



Keeping In Touch

FEBRUARY 2014



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

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The boxes of wrappings, ribbons, garland and ornaments are all stowed away for another year and we can now focus on the good things we have planned in 2014.

I would like to share this thought:

The future doesn't just happen. It is created. Our destiny is not in the stars but in ourselves. We may need to follow in the wake of those who have gone before, or we may need to take the initiative, but where we go is ultimately up to us. Making a World of Difference is our Choice.

I am excited as I read about many of the programs and projects of our garden clubs. They are continuing successful projects, building on the shoulders of others, and taking the initiative with new projects, perhaps partnering with other organizations.

While visiting the NER meeting, I heard of a remarkable project. In response to the horror of the Boston Marathon, a beautiful project blossomed. It encompassed partnerships between garden clubs, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Tower Hill Garden, nurserymen, master gardeners and community volunteers. The plan was to plant daffodil bulbs all along the marathon route to bloom at the 2014 run. They set up a website and Facebook page, produced weekly press releases and developed a video. The response was great, and the final planting was at the hospitals that treated the wounded. Find pictures and information at their Facebook page, enter 'Marathon Daffodils.' **Rubble into golden blossoms = MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.**

In the *South Carolina Gardener*, Gail Jeter, Conservation and Environmental Education Chairman, encourages homeowners to regulate their use of pesticides and fertilizers. Choose organic forms instead, since the runoff from our yards drains into the storm sewer which runs directly into our rivers. These efforts protect our farms, forests and green spaces as well as our waters. **South Carolina educating its members = MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.**

A club in Indiana has initiated a project to raise money to replace trees destroyed by floods and fires. They decorate a Christmas tree and auction it off. They partnered with a local garden center to purchase 30 five-foot live trees which were given to residents that had their landscaping destroyed. FEMA does not replace landscaping, so the club offers a tree. This club is educating their neighbors about the caring hearts and actions of garden clubs. They are also working with a Jr. garden club to construct a Butterfly Garden using recycled materials – teaching our "throw away" generation to think before they throw. **Educating our youth to make thoughtful choices = MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.**

Virginia Garden Clubs plan a "Plant Together Day" during National Garden Week (first full week of June). Clubs are encouraged to spruce up, clean up, restore, or plant an area in their community. Clubs might partner with other civic organizations, scouts, schools or community volunteers to beautify roadsides, schools, nursing facilities, libraries or other public places. Then let the local media know! Good works such as these attract new members. Blossom, the Membership Bee, would be so proud! **Virginia Clubs working in their communities = MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.**

Have you visited our newly revamped website gardenclub.org lately? We are so pleased with the results of this year-long project. We have used photos from our Flickr site – look for your picture; it may be there! You can register online for the 2014 Convention in Norman, Oklahoma April 30-May 3. NGC will be 85 years old, and we will celebrate all the ways we are **MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Join us!**

Linda

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT— WILDLIFE

Pollinators, Wildflowers, Endangered Species, Birds and Butterflies **Mary Jacobs, Chairman**

Are you inspired by the sound of a songbird or buzzing of a bee? Do you enjoy seeing the beautiful color of a butterfly fluttering in the garden? Do you have a pollinator-friendly landscape? After reading articles, do you become concerned about an endangered species becoming extinct? We need to ask questions. Before purchasing plants, shrubs or trees from a nursery, ask where these specimens are grown, and are they treated with any pesticides to preserve the longevity of the plant? Another concern is that the Monarch butterfly was not seen in some areas of the country last season. Are they in decline and why?

What you can do:

- Create a landscape project in your area and incorporate a "Bird Sanctuary."
- Erect a birdhouse, plant vines, flowers, a small tree, and shrubs which will provide shelter for our native friends.
- Remove debris from backyard, man-made or farm ponds which provide water for livestock and waterfowl.
- Provide an open area with bare earth in order for butterflies to get much needed minerals; place stones to have a platform for them to land on and bask in the sun.
- Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and urge them to include the unique value of untrammelled wilderness, and to emphasize the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and endangered species in their strategic planning.

