



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

MAY-JULY 2012

GREETINGS from Shirley Nicolai, NGC President 2011-2013 Theme - NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities

My esteem for the dedication and talents of NGC members is enhanced with each visit to a State or Regional Convention. It has also become apparent that friendships, fun and spirit, along with service, are vital parts of our organizational culture.

The collective expertise of veteran NGC members is astonishing. Some have broad knowledge in several areas; others have found a niche in one area and have become experts. All have the capability to be mentors to potential and novice members and to reinforce the point that one does not have to be an accomplished gardener or designer to join our clubs. Learning is a special part of the garden club package, and mentoring is a win-win experience for all involved.

Recent destructive storms have plagued many areas of our country. Our Natural Disasters Grants Committee continues to receive applications for worthy restoration projects. If your area has been spared, please consider making a donation to help those who have been less fortunate. We don't want to run out of funding.

With the arrival of spring, there are numerous opportunities to serve our communities through Plantings for Public and Special Places. Gardens with edibles, container gardens and planting trees and shrubs are ways to participate in this 2011-2013 special project and perhaps win a monetary award for your efforts. Refurbished existing projects qualify, as well as new projects. The easy-to-use one sheet application can be found at gardenclub.org.



Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems is rightfully an environmental priority. There are numerous opportunities to serve our communities, such as educational events, serving as watch dogs, plantings in buffer areas to stop erosion, rain gardens, grates to trap trash at storm drains, trash cleanup programs and initiatives to keep pharmaceuticals out of sanitation systems which drain into waterways. NGC's Water Conservation Platform states our position and supports this venture. Again, monetary awards will be given for the best projects.

Spring Standard Flower Shows provide a premier opportunity to photograph designs for the Vision of Beauty Calendar, now printed in the USA. This year's deadline for entries will be August 1st. Spring is also when calendars for the following year become available from Member Services. By pooling orders with other nearby clubs or districts, you can reduce the shipping charges and cost per calendar, thus making a larger profit.

Now is the ideal time to ask people to join an existing club, organize a new club or invite an existing independent club to join NGC. Let's share our garden club friendships, fun, spirit and service with others.

With best garden club wishes,

Shirley

Water Conservation Platform
National Garden Clubs, Inc. believes it is imperative that we support and undertake proactive initiatives for the protection, conservation and restoration of the quality of the Nation's coastal waters, wetlands, aquifers, watersheds, lakes, rivers and streams through educational programs, conservation efforts, increased advocacy and partnerships with related government agencies, and state and national grassroots water coalitions. (Adopted 2008)

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ASK ... Increasing Club Membership

Linda Nelson, 1st VP, NGC Membership Chairman

ASK... THAT'S THE WAY TO GET NEW MEMBERS

I have had several comments from presidents on the responses they have received when they have shown the new NGC video GROWING OUR WORLD, GREENING OUR COMMUNITIES. One state president reports that she purchased extra copies while at the spring convention and distributed them across her state. She reports that the members are energized and excited after seeing all the many activities of NGC clubs nation wide. That got me to thinking -- so many of our clubs have a limited concept of the force for good we are, especially when we join efforts to accomplish a goal. If your club has yet to view this video, I urge you to do so. Each state president received a copy and is willing to share it Just ask them for it. Invite –ASK—neighbors to go with you to your club meeting when it is to be shown, or show it at an event – a plant sale, a flower show, a Blue Star Installation, whatever. Let others see just what garden clubs across this nation are doing, then ASK them to join your efforts. Remember, enthusiasm is catching, so when you Ask be positive, friendly and willing to Share knowledge, and KeeP them busy (when you get them!).

ASK -- Ask them to join - Share knowledge - KeeP them busy

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK JUNE 3-9, 2012

Elaine DiPietro, Chairman

For all the members who have asked "When was National Garden Week started?" The first National Garden Week was scheduled for the third week in April 1945 to coincide with Arbor Day and the birthday of J. Sterling Morton, who pioneered Arbor Day. NGC, The General Federation of Women's Clubs and The National Congress of Parents and Teachers agreed to team up for this event. Garden Week, originally envisioned as a nationwide observance, became mainly a state-by-state activity because of the war. National Garden Week April 15-22, 1945 began.

