



Keeping In Touch

AUGUST 2017



Nancy L. Hargroves
2017-2019 NGC President

The beginning of a new administration for a state or individual garden club usually means making plans. I hope your club will take advantage of the following options that National Garden Clubs is providing to help with your club projects:

- **Grants from NGC for project funds** - This is a new NGC grant program, **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grants, that provides financial support for new or existing projects of NGC member clubs in their respective communities. Individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. may apply for funds up to \$1,000 for the direct expenses of projects. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2017. Recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by January 31, 2018. Projects must be completed by May 2019. Final reports are due within two months after the completion of the project or by July 1, 2019. The application, guidelines and more information are on the NGC website: <http://gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-community-project-grants.aspx>
- **Grants from Espoma for Organic Gardening Products** – Twenty (20) garden clubs will be awarded grants of up to \$250 of organic plant foods and potting soils. Go to the Espoma website to fill out the application form: <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/> There is no deadline. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first serve basis.
- **Grants from AMES for garden tools** – AMES will grant tools up for approved state or club landscaping projects/programs. The total amount available for all grants is \$5,000. Clubs can apply for portions of the \$5,000, as this amount is available to share. The application and guidelines will be on the NGC website in August: <http://gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools.aspx>
- **New Book for Youth** – The Saved Seed is the second children's book developed by National Garden Clubs. It is a beautifully illustrated book that takes children on the amazing journey of how a seed, extracted and saved from a Halloween pumpkin, grows into another pumpkin. The engaging narrative gives young readers a glimpse at how seeds that produce the fruits and vegetables they enjoy originate from plants in nature—not in commercial packaging found in catalogs and retail stores. The Saved Seed provides a wonderful introduction to gardening, written to instill the love and appreciation for the life cycle of plants, as well as how children can experience a sense of wonder and delight in growing their own plants from seeds.



www.gardenclub.org

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Even if your club does not have a youth project, your club can donate this book to local public or school libraries. Place a label inside the cover with your garden club's name as the donor! The book is available for purchase from the NGC website: <http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/>

Please take advantage of these opportunities to help your club with its projects. Not only are garden club projects a vital part of communities across the country, but they also give your club visibility. I truly believe that the service that our garden clubs give to their communities assures our future.



— Nancy

President's Travel Schedule

August 25-26	Rocky Mountain Region, Jamestown, ND
September 13-15	NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
September 26-27	New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Bridgewater, NH
October 5	Central Region Meeting, Wisconsin Dells, WI
October 6-7	Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Tri-Refresher, Wisconsin Dells, WI
October 15-20	NGC Trip to Hudson River Valley

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Submissions for KIT are due October 1, 2017

2017-2019 PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

PLANT AMERICA Community Grants Project

This is what garden club members do best...**PLANT AMERICA**! The 2017-2019 President's Project, **PLANT AMERICA** Community Grants Project offers garden clubs the opportunity to receive monetary help to fund a wide range of projects.

Is your club planning a project for the 2017-2019 term that may require some extra funding? Does your club have a continuing project? Perhaps it is time to enlarge the project or partner with another community organization and share expenses.

Creativity abounds when gardeners forge ahead with a plan. Use this opportunity to bring your garden club plans to fruition. Member clubs across the United States and beyond work together to enhance public areas with containers overflowing with colorful blooms; to honor Veterans with Blue Star landscaping and projects; to teach children and adults the joys of growing and harvesting vegetables; to create pride through local city and county projects; to encourage appreciation of natural beauty; to always share information and to help facilitate club service.

With these contributions of time and service in mind, National Garden Club President Nancy Hargroves has made it one of her goals to have resources available to member clubs, small or large, to help implement community-wide projects that set NGC members apart from other gardening organizations.

The application is simple, and the timing is perfect for clubs to plan a project for the beginning of this administration's two-year term. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2017. Monies will be awarded by January 31, 2018. The project is to be completed by May 2019 with a final report due July 1, 2019. Complete details are available on the NGC website.

Consider applying for a **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grant. Visit National Garden Clubs website www.gardenclub.org and learn more about applying.

- Betty Corkendorfer, Chairman

WHAT'S NEW IN DESIGN IN THE 2017 HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOWS?