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY, MAY 16

Mary Jacobs and Michelle Messinger

Endangered Species Day is an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the importance of protecting endangered species, and everyday actions they can take to help protect them. Entries for the "Saving Endangered Species Youth Art Contest" sponsored by the Endangered Species Coalition are due March 15. The overall winner will be recognized at a Congressional ceremony and reception in May of this year in Washington, DC. For more information, find an ES Day Toolkit online at endangeredspeciesday.org.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Terry Kroke, Chairman

Environmental Concerns and Conservation Committee

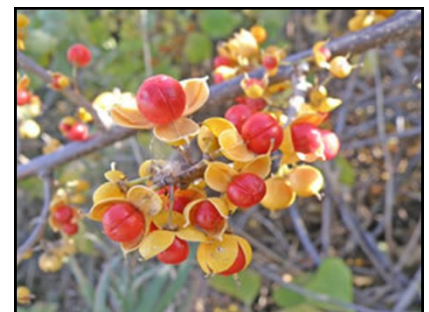
Is the winter wreath that brightened your front entrance looking a little bedraggled? Is it time to get rid of it? Wait! Before you toss it, check it over very carefully. If bittersweet is part of the design, you could be spreading an invasive plant. The native species, American bittersweet, is a wonderful vine that adds color and texture to fall and winter floral

designs and wreaths, but Oriental bittersweet is a potential forest killer. There has been at least one case of a reputable nursery unwittingly selling Oriental bittersweet labelled as American bittersweet.

The invasive form of bittersweet is similar to the native variety, but there are significant differences. American bittersweet is a compact vine that produces orange fruits and capsules at the end of a stem. Oriental bittersweet also produces orange fruits, but the capsules are yellow and scattered along the stem. The plant can take root wherever it touches the ground or if birds eat the fruits and spread the seeds; either method of propagation can produce 66 foot long vines that can smother trees. Infestations are difficult to eradicate because of the ease with which the non-native species grows and spreads. Simply cutting the vine and brushing the stump with herbicide does not always work; both ends of the plant must be treated. Oriental bittersweet out-competes the native species to the extent that American bittersweet may become extinct in some parts of the United States.



American bittersweet fruit capsules are orange



Oriental bittersweet fruit capsules are yellow

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Pat Haering, Membership Committee

Can you imagine, if every club in our NGC organization would add just one new member to every club? It would increase members in your state and NGC. We need your help in this challenge (only you, the members, can invite others) to join local Garden Clubs and help us increase Membership. We need to share with others how much we enjoy being a Garden Club member. Share what your Garden Clubs are doing in your town or city. Share the NGC mission statement, "to provide education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening,

floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility.” We are the largest volunteer group in the United States. We need to be proud of our organization and what our members accomplish in each of our Garden Clubs. Now back to the challenge to all the members: get busy and invite those new prospective members to your club. Let our National President Linda Nelson know we are **MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE** through growing membership. Are you willing to take the challenge? **Will your club just add one new member to your garden club?** It is up to you to take the challenge. *Let’s get busy and invite those new members.*

NGC BEEGAP (GARDENERS ADDING POLLINATORS)

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

Mason Bee Winter Calendar	
Get details at www.crownbees.com Sign up for FREE Bee-Mail for tips 	
SPRING BEE ACTIVITY	
January-April	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory stored cocoons • Buy more, as needed • Store in fridge, keep hydrated 	
March/April	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let ‘em slumber! • Set out cocoons when day temps are 50° -55°F (10° -13°C) 	
SUMMER BEE ACTIVITY	
January-July	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest and store cocoons in fridge • Keep hydrated 	
June/July	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let ‘em slumber! • Set out cocoons when day temps are 70° F(21°C) 	

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL NEWS

Dorothy Yard, FSS Committee Chairman

Since *The National Gardener* is available online as well as in hardcopy, FSS and Symposiums can no longer require a mailing label as proof of subscription. However, this does not change the importance of having every Flower Show Judge, Student Judge and other FS Chairmen read the articles in *TNG* relating to policy and note any changes in their Handbooks. It is strongly suggested, but not required, that all flower show personnel and judges elect to continue to subscribe to *TNG*.

In an effort to keep mailing costs within reason, remember that Flat Rate Priority Mailing Envelopes are available at the US Post Office for \$5.60. Built in tracking comes pre-paid. Exams and any other critical papers should be sent by this method. Anything that can be regenerated can be sent by

regular mail, usually for less than \$2.00. The originals of high, medium, and low students’ exams must be sent to the NGC Regional Accrediting Chairman. Only after the exams are returned to the school or symposium chair and the course accredited, can the exams be returned to all of the students.