In the 1980's National Council (NGC) initiated the idea of National Garden Week to recognize gardening activities. It also gave us an opportunity for pride in our organization's membership and our local and national accomplishments. National Garden Week is the perfect vehicle to promote National Council (NGC), increase membership, publicize activities, show gardening activities and results, and to generate interest in all aspects of garden club work.

In 1989 the first National Garden Week Chairman was appointed. Mrs. K.O. (Jerry) Tubb and the National Garden Week Award for the best promotion of National Garden Week was established. The first Garden Week Resolution (Proclamation) was written and resolved that the first full week of June 1990 be designated as National Garden Week and signed by then President Mrs. C. Manning (Martha) Smith, on February 26, 1990.

Today we have awards for clubs, districts and states that participate in this project. If you are not in, you can't win! Check out the Award booklet for instructions.

PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE



Apr 29-May 1 The GC of North Carolina Asheville
May 15-21 NGC Convention, Buffalo, NY
May 22-23 New Hampshire Fed. of GC Plymouth
June 1-2 North Dakota State Fed. of GC Fargo
June 4-7 California Garden Clubs, Inc., Sacramento
June 10-11 Fed. Garden Clubs of Vermont, Newport
June 19-21 The Oregon State Fed. of GC, Wilsonville
June 21-23 Montana Federation of GC Bozeman
June 24-27 Idaho Garden Clubs, Inc., Boise
July 26-28 Pacific Region, Anchorage
July 29-30 Alaska Garden Clubs, Anchorage

Memoriams & Personals

Michigan Garden Clubs President Nancy Stark's husband passed away in March. If you would like to send her a card or a note, her address is 1801 Sylvan Lane, Midland, MI 48640-6760.

Bonni Dinneen's husband, Joe, passed away in January after a long, progressive illness. Bonni's address is The Boott Mills, 141 John St., RC-15, Lowell, MA 01852-1135.

Deadline for the next issue of KIT - July 1, 2012

Please send information, articles, etc. to

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PROTECTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS
NGC Special Project 2011 – 2013

Water is one of the two most essential and familiar substances in our lives – the other being air. Water availability and quality have been taken for granted for many years. We have been the beneficiaries of a naturally abundant, inexpensive and safe water supply – a luxury that may soon disappear.

Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems is one of NGC's Special Projects for 2011 - 2013. This project recognizes that it is of utmost importance and urgency that members of National Garden Clubs, Inc., identify and address critical water issues at local, state, regional and national levels. **Every community would benefit by participation in an aquatic ecosystem project.**

National Garden Clubs, Inc. will present monetary awards and certificates of recognition to garden clubs in each NGC Region for projects promoting the protection of an aquatic ecosystem (upon submission of an award application). Aquatic Ecosystems include: rivers, lakes and ponds, streams and creeks, marshes and bogs, wetlands, coastal estuaries, aquifers, floodplains and springs.

AWARD APPLICATION FOR PROTECTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Award Application: Preferably sent by email. Postal mail acceptable. To be received no later than March 15, 2013.

**Send to Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems Chairman: Mary Sue Colvin
jhcolvin2@bellsouth.net
10473 Hwy. 562,
Fort Necessity, LA 71243-5122**

- Application is limited to three printed pages, – front of pages only. (**No** report cover or binders allowed. **No** plastic sheets allowed).
- Application form will not be returned. (Make a copy of application for your files.)
- Should include photos.
- **Top of first page MUST include: Name of Garden Club (exactly as it should appear on any award/certificate received), Club Category (Large, Medium, Small), State Garden Club, Region, Title of Project, Contact Person (Email address and/or telephone number).**
- Brief summary of project, involvement of club members and other organizations, project expenses and means of funding, continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance, photos, landscape plans, etc. may be included in the application.

Categories:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| A. Large club | 100 members and over |
| B. Medium club | 30 – 99 members |
| C. Small club | 29 members and under |

First place winners in each of the club categories (large, medium, small) will be selected for each NGC Region for a possible total of 24 regional first place winners. Monetary awards of \$50 will be given to each of the first place winners in the three club categories in each region.