Some design types have been deleted and other new types have taken their place. Questions have been asked about the deleted designs: "Can we still do them?" You may, but they need to be called CREATIVE DESIGNS, not a specific design type. So be careful not to put them into your schedules as a design type.

Some of the important changes that you will find are:

- **Petite Designs:** A term used for all designs ranging from 3" to 12". The schedule determines the size. The terms "small" and "miniature" have been removed. All Designs of this size are now Petite. The schedule writer has the freedom to determine the size of the design.
- **Exhibition Tables:** No longer are they divided into Type 1 and Type 2. The new definition requires some plant material to be used. Again, the schedule writer has the choice of requiring a complete design, but if it isn't written in the schedule, then it isn't required.
- All physical embellishments of fresh plant material are permitted EXCEPT: painting, flocking, glittering or dyeing.
- Design types have been divided into two categories. The first section should be used by every designer, but we suggest the more advanced designs be done by advanced designers, Design Study Groups, Judges Councils or Multiple Club, District or State Flower Shows.

The Handbook contains new staging verbiage (p.35-36). Designers are now free to incorporate any staging properties. That includes pedestals, frames, staging panels (p.36), etc. The schedule determines any limitations.

The new Design types include:

Cascade Design - A design with an emphasis on a downward rhythmic movement. p.73

1. The downward lines may be curved, straight, zig-zag, interrupted, or may be a combination.
2. The design is supported by a container or other device.
3. A minimum of components may extend upward.

Featured Plant Material Design - A design with an emphasis on one plant species. p. 74

1. Any part/s of the plant may be used.
2. Other components are subordinate and may be used to enhance the featured plant material.
3. The focus is on the chosen species.
4. The schedule may specify the Design Style and/or plant material to be used.

Challenge Class - A design where the Flower Show Committee provides identical components to exhibitors. Schedule states what Exhibitor provides. Not all materials must be used. Completed designs cannot be eligible for Designer's Choice Award.

Grouped Mass Design - A Mass Design of only plant material with radial placement. p. 78

1. Like material is grouped and placed next to other different grouped like material.
2. Additional material may be included, but the proportion of groupings must dominate the design.
3. Plant material emanates from one (1) point of emergence.

Low-Profile Design - A three-dimensional design incorporating three (3) or more design techniques. p. 78

1. Completed design must be at least four (4) times long and/or wide as it is high.
2. Design to be viewed and judged from above.

Also included is a new Division called "Botanical Arts." This Division has a large section called Botanical Designs. Included are several new Design types:

Bonded Designs:

1. Collage: An abstract design on a background panel/s. No longer restricted to two (2) dimensions. There may be depth on the panel.
2. Plaque: A design organized in a naturalistic manner. No longer restricted to two (2) dimensions. There may be depth on the panel.

Hanging Designs: Including wreaths, swags, garlands, mobiles

Pot-et-fleur

Topiary

And a very unusual design: **Exploration - Freedom of Style**. Please read the Handbook for Flower Shows p. 94 for more information.

- Barbara May, Design Instructors Chairman

SCHOOL CHANGES

All who are involved (including consultants, students, state, regional and national schools chairmen) with NGC's Schools need to know that the NGC board of directors approved the following changes at the board meeting in Richmond, Virginia on May 18, 2017:

That all educational schools names be consistent by only having a subject name before "schools." Environmental Studies Schools are now Environmental Schools. Gardening Study Schools are now Gardening Schools. There is no change to the names of Landscape Design Schools or Flower Show Schools.

The \$5.00 registration fees for all (Environmental, Flower Show, Gardening and Landscape Design) school courses, symposia, refreshers and multiple refreshers are eliminated as of July 1, 2017.

Please contact the appropriate NGC School Chairman with any questions you have about these changes.

- Greg Pokorski, Landscape Design Schools Chairman, Gardening Schools Advisor

SUCCULENTS IN A CONTAINER, WALL ART FOR YOUR GARDEN

Picture a lovely frame filled with succulents that can be hung on a wall, gate or garage — wherever you want it to be. We start with the frame. The one I created is 3' x 2' (pictured). The lumber comes 8' long by 2 1/4" wide by 3/4". Cut the lumber to size, 3' on each side with 2' on top and bottom. Drill a hole on each corner to fasten the corners together with one 2" screw. You should have a rectangular box. Next measure and cut a length of wood to place in the middle of your frame to give it some strength. Nail or staple the middle support bar to the frame. On the outside of one edge of the frame, measure and drill holes for the two hanger screws. Paint your frame and wait a day.