State Accrediting Chairmen have been conscientious about sending copies of the *Accredited Flower Show Judges Extension Forms* to the NGC FSS Chairman. They may save postage by sending this information by email to dotyard@verizon.net. Always wait for the confirmation of receipt by return email.

To insure ample opportunity for study, students enrolled in NGC Flower Show Schools are to receive the outlines six weeks prior to the school dates. This material may be sent by email. The FSS Chairmen must be sure that all students without access to email receive the material by regular mail in a timely manner.

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

Consultants are reminded to be aware of your Consultant status. To maintain good standing, you must refresh your certificate by the end of the fifth calendar year following becoming a Consultant or receiving your last refresher credit. Consultants may refresh as often as once each calendar year. Upon completion of four refreshers, you become a Master Consultant. State Schools Chairmen should periodically review your records to be sure they are current, and periodically remind Consultants of their status and when they need to refresh and where they can refresh. We need State Presidents to help us by making sure that state school chairmanships (especially in states that have conducted or are conducting schools) remain staffed so that Consultant records are maintained and not lost.

As previously announced, effective January 1, 2014, **the requirement to collect *The National Gardener* labels** (proof of subscription) for all NGC school courses and refreshers is eliminated. This does not change the requirement to subscribe to and read *The National Gardener*, the official source of news about our school programs – it just simplifies the process for conducting schools and refreshers and for processing the associated paperwork.

Make a world of difference to your members, your clubs and your communities by planning schools and refresher events in 2014. Help educate about the subjects covered in our NGC Conservation Pledge.

2014 Tri-Refreshers are planned for West Palm Beach, FL, January 29-30; Panama, March 17-23; Glendale, CA, June 6 & 9; and Ireland June 17-26.

Club and State Presidents and State Schools Chairmen, please help spread schools news contained in *Keeping in Touch*, *The National Gardener* and *Newscapes* to NGC schools students and Consultants.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Jane R. Bersch, Landscape Design Schools Chairman

Planning Landscape Design Schools with all the knowledge obtained at these Courses is a perfect way to be *"Making A World of Difference"*, *Choices Matter*. Gardeners in Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Michigan, Montana, Virginia and West Virginia will have that knowledge when they complete their Courses scheduled this new year. State Presidents are urged to consider holding a School during their administration.

As of January 1, 2014, the submission of a current TNG label or a NGC Life Membership number is no longer necessary for those taking the Courses for credit towards becoming a Consultant or for a Consultant who is refreshing. However, *The National Gardener* is the official publication for NGC and students and Consultants are still required to have a subscription. The *Landscape Design* article in TNG is still required reading for all students and the tenth question (s) for all Courses is based on material in a recent article.

All of the Landscape Design Forms state to whom the State Landscape Design Schools Chairman is to send them. Please be sure they all receive a copy. Referencing LDS 18 and LDS 19, found both in the 2012 Landscape Design Schools Operations Guide and on the NGC web, will guide Chairmen through the procedures for a LD School or a Refresher.

If problems arise when using the web to obtain LDS forms, please advise this chairman at Janebersch@aol.com.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

Greg Pokorski, Gardening Study Schools Chairman

One of the joys of being a member of the NGC Board of Directors is the requirement and opportunity to travel to attend board meetings and conventions. That travel brings the opportunity to pursue gardening study by visiting botanic gardens and attending gardening-related programs and workshops all over the country. A highlight of our recent visit to St. Louis for the Fall Board Meeting was a tour of the must-see Missouri Botanical Garden whose mission is to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life. It is the oldest botanical garden in continuous existence in the United States and one of the few gardens to achieve National Historic Landmark status. Not only is it a place of great beauty, but also a place of research, conservation and learning. Plants are the basis of life and the work of Garden botanists and colleagues throughout the world contributes to conservation and sustainable use of plants. This trip, I particularly enjoyed the Chinese Garden, the Japanese Garden and the Center for Home Gardening and Demonstration Beds. If asked to join the board, say, "yes," and you will have many bonus education opportunities. Attend Gardening Study School (GSS) to learn more about botanical gardens (Course III) and specialized styles of gardening (Course IV). Another gardening-related highlight of Fall Board Meeting was the lunch pro-

gram by Dave Tylka on *Native Plants – They Matter to Birds and Bees; Do They Matter to Me?*

GSS has begun a significant review of its curriculum this term – looking to change courses or content of courses where that might be beneficial. Stay tuned.