Overall national winners will be selected from the applications submitted with the monetary awards to be determined by the committee.

Scale of Points:

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

Achievement – 65 pts. Scope of project; need and fulfillment; benefit; accomplishment; comprehensiveness of work; activities to attain goals; evaluation of goals reached; educational; prior planning; very brief history if continuing project; other.

Participation – 15 pts. Size of club; involvement of: members, community, government agencies, professionals, youth, residents in facilities, others. (Not all have to be involved.)

Documentation – 15 pts. Supporting data (as applicable), clear, well-labeled and neatly attached before and after photos (if applicable), landscape plan (does not have to be professionally drawn), financial report, letters of appreciation, community awards, newspaper and/or magazine articles (if possible), radio or TV script (if possible), etc. **Photocopies are permitted.**

Note: *Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems* may include projects that promote conservation, education, community awareness/activities, maintenance, management or preservation of an aquatic ecosystem.

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER - Mary Warshauer, Chairman

The Blue Star Memorial Marker program honors the men and women who have served, are currently serving and those who will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Established in 1945, the name "Blue Star" was chosen for the star on the flag. The flags were displayed in the home window denoting a family member serving in the Armed Forces. Also known as the service flag, the blue star stands for hope and pride.

In 1917 the Congressional Record stated: "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother - their children." The flag appears in the windows of families today for those who serve in the War on Terror.

Sewah Studios of Marietta, Ohio manufactures the Blue Star cast aluminum markers and fills our orders with efficiency. Once Sewah receives the order, estimated delivery of the order is approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

Effective May 1, 2012, Sewah will increase prices for Blue Star Memorial markers. The price increases are as follows:

- Blue Star Memorial Highway and Memorial markers (7 foot post included) is **\$1,350.00** shipping included. There is an additional shipping cost of \$50.00 for states west of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana.
- By-Way Markers are **\$450.00** shipping included.
- The charge for refurbishing Memorial or Highway markers is **\$800.00**.
- Markers that require a new post is **\$325.00**.

A guideline for Blue Star Memorial Markers may be purchased for \$5.00 from NGC member services. Visit the NGC website "special projects" for more information regarding this most worthy project that honors the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Eighty-five Blue Star markers were ordered in 2011, making a total of 2,304 Blue Star markers nationwide.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS - CONSERVATION INVASIVE PLANTS - Jane Buck, Chairman

Environmental Pursuits with Assistance

Better Swamps and Garden Club (Jean Lafitte, LA) is a small garden club that strives to overcome the 30-member barrier. Maybe it's because we live in a small southeast Louisiana fishing village where the front yard is generally dedicated to parking the boat and trailer --- not to gardening. Yet, we have become the mouse that roars over our environmental accomplishments.

As an infant club of about three months old, local officials asked us in 2000 to take the reins for the Celebration of the Louisiana Iris, a project designed to lure visitors to experience the wonderful native plant (*Iris giganticaerulea*) that blooms freely in our pristine cypress swamps. We discovered that by tapping some prominent environmental speakers and by combining these tailored lectures with tours of the Louisiana Iris beds, we could actually make money on the deal --- funds that we could use to enhance our Celebration and fund additional projects. Then, one day we mustered the courage to hit up the mayor of our small town to improve the trail to one of our Louisiana Iris sites. He responded, "Why don't we improve the whole forty acres and make it a park?" These were big words to a mouse that had yet to roar. Soon, however, we had secured a national grant and set about building raised boardwalks and outdoor classrooms through the cypress swamp. The venture consumed two years of our lives (2002 and 2003). The end product is a mile-long nature study park that is the pride and pleasure of the area.

Yes, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005) took their toll on the structures of the park, but, with the help of grants and volunteer labor, the park was reopened within months. Next, we experienced a more insidious menace to the well being of our park --- the alien invasion of the Chinese Tallow Tree (*Sapium sebiferum*). We applied to National Garden Clubs "Greening the Gulf Coast" grant program. With the \$ 5,000 that we received in 2009, we hired a workman, bought a chain saw and some other equipment, purchased a recommended herbicide and set out to correct the imbalance in nature. In view of a tree that is called "the popcorn

tree", because of its abundance of seeds, we don't think for a minute that we have eliminated the invader, but we roared defiantly at its bad behavior.