Buy 1" chicken wire and hardware cloth, usually found in rolls in the big box stores. Cut chicken wire to cover one side of the frame. Use staples along the edge of the frame to attach the wire. This is the side you will use to plant the succulents. Turn frame over and staple hardware cloth to the frame. I drill and screw the wires securely to the edges.

You're ready to plant! You'll need succulents of assorted sizes, sphagnum moss, potting soil and wire cutters.



Choose succulents that grow in your area, or more exotic ones that cannot take freezing temperatures. Cut the chicken wire to create a space for the roots or root stem. The moss and soil should be placed around each individual plant, packing tightly. The cut wires can be turned back into the area of planting to hold the succulents in place. Use a variety of large and small types of succulents. Step back and look at your work of ART. Lay your frame flat on a level surface, where it will get sun and shade for several weeks. You must be patient. Check the frame daily, keep the plants moist with a light spray from a hose, and do not stand it up until the plants have started growing! Overwinter in an insulated garage or greenhouse.

- Mary Ann Moreno, Container Gardening Chairman

THE ENVIRONMENT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In the new administration, NGC's Environmental Concerns Committee will be highlighting "Innovations in Conservation." Please contact the appropriate person listed below, and let us know when you hear of creative solutions to our environmental problems. They can be large or small—for the whole society or the home gardener. We would like to share as many of these as possible in The National Gardener or Keeping in Touch. Thank you very much.

AIR QUALITY - Mary Jacobs, mary_gardens@att.net

LAND CONSERVATION - Marian McNabb, gwmnm@iowatelecom.net

WATER QUALITY, PROTECTION

AND CONSERVATION - Jacqueline Connell, ctgdns1113@gmail.com

- Jacqueline Connell, ECC Coordinator

A PERFECT DAY IN MY WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

I slowly opened up the top of the bird house and peeked in – it's on hinges for viewing and ease of cleaning – and there was only one left. I noticed that its three siblings were racing through the sky overhead. I knew it was them by the way they were dive-bombing me – letting me know that I shouldn't be bothering their slower-to-leave brother or sister.



These tiny tree swallows migrate all of the way from Mexico, or further south, to Alaska each year to raise their young. We have at least one pair that graces us every year with their presence in our nesting boxes – we have two this

year! Not only are they fun to watch with their amazing aerial acrobatics – but they keep our property free of mosquitoes – we are so fortunate to have them.

A few years ago, one of the young wouldn't leave the nest and perished. I didn't want that to happen again. I decided to assist just a little bit – I left the top of the house open so he could more easily hear and see his siblings, and I decided to sit on the deck a ways back from its house and watch. I've lived in my house for 36 years – have always had a house in the same spot for the swallows – and have never been there to see the young leave the nest. Today might be the day!

I don't sit very often when I'm outside. I tell myself I should do more of it. It was a beautiful day. Sunny with a light breeze – temperature about 75. Beautiful light wisps of clouds moving ever so slowly. I had just put out some food for the ducks – they most always wait for me to leave before venturing over to eat. But not today – they got tired of waiting since I was "sitting"! One mallard hen was the first to come waddling over – and the rest followed. I heard myself quietly chuckling – as ducks do, they would put their heads down and run at the others to chase them away from their food, only for them to quickly return again and continue feeding. They just seem to go through the bullying motions, not really meaning anything by it.

A bee came and lit on the arm of my chair. Before I started gardening for wildlife I probably would have shooed him away. But, this day I was blessed by his presence and able to just sit and watch him groom.

I saw a movement and, sure enough, there was the last swallow leaving the nest. He flew away with a purpose. I watched him for another few minutes and then he was gone – I felt an extreme sense of satisfaction that I was honored with seeing this beginning of a new life of a fellow creature.

If I didn't garden for wildlife, and welcome critters of all kinds into my yard, I would have missed out on this wonderful happening. It was indeed a perfect day!

- Becky Hassebrook, Wildlife Gardening Chairman



President Nancy Hargroves beside the **PLANT AMERICA** banner announcing the NGC Community Grants Project and the grant partnership with Espoma Organic Plant Foods and Potting Soils. Find the details on the NGC website.

photo by Poss Tarpley

"CALLING ALL MIDWIVES!"