Consultants Council Chairman Nancy Stark suggests that if your state does not have a Council newsletter, start first with articles about schools and council programs in your state publication and grow from there.

We get questions about how the new text, *Botany for Gardeners*, fits the program. Your GSS Committee views it as a good reference for all gardeners and for Gardening Study School students and Consultants. There are many regional differences in soil, climate, water availability, growing conditions and plant palette. We look to the instructors to bring in much of their own material on the subject to be covered and that will largely be specific to the geographic area where the school is being held. We view all of the reading materials listed for GSS as more recommended than required reading and as reference materials that complement each other and complement course materials provided by the instructors.

Let your GSS Committee know what questions you have about GSS and how we can assist you.

MEMBER SERVICES

Barbara Campbell, Chairman

Please choose to shop through our partners and National Garden Clubs will benefit. All partnership buttons are now UP on the Shopping Partners page of our web site.

Go to: gardenclub.org

Look under News and Events in the center of the home page, then click Shopping Partners

Click on your choice and follow the prompts

It's that EASY!

There is now a button on the shopping partners page of NGC for Amazon Smile. If you set up a Smile account benefiting NGC, we will receive a small percentage from every purchase you make. You can still use this if you have Amazon Prime as I do. Once you choose NGC as your charity, it will automatically contribute each and every time you shop by first clicking on smile.amazon.com or click from the NGC website. It is critical that you spell out the entire word 'incorporated' and not use the abbreviation when you register. Afterwards, Amazon will automatically highlight *national garden clubs incorporated* as your charity.

When shopping for seeds this season, go to **Patriot Seeds** on our web site. All their seeds are GMO Free! Please browse and shop our other partnerships: **Crown Bees Bee/GAP, Gardener's Supply, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Oasis Floral Products** and **flower magazine**. Encourage friends and family members to do the same and peruse our online member services catalog for many other sale items.

NEWS FROM REGIONAL DIRECTORS

New England Region Maria Nahom, Director

As I write this article New England is covered with snow from Connecticut to Maine, with more predicted, but our clubs are still busy with their activities and plans for 2014.

Under all the snow lie the 100,000 Daffodil bulbs that were planted in Boston along the marathon route. We are hoping that "Mother Nature" cooperates with timely emergence. The Nurserymen Association is on board to force 5,000 pots of Daffodils for the finish line. This will be a glorious site to greet the runners, who were greeted so tragically last year.

The Garden Club Federation of **Massachusetts** has also begun a collaborative effort called "Zoo New England", which plants food for animals at the Franklin Park Zoo.

Connecticut looks back on a very successful combined regional meeting and symposium and looks forward to the four NGC schools that are held each year, as well as their annual state flower show held each February. This year the show, titled "Backyard Paradise", will include Photography for the first time.

Rhode Island added a seventh Blue Star Marker in 2013. Their federation published a gardener's calendar featuring members' photos of public and private gardens. The proceeds from their sale will be used towards landscaping Habitat for Humanity homes. Rhode Island also continues their free "Education Day" workshops, open to all members.

New Hampshire participates in a national "Pajama Program," which supplies pajamas and books to needy children. This Federation is going all out in protection of bees. President Michelle Mensinger is a power point "Bee GAP" speaker to garden clubs and other organizations. In June, their state flower show "Out of This World" should be very interesting as it will be held in the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center.

Vermont is working on a complete up-date of their website, which will be easy for members to use. The 2014 Regional Meeting/Symposium will be held in beautiful Burlington.

Along with their on-going projects, including two new "Habitat for Humanity" landscapes, **Maine** is deep into the planning stage for the 2016 NGC Fall Board Meeting.

Plan to plant *Asclepias* plants this spring. The Monarch butterflies need them.

Central Atlantic Region Mary Warshauer, Director

What a spectacular Fall, and I can assure you that our Region has been very busy! The Central Atlantic Region states are highly energetic and determined to accomplish the goals that they have set for themselves, and they should be commended.