During the British Petroleum Oil Spill Crisis of 2010, we feared that oil from the blown-out well would move through various waterways and coat our nature study park killing the aquatic plants and other wildlife and soiling the pristine nature of the park. We approached the US Coast Guard commander and asked that a floatation boom be placed across the main waterway in order to safeguard our precious park. The very next day that boom was installed and served its purpose. Roar !!!

Our garden club was elated last year (2011) when we sponsored the town of Jean Lafitte and won First Place in its statewide population category of "Cleanest City Contest" --- another environmental accomplishment based on partnership and hard work. We also installed a very successful Monarch Butterfly Way Station at the Jean Lafitte Tourism Center with the help of the program hosted by the University of Kansas and guidance from our state butterfly committee.

Now, at the ripe old age of thirteen --- and with hormones flowing, our garden club has taken on a new challenge. We plan to host the NGC Environmental Studies School for Louisiana Garden Club Federation in the fall of 2012 in Jean Lafitte. We will accomplish this task by calling on the town and parish (county) officials to partner with us, by networking with some other nonprofit groups, by recruiting well-qualified-yet-voluntary instructors and guides, and by putting our hearts and souls into this vital process. This is the stuff that makes a small mouse roar its head off and thumb its nose at big predators. With a little help from our friends, we plan to produce the best-ever Environmental Studies School --- and then look for our next challenge after that. We may even go after the big Tom Cat.

Submitted by Joe E. Baucum, President, Better Swamps and Garden Club, theanchorage@att.net.

**NATURAL DISASTERS USA FUND -
Adrienne Langan, Chairman**

Our country has been plagued with tornadoes, hurricanes, ice storms, floods and wildfires this year. Many of our fellow garden club members are struggling to restore landscapes in their communities – and they have enlisted the aid of many community organizations, including local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

During this current NGC administration, the National Disaster USA Fund has awarded eleven grants from \$1500 to \$5000 to very grateful garden clubs across the country. In 2011, grants were awarded to the Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri after the F4 tornado in Joplin; Helena Garden Club of the Garden Clubs of Montana for restoration of the Children's Garden and Secret Garden in Tizer Botanic Garden; South Schuylkill Garden Club of the Garden Clubs of Pennsylvania for severe flooding in the Pine Grove Canal Butterfly Garden; Garden Club of New Jersey after the ice and snow storm that destroyed the Azalea/Rhododendron Gardens; and the Ider Garden Club of the Garden Clubs of Alabama to restore Garden Park. Grants for 2012 have included the Garden Clubs of Missouri for another section of restoration of Joplin; Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford, New Jersey, after Hurricane Irene and the ice/snow storm; Garden Club of Binghamton of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State to restore Cutler Botanic Garden after flooding; Schoharie Valley Garden Club after flooding in Blenheim; Garden Club of Ohio to assist restoration of Seacrest Arboretum after EF-2 tornado; and the South Dakota Federation to help restore Pierre Arboretum after flooding of the Missouri River.

These grants were awarded in addition to what each state's garden clubs were able to provide from their own disaster relief funds.

So, now that spring approaches and your flowers and shrubs are beginning to bloom again, we ask that you consider making a donation. This donation will provide grants to help your fellow garden club members across the country who have dedicated themselves to bringing their own communities back to life. They would appreciate your consideration and support which will help to restore their spirit.

- Make checks payable to: National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Indicate "Natural Disasters US Fund" on the memo portion of check.

Mail checks to: National Garden Clubs, Inc.
4401 Magnolia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

Adrienne Langan, NGC Natural Disasters USA Chairman,
27 Strawberry Lane, Lakewood, New Jersey 08701

**WORLD GARDENING GLOBAL PARTNERS -
Barbara Wesley, Chairman**

NGC has partnered with **Global Partners Running Waters Inc.** a nonprofit organization working in cooperation with the United Nations, to **increase access to safe water** in Latin America. 1.1 billion people around the world currently get their water from rivers, ponds or other sources subject to contamination. Donations made through NGC will help to bring safe drinking water to villages.