The anticipation of new life is an exhilarating and sometimes frightening, sometimes confusing challenge, but always a wondrous event. We dream that our little fledglings will grow to be strong members of the community. Aspiring to be steeped in love of "Mother Earth." Willing to sacrifice to conserve and protect our earth and all who inhabit it, just as we have done and continue to do. It is necessary to impart environmental wisdom and the importance of leaving a smaller, gentler footprint. OH! Did you think I was talking about childbirth? No, I'm referring to "clubbirth!"

National Garden Clubs' membership has declined from 171,214 in 2014 to 166,447 in 2015. Local clubs in all 50 states and the National Capital Area Garden Clubs have declined in membership as well, and states have had clubs collapse and die. The "Why" is not as important as the "What are we going to about it?"

We usually grow our membership from within our club, but have you ever contemplated growing membership from outside your club by birthing a new club? Maybe your club just can't accommodate one more member into your ranks. You have a ceiling on membership due to meeting space, or perhaps the potential member does not meet all of your club's membership requirements. Instead of turning potential members away, consider birthing a new club. Your club may think that this will be too much work or the process may make club members uncomfortable. Bryant McGill, a Wall Street Journal and USA Today bestselling author, speaker, and activist in the fields of human potential and human rights, states, "Whatever makes you uncomfortable is your greatest opportunity for growth." Growth is seldom, if ever, achieved by inertia...by doing nothing. Growth is the result of forces working together. Be a force for good! Sustain growth by developing new clubs, which is one of the pathways toward our future. Since you already have contact with potential members, convert potentials into reality. For those who can't give birth, have you thought of adopting a non-federated club and converting them to an NGC club?

National Garden Clubs has free materials to help you establish new clubs. The NGC Membership Committee is here to assist you.

- Donna Rouch, Membership Chairman

"LEND A HAND, CARE FOR THE LAND!"

Khushi Patel, a student from Germantown, Tennessee, is the 2017 National Garden Clubs 5th grade winner and 2nd-time Grand Prize Winner of the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Last year and this year, Khushi's posters were sponsored by the Suburban Garden Club of Germantown, Tennessee. The Suburban Garden Club is one of Tennessee's oldest and most active clubs, and they show their dedication to Tennessee's youth by sponsoring children's artwork every year. For last year's contest, Khushi chose to illustrate Smokey Bear's slogan: "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires." For the 2017 contest, Khushi chose to illustrate Woodsy Owl's slogan: "Lend A Hand, Care for the Land!" Khushi was honored by National Garden Clubs and the U.S. Forest Service at a ceremony and reception at the U.S. Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. on June 15th. Following the reception, Khushi and her family were received on Capitol Hill by Tennessee Representative Marsha Blackburn and Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander, who is also the Commissioner of Health, Education, and Welfare. We wish Khushi every success in her future endeavors, which will likely include art!



The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest is open to students across the country in 1st through 5th grades. Posters can illustrate either Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl's slogans and must be sponsored by a local garden club that is affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. Posters must be submitted to each state's poster con-

test chairman before January 19th, 2018. Posters are judged for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message.

- Jennifer Moreno, NGC Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman

NEWS FROM THE REGION DIRECTORS

NEW ENGLAND

Susan Hinkel, Director

<http://www.ngcner.org>



As the 2017-2019 Director of the New England Garden Clubs (NEGC), I am delighted to share some of my ideas and plans. My theme is a reflection of President Nancy Hargroves' theme. It is NEGC Plants for Everyone! My idea is to encourage not only the planting of flora, but also to plant new ideas in members' heads. As of this writing, our region is the only region which has not received its 501(c)3, and we're waiting patiently for its arrival. In expectation of this recognition, we are forging ahead while keeping the wonderful spirit, friendships, programs, and ideas that NER brought to each of us in the past.

Because of our new status, part of my planning revolves around helping each state understand our changing Bylaws and the functioning of our region as separated from NGC. I hope to share my questions and thoughts with the other seven directors across the country to solidify our agendas and our friendships.