Congratulations to the **National Capital Area** for hosting an educational, informative, and fun conference. The varied programs, tour, and workshops ensured that there was something of interest for everyone. A huge thank you to Bette Lewis, Anne Bucher and the exceptional committee for their hard work and tremendous effort to make this conference a success. It was indeed a "Monumental Event." We were honored to have our National President Linda Nelson attend the conference in Bethesda. Our members had the opportunity to meet Linda and learn more about NGC projects and programs.

The symposium that followed the conference had well attended horticulture and design presentations.

Rally our Region- Restore, Replant, Refurbish applies to everything we, as garden clubs, represent. It has been over a year since Super Storm Sandy slammed into our region and devastated many towns along the eastern seaboard. Even though some communities have made significant steps forward, struggle still exists. Our continued support to help fellow communities or neighbors in need is how our garden clubs make a difference. The hard hit areas are grateful for all of the support and kindness they have received.

South Atlantic Region Martha Morgan, Director

When thinking about a theme for the South Atlantic Region for this administration, I wanted to have a subject that would complement NGC President Linda Nelson's theme, yet address the interests and goals I had in mind for SAR. I chose "A World of Opportunities-Be Involved" because I feel we have so many ways to be educated and to grow in our interests in gardening, conservation, the environment, and enhanced creativity through the Schools and Workshops offered through NGC. While checking out the websites of the states included in our Region, I was impressed by the various schools, symposiums, camps and workshops scheduled for the next few months.

The Garden Club of **Kentucky**, Inc. will finish the series of Landscape Design Schools with Course 4 in March in Bowling Green. Joanna Kirby is State President.

The Garden Club of **North Carolina**, Inc. will have a Judges' Council Flower Show "In the Company of Garden Sprites" in April. Jenene Smith is State President.

The Garden Club of **South Carolina**, Inc. plans Flower Show School, Course I in January, and a Youth Symposium in March. Judith Dill is State President.

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. will have Flower Show School, Course III in March and Landscape Design School Course III in April. The Flower Show, "Making a World of Difference—Be Involved", will be held during the South Atlantic Regional Convention in March in Roanoke. Marilyn Mason is State President.

West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. will sponsor Flower Show School Course IV in March and Landscape Design School III in May. They have posted on their website the information for an Environmental Studies School planned in Maryland and urged their members to participate. Patricia Arndt is State President.

I have served as Co-Chair with Jim Mullen for the LDS School in Bowling Green, and it has given me an insight as to the gratitude we owe all those who are willing to give of their time and energy to plan and facilitate these activities.

Our Clubs, Councils, and Districts offer wonderful programs, workshops, field trips, and many other opportunities for growth, and our SAR mascot, SAR-A the Bee, urges us to Be Involved!

Deep South Region **Gloria Blake, Director**

Alabama — Members have worked with Governor Bentley and his staff and had a very successful “Every Light A Prayer for Peace Tea” at the Governor’s Mansion, and “Every Light a Prayer For Peace Tree Lighting” at the State Capitol Building, honoring our military forces.

The State convention will be held in March at Lake Gunterville State Park. They will have the honor of having the NGC President, Linda Nelson, as their guest and speaker.

Florida — A Fall tour of the 12 Districts, covering 2700 miles, was an opportunity to hear about many amazing projects. The Coral Restoration Project was met by members with much interest and excitement. A check in the amount of \$8,500 was presented to the Coral Restoration Foundation.

Georgia — GCG members had three opportunities for education this fall; a Tri-refresher, Gardening Study School, and an Environmental School. Other courses in Gardening Study and Environmental Studies will continue in 2014.

On Feb. 27, 2014 in Savannah, Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, will lecture. This is the primary fundraiser for Historic Preservation and Restoration Grants.

Louisiana — A Blue Star Marker was dedicated in Metairie along Veterans Memorial Blvd. on Nov. 14, 2013 in partnership with the Civic Beautification Assn.

LA is looking forward to hosting the NGC Executive Council Meeting and Linda Nelson, NGC President, in January in New Orleans. The LGCF State Convention will be held March 27-28, 2014 in Baton Rouge with the DSRD as their guest.

Mississippi — Events to come: Flower Show Judges School in McComb, Jan. 14-16, 2014, the Winter Board meeting, Feb. 5, 2014, Ridgeland, with the DSRD as their guest, and the LA State Convention in Columbus, April 23-24, 2014.

