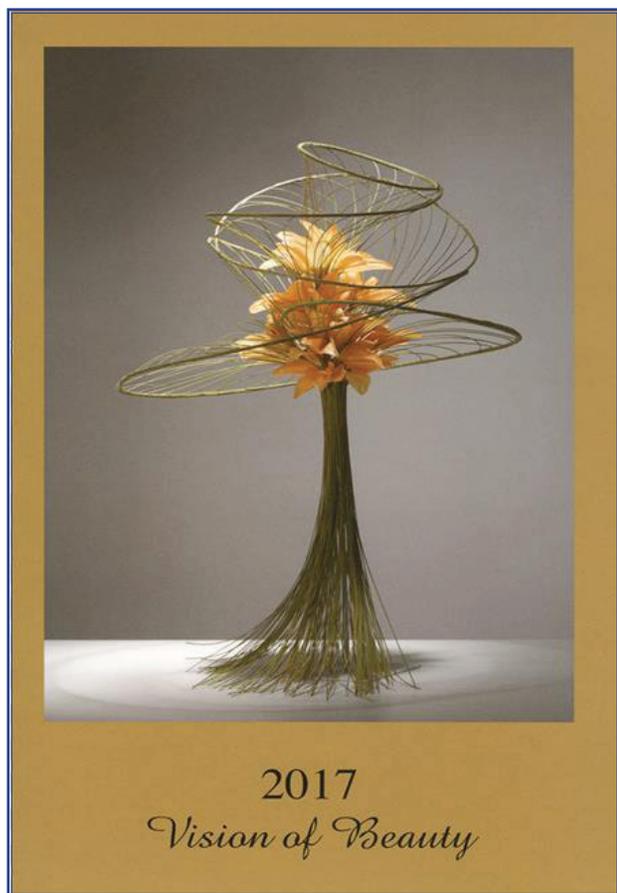
As a State President, when returning from a convention, make a display of the things you saw. Return with materials to hand out to the members attending to take to their club members. Ask your Program Chairman to include Region and National objectives and goals when planning programs or workshops for your state meetings. Then the time and the money spent for attendance to these conventions is well spent.

Meeting with gardeners from other states motivates and inspires us to try harder and be better. Too bad we can't bottle and sell as a fundraiser the enthusiasm you come away with after meeting with those who have the same problems and have shared solutions.

The Pacific Region is strong because we have to work at it. Some of us come from so far to be together. Our climates and terrains are very different. Our people may be different, but we do have that common thread weaving its way reminding us that we are caretakers, builders, and nurturers. We want to build up, not tear down. We want to move forward with enthusiasm and confidence in one another.

With the possible change in the structure of NGC, regarding the eight regions, it is our hope that we will continue to meet, discuss, laugh, and maybe to cry a little. We need to learn from one another and to share what we learn with the vast majority of those who will never be able to attend a convention. In this, perhaps we will touch the life of that certain someone who wants to join us and become an intricate part of the Region and NGC.

In the meantime, I think I shall just go eat a BLT with my grandchildren and talk about butterflies, hummingbirds, or frogs.



Find Us On Pinterest and Facebook under
National Garden Clubs Inc.

Website: www.gardenclub.org

Submissions for KIT are due October 1, 2016

Phyllis White, KIT Editor, gardens@bresnan.net
Jan Sillik, Assistant Editor, gluegunjan@aol.com

IN MEMORIAM

It is with a heavy heart that we must pass along the information of the death of **Carol Klingberg**. Carol passed away on May 9, 2016. Carol was an Emeritus Flower Show Judge, past Editor of the *Keeping in Touch*, served on many other board positions and currently is a member of the Golden Circle Committee.

Notes of condolence may be sent to her son, Jeff Klingberg, 4114 Thornton Road NE, Olympia, WA 98513-9302.

It is with a heavy heart that we must pass along the information of the death of **Ann Sampson**. Ann passed away on June 3, 2016. Ann Sampson served NCSGC as President of The West Virginia Garden Club from 1991-1993 and Chairman of the Fall NCSGC meeting in 1994 at the Greenbrier. She was also a member of the Nominating and Grants Committees and an Environmental Studies School Accrediting Chairman.

She served SAR as Recording Secretary, Alternate Director, *Keynotes* newsletter editor, Chairman of Legislative, Credentials, Unified Regional Project, and Grants Committees and Environmental Studies Advisor.

Notes of condolence may be sent to her son, Clay Sampson at 41 Hunton Dr. Fredericksburg, VA 22405.

Sadly, we pass along the news that **Martha Ann Mengel** passed away on June 16, 2016 of complications of Alzheimer's. She passed away in Franklinton, NC, where they moved to be near their daughter.

Martha served as President of The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. from 2007-2009 and also served on the NGC Board on the Strategic Planning Committee. She was very active on the state level and in her local clubs. She was a lovely lady and loved the garden club and its work.

Condolences may be sent to Martha's husband, Larry Mengel, 1711 Creekview Drive, Franklinton, NC 27525.

It is with a heavy heart that we must pass along the information that **Elaine DiPietro** passed away on June 17, 2016. Elaine served as President of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. from 2009-2011. She was currently serving on the NGC board as National Garden Week Chairman. Elaine was a Master Flower Show Judge and a Landscape Design Master Consultant. Online condolences at www.howefuneralhome.com.

Once again we pass along sad news of the death of **John Langan, husband of Adrienne Langan**. John was a great guy who attended state and national conferences. John Langan passed away on July 8, 2016. Adrienne Langan is a former president of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State and a member of the GCNJ Board once they retired to New Jersey. She currently serves on the NGC Board of Directors as Natural Disasters Grants Chairman and has served in many other positions over the years.

Please send cards and condolence wishes to Adrienne Langan, 27 Strawberry Lane, Lakewood, NJ 08701, langana@aol.com.