Our region hopes to start a regional scholarship and will vote on its approval at our annual meeting this fall. This idea was started with our former director, and I plan to bring it to fruition during my term. This will bring enhanced recognition of the NEGC in New England, and, hopefully, interest some qualified candidates.

As my term unfolds I hope to maintain the active interest in pollinators that was introduced in the past. In addition we need to encourage our youth to "get their hands dirty!" They are the key to our future, and we're in a place to plant those ideas in their heads.

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

CENTRAL ATLANTIC

<http://www.ngccar.org>

Regina Brown, Director



Greetings from the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc. It is a great honor to represent Delaware, Maryland, National Capital Area (includes the District of Columbia; Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges; and Virginia Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William), New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania as their Region Director on the Executive Committee of National Garden Clubs, Inc. The installation ceremony in Richmond, Virginia May 20 was an occasion of wondrous pride to be placed in such an awesome position.

NGC President Nancy Hargroves has requested that the theme of **PLANT AMERICA** be utilized throughout the member states and regions. Because it is exceedingly important to seek and share the knowledge and experience to successfully accomplish this objective, the CAR-SGC theme for 2017-19 is "Plant America – Knowledge is Key to Success". To that end, a committee has been appointed to design a program that will reward our members who enroll in, and receive a passing grade from, NGC Schools or other approved formal education courses in the environment, landscape design, gardening, agriculture, horticulture, flower shows, etc. Another goal of the program would be to require that the members, who receive such Region rewards, return to their garden clubs and communities and share their new-found knowledge by leading workshops related to their education.

The plan is to introduce the Plant America Rewards Program at the 2017 working, mini-Conference of CAR-SGC in October 2017 to be held in Annapolis, MD, which will be open only to Officers and Committee Chairmen. At this time, we will review all of our governing and administrative documents; i.e., Bylaws, Standing Rules, Conference Manual, and Mission Statement — a mini-Conference. Each attendee will be encouraged to share a vision of the future of CAR-SGC as we support the mission and goals of NGC.

Since May 20, I have attended state meetings in Ohio, New Jersey, National Capital Area, and Delaware, and also the rededication of the Friendship Garden at the

U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., which is supported in part by National Capital Area. At a workshop to discuss new and old ideas to attract and maintain members at the National Capital Area state meeting, the leader said, "If you do not like the people in your garden club, you will not stay." As I pondered this statement, an aha! moment flickered and flamed into the understanding of why I belong to a garden club. It's as simple as liking the people and enjoying the camaraderie that develops in a group who espouse the same path toward their destination. Happy journey to all!

SOUTH ATLANTIC

JUDY BARNES, Director

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



It is exciting for me to embark on my journey as your South Atlantic Region Director. As many of you know being outside is one of my favorite things to do. Whether it is gardening, hiking, or just sitting and looking at the beauty of a green tree against the deep blue sky, being outside is one of the joys of my life. It is not possible for all of us to be actively

involved with the outside world. But we can all be aware of our world and do our best to Protect, Preserve, and Enjoy it! Thus, my theme "The Beauty of Nature: Protect, Preserve, Enjoy" reflects my deep belief that each of us has a responsibility to make sure that our children, and their children have this beauty in their future.

My Director's project reflects the theme I have chosen. Think of ways your club can contribute to the beauty of our land from picking up litter to donating money and/or time to our state lands. An award of \$100 will be presented to a club in 2018 and one in 2019 whose activity best reflects "Protect, Preserve, Enjoy."

We are happy to announce that the South Atlantic Region was able to comply with all NGC requirements that we stand alone and no longer come under their umbrella. At the 2017 Convention, the membership approved new Standing Rules, and the treasurer was able to remove all funds from the NGC Federal EIN number before May 31, 2017. New accounts were

quickly opened for SAR using our own EIN number. SAR is now operating as a 501(c)3 organization. Many thanks go to June Ashworth for all the work she put in on this time-consuming and complicated endeavor.

DEEP SOUTH

Ann McCormick, Director

<http://dsregion.org>



As Director of the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., I've chosen as my theme: "Plant America, Southern Style." The states that comprise the DSGC, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, are lands of great geologic diversity, from deltas to mountains, from swamps and bayous to plateaus, from prairies to wet-

lands. With such diversity we are able to grow a tremendous variety of plants. With climates that range from tropical, and subtropical to highlands, we generally have 50 inches of rainfall or more per year, providing favorable conditions for growing. Unfortunately, we must deal with many exotic, invasive species that like our climate. Eradicating or controlling plants such as Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), Kudzu (*Pueraria*) and hundreds of others is a monumental task. (Kudzu is not an invasive plant in its native Japan or China due to natural controls.)