A Landscape symposium was held at Mississippi State University and this was the 58th Symposium, which makes it the

longest running Symposium of its type in the United States.

Tennessee — District II Judges Council will present the NGC Flower Show Schools on the following dates: Course I, Mar. 24-26, 2014, Course II, Aug. 25-27, 2014, Course III, Mar. 23-25, 2015, Course IV, Aug. 24-26, 2015.

The annual State Convention, “Dream Gardens”, will be held on Mar. 31-Apr. 2, 2014, in Chattanooga.

Central Region **Gerry Ford, Director**

Winter came early in Central Region. Along with the early snow and cold came tornados, flooding and ice storms. Washington, IL was devastated when a tornado destroyed much of the town. There was a lot of flooding in northern Indiana. In the very cold of December, an ice storm caused the electricity to be out three or more days in Michigan.

At the Central Region meeting in October we voted to contribute to the Natural Disaster Fund—the summer weather had damaged areas in the South. The hat was passed and that donation was sent on to National. Now we need to *Care* for communities in our Region. Soon funds will be needed for replanting these damaged areas. What can you do to make a difference and help in the restoration of these areas? When we hear more of the plans to replant, the needs will be passed on to you.

Let’s hope most of the winter is behind us. We can enjoy these days looking through the garden catalogs and planning next summer’s garden.

South Central Region **Nancy C. Voyles, Director**

States in the SCR have seen an increase in membership. **New Mexico** has a new club in District I. It’s been reported that “Blossom,” the honeybee, has been attending meetings and energizing members on how to increase membership in several states. To encourage members to attend state meetings, New Mexico sponsored a drawing. The winner receives a complimentary stay at the convention. Registration, meals, hotel and roundtrip gasoline expenses, will be covered. One lucky member will be able to attend the meeting free!

Texas is expanding their membership by including members of Northern Mexico as Members-at-Large. President Sarah McReynolds is encouraging education and friendships at club meetings. Information and ideas to attract new members and revive established clubs is available.

Arkansas President, Liz Howell, is encouraging clubs to paint a picture of an organization that is bigger than their local clubs. Monthly newsletters are prepared and emailed to members. Members are kept updated on events without cost.

As an NGC Flower Show Judge, I was privileged to be one of the judges that went to Costa Rica in November and judged their magnificent show. The whole trip was exciting and educational. I highly recommend a tour sponsored by NGC.

Let me take this opportunity to invite all NGC members to the National Convention to be held in Norman, **Oklahoma**. See the details of dates and other information on the NGC website. The OK Garden Club members are anxious to welcome you, entertain you, and see that your visit to our Region is both enjoyable and informative.

Rocky Mountain Region Beverly Heidelberger, Director

New Year brings new CHOICES for us to improve ourselves, our yards, our home and our community. The members in the Rocky Mountain Region look forward to improving their life with the CHOICES they make concerning the Conservation Pledge. Whenever life gives us a natural disaster, humans have a chance to improve the conditions that were in place before the disaster. The RMR has started the RMR Natural Disaster Grant Fund for the Region. The fund is to help re-plant, or restore a public area by a State Garden Club or member garden club. To get more information about this fund go to the RMR website or contact Pat Westgard.

With the New Year, think about the different ways we can improve our CHOICES in our daily lives. What helps the wild-life in my yard? Am I buying things that pollute the air? Is what I do in my yard contaminating the water cycle? Is my soil staying where it belongs? Are my trees helping or hurting the environment? Then share with others and the community what you have learned.

Spring is on the way. RMR annual meetings will be starting in April at Kansas and Nebraska.

Pacific Region Elaine Gunderson, Director

Where are our Region's states and local clubs headed? This past six months it has been a joy to learn what Pacific Region states are doing "to make a difference" and to "Expand Horizons – A Conservation Rainbow" by "Planting Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship."

Washington – Members practice conservation efforts on a daily basis and are expanding beyond the common use of recycling bins. The State Project is "Put a New Twist on Recycling" which is taking used consumer items, looking at them with a fresh and creative eye, to see how they can be reused, repurposed and up cycled.

Arizona – At each meeting, Districts sponsor a program to address a facet of the NGC Conservation Pledge (Water, Land, Forests and Wildlife) with the Annual Meeting's focus on Air. AFGC Environmental Chairman is starting a new program targeting toxic waste.