One of my projects is to emphasize the selection and planting of native plants. Native plants have adapted to our region and help sustain our wildlife far more effectively than undesirable non-natives. By planting just a few native plants, we can provide habitat for wildlife and make a difference. We have seen the difference that planting Milkweed (*Asclepias*) has had on the population of the Monarch butterfly. We can make a difference in other species of insects and wildlife as well. As garden club members I would like to see us advocate the use of native plants in our landscapes.

My other project for 2017-2019 is to continue the planting of community gardens. This has been a gratifying success. Seeing children involved in growing edible plants is so rewarding. Seeing productive community gardens where there were once vacant lots is such a simple solution to increase the fresh vegetables that

many now consume. There are community gardens at churches, retirement homes, schools and other public places that provide a learning opportunity and therapy. It's time well spent for all involved. I would like to see this great movement to provide fresh produce continue, so I'm asking our garden club members to support community gardens.

Although it is not one of my projects, I want us to always be aware of the times when we need to help those who have to deal with much destruction due to natural disasters. We in the South certainly see our share of tornadoes, straight line winds, hurricanes, floods and fires. We thank you all who have helped us during those difficult times and we pledge our help when you are in need. That's what garden clubs do.

I'm looking forward to the next two years as I continue to grow, grow in garden club friendships, grow in gardening knowledge and perhaps, even find a little time to grow plants in my garden.

CENTRAL

Fran Stueck, Director

<http://ngccentralregion.org>



I grew up on a farm with a small town population of 350. Married a farmer, moved only 10 miles from home. Raised three sons.

I was introduced to gardening with my mom at a young age, helping her plant marigolds in the garden to keep the bugs away with the strong odor. I

was in charge of the BIG vegetable garden in the summer when my mom and dad worked at the Green Giant Canning Factory 10 miles away, picking the produce when it was ready with my older brother's help. I would sit under the shade of a maple tree in the front lawn pitting cherries, podding peas, snapping green beans, plus other vegetables getting ready for mom to can when she came home. I picked and froze strawberries and raspberries. I was a 4-H member at ages 10-18 using my gardening as a project.

I've been a member of garden club for 40 years and held every office several times. I'm a charter member of an evening club that I helped organize 14 years ago, and I'm a master gardener and master judge. I've served on state, regional and national boards, the Benton County Fair Board for 43 years, and was state president of Iowa 2001-2003.

My theme for 2017-2019 is "Partners in Planting America" with emphasis on partnering with other organizations, reaching out to master gardeners, garden clubs, church groups, youth organizations, boy and girl scouts, schools, 4-H, a neighbor, a friend, or maybe partnering with your spouse or friend doing landscaping, taking care of flower and vegetable beds, planting gardens for pollinators in public places or your own home. It is rewarding, and time goes much faster weeding, deadheading, planting with other gardeners, and acquiring a friendship. You may have potential new members at your fingertips.

My region project is working with youth to increase the number of youth clubs at the club, district, and state level planting wildflowers for the pollinators in a local garden or a public place. We need to educate the youth and get them involved at a young age. They are our future. The first through fourth graders are busy little bees helping in the perennial flower bed when our club is weeding, deadheading, planting and mulching. If they come out for recess and see us, we have a few little bees asking to help, and then we have a swarm of them. I will gift a monetary award to the state and local club that has the biggest increase in youth clubs.

Last year my husband and I planted 250 acres in prairie and wildflowers. This year the black-eyed susans, coreopsis, partridge peas, pink coneflowers and many varieties are blooming. The pheasant, rabbits, deer, quail, partridges, butterflies (monarch, painted lady, swallowtails and many more varieties) and bees (lots of bumblebees) are swarming when we drive through the prairie in the gator. We will give private tours to small groups.

Let's **PLANT AMERICA!**

SOUTH CENTRAL

Isabel Olsen, Director

<http://scrgardenclubs.org> (Coming in September)



South Central Region consists of four states Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Combined we have 472 garden clubs, 23 youth clubs and 12,325 wonderful members.