California – In the spring CGC, Inc. hosts a Wildflower Conference. This educational conference features seven speakers/seminars covering conservation related topics and is open to the public. The State promotes a vast Awards program featuring eight awards totaling \$750 for conservation projects.

Oregon – With guidance of OSFGC President's Project, "Growing for the Future – Planting in Special Places", mem-

bers will protect and conserve natural resources by planting a "Butterfly Garden with a Rainbow of Color".

Nevada – Nevada's Fall Conference, "Let Us Make the Choice to Make our World Green", featured a Green Living consultant and Las Vegas newspaper writer who spoke on how to keep our air cleaner, solar energy for homes and use of energy-efficient cars.

Idaho – GCI, Inc. Conservation Project Theme is "We All Live Downstream" encouraging local garden clubs to educate its members about water choices through conservation and environmental programs, projects and activities. Labels with this logo were distributed to members to be placed in unique locations in order that the public becomes aware.

Alaska – is buzzing with their theme "Let's Keep Our World A-Buzzing!" Each of their four clubs will receive \$1,000 educational grants to assist in sponsoring NGC Schools of their choice in their area so every member can attend. The State has a committee to help each club select which school is right for them and to further assist in its organization. Bee knowledge is being promoted through club presentations.

Hawaii – NGC members are focused on land stewardship. As the pineapple industry fades away and local produce is no longer being farmed, the land is being purchased by developers. Hawaii's lone Mililani Garden Club members are writing letters of protest to these development actions.

Pacific Region Book of Recognition Award - Each PR State is challenged to select a member(s) who is a leader(s) in club, state or NGC projects and goals to recognize their guidance and commitment with a *Pacific Region Book of Recognition Award*. Each state or local club can determine the amount to be given and proceeds go to Pacific Region's Scholarship Award Program.

Pacific Region Convention - Summer is coming and Pacific Region's 70th Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Why attend a convention? It builds camaraderie with fellow garden club members, and friendships are formed. I would have never met Centenarian Linnea Miller Domz of Nevada had it not been for a Pacific Region Convention in California. Ideas and knowledge are gained. Come! It is open to all!

Submissions for KIT are due April 1, 2014

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MARY LOUISE MICHIE

*Former NGC President Celebrates 100th Birthday,
Attends Award Ceremony Named in Her Honor*



Photo by Chuck Garrett, Fort Worth, Texas

Mary Louise Michie has served the garden club community and the environmental movement with great distinction. Locally, she served as president of the Fort Worth Garden Club 1970-72, President of the Garden Club Council 1971-72, and is a founding member of the Fort Worth Botanical Society. She has held offices of President of Texas Garden Club 1979-81 and Director of South Central Region of NGC in 1987-89.

As President of National Council of State Garden Clubs 1995-97, her theme was "Always Creating Beauty" which was an eight year project, "Headquarters Beautification Celebration" to beautify the National Garden Clubs headquarters building and surrounding gardens in St. Louis, MO. Also during her administration, "Millions of Trees for the Environment" resulted in more than 108 million trees planted. Following Mrs. Michie, subsequent NGC presidents have continued this project; now millions more trees aid the environment.

Yearly, National Garden Clubs presents a college scholarship in her name. Many groups have honored Mrs. Michie, such as the State Fair of Texas and Texas Garden Clubs as "Garden Club Woman of the Year". In 1996, she received the Daughters of American Revolution Conservation Medal Award for a project whereby garden clubs planted 8,000 white flowering trees as a living memorial to those killed in the Oklahoma City bombing. In 1998, Mrs. Michie was presented the first annual Caroline French Morton Award by the National Arbor Day Foundation "to recognize volunteer leadership in mobilizing people in tree planting." This year Mrs. Michie was honored when Regina Blair, president of the Stop Six Sunrise Neighborhood Association, received the Mary Louise Michie Arboreal Excellence Award. The award was presented by the Fort Worth Garden Club, the Fort Worth Botanical Society, Inc. and the Forestry Section of the City of Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department, co-sponsors of the new award, which will be given to honor Mrs. Michie's work in planting millions of trees nationally and internationally.

President Linda Nelson presented her with a certificate of commendation in recognition of her many years of garden club participation and for her continuing contribution towards the advancement of the goals of our organization.

Happy 100th Birthday, Mary Louise.

Contributed by Kathleen Romine, NGC Administrative Assistant

President Linda Nelson's Travel Schedule ~

Jan 20-23	Winter Executive Com. Mtg.	New Orleans, LA
Feb 27-Mar 1	Philadelphia Flower Show	Philadelphia, PA
Mar 17-21	Alabama Convention	Guntersville State Park, AL
Mar 28-30	South Central Region	Dallas, TX
April 1-3	Texas Convention	Dallas, TX
April 6-8	Pennsylvania Convention	Monroeville, PA
April 10	Arizona Convention	Mesa, AZ
April 11-12	Deep South Region	St Petersburg, FL
April 14-16	Florida Convention	St Petersburg, FL
April 24	Rhode Island Convention	Providence, RI
April 30- May 3	NGC Convention	Norman, OK

A current list of the 2013-2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS Roster changes and additions appears
in the Board Member Section on the NGC website.



This column is devoted to reviews of websites, with recommendations for those of interest for Garden Club members. There are endless choices on the web and it may be helpful to steer members toward some especially informative and appealing sites. Send in your favorites for future review!

flowermag.com ... with a slogan of “enriching life through flowers.” Offers a feast of beautiful decorative floral design photos for a variety of seasons and occasions. NGC partners with *flower magazine*, and you’ll learn much here with How-To’s, Archives and more. You’ll want to subscribe to the magazine for future enjoyment, and there is a digital magazine.

crownbees.com “Your complete Mason Bee Resource” This comprehensive site is filled with information, Tips and Helps, Videos, Supply information, online shopping and lovely photos. Click on the NGC tab to learn more about the NGC BeeGAP Overview and Roles, the NGC Speakers Bureau, and sections on Education and Fundraising. Pollinators are crucial for our food supply and this site will explain why NGC is encouraging us to get involved with this essential project.

nybg.org ... news and information from the New York Botanical Garden. As they state it, “for budding floral designers, recreational gardeners and aspiring landscape designers.” One of the outstanding sites on the web with a wealth of information about an American botanical garden treasurer.

rootstoblooms.com ...adventures in eco-friendly floral design, gardening, nature and photography. There’s even information on “Green Mechanics” for floral design. One tip found there is, “When your flowers fade, don’t forget to compost them.” A recommended magazine on this site is the “Green Scene”, the magazine of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The PHS sponsors The Philadelphia Flower Show (read more about this beautiful event in the next issue.)

pallensmith.com ... For anyone who has ever visited Allen’s “Moss Mountain Farm” retreat in Arkansas, this will be a joy as you will re-visit Allen’s beautiful home and gardens through lovely photos. You’ll find expert gardening/lifestyle/entertaining advice, with how-to videos. “Chicken Chat” is for “heritage” poultry aficionados. There are craft ideas and great materials for children. The slide shows are great. Don’t miss the recipe for “Moo Poo Tea”. Visit **manuretea.com** to learn more. User-friendly and easy to navigate. A great site!

dmcolor.com ... for floral designers who want to learn more about using “Design Master” spray paints. Includes basic and advanced techniques, with color trends, color theory, new projects and FAQs. A compendium of products, projects and floral trends. A wellspring of useful information.

In Memoriam

Lissa Williamson, NGC Horticulture Committee Board member and former President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, passed away in December. Condolences may be sent to her sons David and Todd Williamson, 2247 47th St NW, Washington, DC 20007. The family has designated the Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Inc. as a memorial recipient. Funds will be used to purchase room-darkening window coverings for the Clyburn Classroom, as Lissa wished. Please make checks payable to FGCMMD, Inc. and designate for the Lissa Williamson Fund.

New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs President Michelle Mensinger's mother, Dorothy Loweree, age 88, passed away on Dec. 21, 2013. Mrs. Loweree had been in declining health. Condolences may be sent to Michelle's home, 10 Ledgewood Drive, Derry, NH 03038-5379 or via e-mail at loveoflife@comcast.net.

Shirley Spildie, NGC Design Instructor and former FSS Board member, passed away in December in Billings, Montana. Condolences may be sent to her husband Gene, 1217 Cresthaven Way, Billings, MT 59102-0807.



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Read about NGC’s participation in, and a behind-the-scenes look at, the largest flower show in North America — the Philadelphia Flower Show — in the next issue of *Keeping in Touch*.