Thanks to the Virginia convention chairman, committee and members for hosting an enjoyable 88th NGC

Convention. Congratulations to Sherrie Eoff of Roger, Arkansas for receiving the SCR/NGC Member Award of Honor and Clara Bishop of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for receiving her 5 star pin for completing all the NGC schools. Well done ladies!

The baton has been passed and we have transitioned into a new term with new state presidents, officers, chairmen and theme. With unity of purpose in mind, I have adopted the same theme as National Garden Clubs for the 2017-2019 term of **PLANT AMERICA**. This theme is an excellent reminder of why we are proud to be garden club members. Our states have embraced the theme and incorporated it with their projects and goals. Along with the focus of community gardens and projects we are committed to retaining and increasing our membership. Alternate Director Shirley Tetreault will be the SCR Membership/Director's Project Chairman and assisting our states with suggestions and progressive ideas.

Our project "Beautifying Our Communities" will be more evident as we plant gardens in downtown areas, in parks, at medical facilities and various landmark locations. During the second year of the term, a garden club in the region will receive a high quality brass marker proudly posted where their garden is located. In addition, garden clubs in each of our states will receive monetary awards for their new garden projects. This is in addition to the Plant America Community Project Grant that our clubs can apply for. So as you can see there is much to get motivated and excited about!

We are currently re-designing our website to provide more information, easier accessibility and secure safeguards. Website Manager Kathy Cox has a great

vision and we hope to achieve our goal of attracting new membership. We anticipate the new website to be completed by fall. With an exciting term ahead of us with many things to look forward to, let's all enjoy gardening as we **PLANT AMERICA** together!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

JACKIE WATTS, Director

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



The Rocky Mountain Region Garden Clubs cover a very large area with almost 750,000 square miles. Our eight states are among the top 19 states with the most square miles. In spite of this large area, we enjoy very close friendships. These friendships are very apparent in our regional and national

meetings. At this past May's NGC meeting, you could hear us comparing notes on the weather, discussing what grows in our areas, gardens we had visited and just plain enjoying each other's friendships. These topics and activities are of great concern to our National Garden Clubs President Nancy Hargroves. These concerns are found in her program **PLANT AMERICA**.

We are all very aware of low membership in a number of our clubs. Some great ideas came up at the convention, such as getting college students and hospital employees interested in starting garden clubs. I think this could present some wonderful opportunities for garden clubs in the National Garden Clubs. We really need to think about these and other 'out-of-the-box' ideas for growing our memberships, including reaching out to youth through 4-H clubs, grade schools or scouting.

The 2017-2019 RMR Garden Club Project is for individuals or entire clubs to plant pollinator-friendly landscapes using native plants, take pictures and write an article giving the name of the plants, their origins, what pollinators they will attract and why they selected it. I would also like to know how they are going to share their plants/seeds with their friends and/or garden club members. I realize that native in one area will not be native in another. Please keep in mind plants that will flourish with little water, are disease resistant and most important – not invasive to your area.



"Spreading your Butterfly Wings to Fly: Sharing your Knowledge of Gardening." Over the next two years let's share our knowledge of gardening and plant our plants. The ones that make the birds sing and butterflies flit.

Working with a youth group is a wonderful way to share your knowledge of gardening while teaching children all about vegetable seeds. Carrots seeds come to mind, the way the tops pop out of the ground and eating that fresh carrot. Let the children plant an herb garden at school, and let them know the fresh herbs are being used in the food they eat at school. It makes them very proud!

Pacific Region Project: "Keeping it Simple"

All eight states plant native and pollinator plants for your States and Region,

Let the Pacific Region Chairman know —

Who... planted the plants...state, district, garden club, youth group;

What... was planted...flowers, shrubs, trees;

Where... the plants have been planted...park, church, Blue Star Marker.

Share what you know so others can grow.

The world gets a little greener and a little healthier every time.

Do it for the honeybees and the butterflies, and your garden club and watch it grow.

MEMBER SERVICES

Call 800-550-6007 to place an order

<http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/>

Many items are available for you and your club. Shop online for the 2018 Vision of Beauty calendar, the new youth book The Saved Seed, Handbook for Flower Shows 2017 edition, and

PLANT AMERICA magnets and buttons.