To help at your own local level:

- **Sponsor a "50 is Nifty" campaign.** If nationwide every member would contribute only 50 cents, we would have a sizeable contribution to offer.
- **Consider a "Drop in the Bucket" collection** at your regular events. You can pass a bucket and ask members to contribute loose change.
- **Display an educational exhibit** about this program at your flower shows and schools to promote awareness.
- **Celebrate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or recognize a special achievement** with a donation from an individual, club, a district or state. **All donations over \$25 will be acknowledged with a recognition certificate.**

To learn more, visit www.globalpartnersrunningwaters.org. There you will find a video and other information about the work being done by this worthy organization. However, **please do not donate directly via this site** – by donating through NGC we will be able to keep track of the funds that members have contributed.

Donations may be made in any amount and will be acknowledged with a printed tax receipt.

- Make checks payable to: National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Indicate "Global Partners" on the memo portion of check.
- Please include the name that should appear on the recognition certificates for \$50 or more.

Mail checks to: National Garden Clubs, Inc.
4401 Magnolia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

Past NGC contributions helped to complete a project at Ojo de Agua Quiche. Clean drinking water was brought into this village. Hours that villagers spent walking miles to fill jugs with water can now be used to plant food and raise animals for families. Global Partners Running Waters current major project is to bring potable water to 263 families or 1,578 individuals in Los Llanos, Quiche, Guatemala.

From the NGC website (www.gardenclub.org) you can Download Global Partners Donation Form - WORD or PDF Download a gift card enclosure - PDF

For more information, contact Barbara Wesley, NGC World Gardening Chairman - barbandwes@earthlink.net. (Note, please continue to link to PDFs from current site.)

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

Recent communications received by this chairman and other NGC Schools Committee members dealing with the ongoing administration of our schools demonstrate a continuing need for reminders about several aspects of our educational programs.

How many refreshers must a Consultant complete in order to achieve **Master Consultant status**? The answer is the same for all three schools - and has been the same for many years. After becoming a Consultant, **one must complete four refreshers in order to become a Master Consultant**. This information is contained in the NGC Handbooks for all three schools, has been publicized a number of times in *The National Gardener*, is available from NGC Schools Committees chairmen, and should be available from State Schools Chairmen. All State Schools Chairmen and anyone chairing a school should have the appropriate Handbook, available from NGC Member Services (1-800-550-6007 or gardenclub.org).

There continue to be many questions concerning **eligibility to receive multiple credits when refreshing in a Tri- or Bi-Refresher**. Credit may be offered to Master Consultants in each of the schools in which he/she is a Master. All other refreshing Consultants receive credit for one school only. If you are a Master in all three schools, you may receive credit for all three schools. If you are a Master in ESS and GSS but not in LDS, then you may receive credit for ESS and GSS if you so choose or LDS only.

Schools and refresher events must be registered with the appropriate NGC Schools chairmen in advance of the scheduled event. NGC Consultant credit cannot be given for attendance at these events if they have not been registered with NGC. Local school and event chairmen should be coordinating these events with their state chairmen who in turn should be coordinating with our national chairmen.

Revisions in these school programs and requirements (and periodic reminders about requirements that have not changed) are officially published in *The National Gardener*.

Recipients of *Keeping in Touch* are reminded and encouraged to share this information about our educational programs (state presidents, please be sure your state schools chairmen have this news; club presidents, please share with students and Consultants who belong to your clubs).

Please contact any of our NGC Schools Committees Chairmen if you have questions. Thanks for your participation in and support of our schools – a major benefit of membership in NGC.

Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator,
GregPokorski@earthlink.net

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS Greg Pokorski, Chairman

I have been encountering many incorrect references to the name of our school. It is **Gardening** (not Garden) **Study** (not Studies) **School**. The study of gardening is broader in scope than the study of gardens, and as far as I can find in researching the subject NGC's program (dating back to the 1970s) has always been called Gardening Study School. See recent articles in *The National Gardener* about the roots of this NGC educational program. Let's get our name right in any discussion of the school, and especially in any documentation/publication of information about the school (such as in brochures for schools and refresher events). All state and local Gardening Study School chairmanships should incorporate this correct terminology. Thank you for your cooperation in making our branding accurate and consistent.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS – Greg Pokorski,
Chairman, GregPokorski@earthlink.net

Plant for Public and Special Places TREES AND SHRUBS -Lissa Williamson, Chairman

WELL MANNERED SHRUBS

When you've planted in a public area, you want your design to maintain its beauty. The following four suggestions have characteristics to help accomplish this goal.

Abelia x grandiflora

1. white bell shaped flowers at tips from June to October
2. glossy semi evergreen leaves
3. rounded to cascading form
4. sun to light shade in any garden soil
5. pruned in April for damaged or dead branches

Fothergilla major

1. bottle brush shaped flowers - April to May
2. dark blue/green leaves that turn orange, red and yellow
3. sun to light shade in non lime or chalky soils
4. pruning limited to oldest branches

Potentilla fruticosa

1. extended flowering season all over its bushy form
2. any well drained garden soil
3. full sun for maximum flowering
4. adaptable to zones 2-7
5. minimal pruning

Rosmarinus officinalis -- Really!

1. can grow into a woody plant when in full sun and well drained soil
2. use in groupings or as a hedge
3. easily pruned
4. a sure surprise and aromatic too

NEW ENGLAND REGION

JOYCE A. KIMBALL

New England is beginning to “wake up” from what some of us are referring to as “the winter that wasn’t”. Regardless, our members have not been dormant, they have definitely been “planting seeds” within their clubs and state organizations as well as holding fabulous flower shows! I have recently been made aware of some great new projects “in the works” among our NE clubs as well as their plans to continue a number of current projects that have proven to be both popular and effective. One of the continuing projects is the second in a series of one-day workshops being offered in cooperation with the Swift Water Girl Scout Council for troops of the Green (VT) and White Mountains (NH) geared toward helping the Scouts earn their National Garden Club, Inc. patches. Several NGC Schools are being offered in New England in the upcoming months as well: Environmental Study School (MA), Gardening Study School (MA), Landscape Design Schools (CT, MA), etc. This information is posted on the NER website, www.ngcner.org under “Calendar”. New England states are holding their Annual Meetings/State Conventions over the next few months. I am looking forward to attending them and getting to know our regional members and their leaders even better. “Happy Spring”!

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

JEANNE T. NELSON

Gardening with Pride,

Honoring Home, Community & Country

CAR is proud to announce a Life Membership Scholarship Program. After communicating with other Regional Directors about their long established successful programs, CAR executive committee decided to take the plunge.

The coming months will find the Central Atlantic Region suggesting “PLANTAROW”, to all our garden club members & their neighbors to promote sharing some of their vegetable produce with local community help groups.

Our “Perennial Bloom” Award description and application has again been placed on the CAR website, as well as our existing 7 state websites, in hopes of getting garden clubs to honor long standing members and their service to the club and community. Let’s see which state will be honoring the most members by planting a shrub or tree.

Our CAR Regional Review newsletter again presented articles on trees and the need to support “Water for South Sudan”.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

MARY DIXON

The South Atlantic Region convention was at the Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. as was the West Virginia convention. The highlight of the convention was Shirley Nicolai’s talk about NGC and getting to know her better. Programs included “The King of Helleborus” Barry Glick, Tarula Chanlett-Avery a landscaping specialist and Terri Johnson of Honeysuckle Hill Gardens. Karen Vuranch performed as Pearl Buck and we learned much about her life. Many awards were won by the SAR states.

West Virginia treated this Director with much hospitality. There was a program on falconry with a visit from an Owl and a Falcon! The President of Dorothy Draper & Co., Carleton Varney’s assistant, gave a wonderful program about many of the beautiful restoration and decoration projects he has done. This Director gave a talk on SAR and NGC themes which was followed by a humorous talk by James Justice owner of the Greenbrier. The convention ended with awards for many accomplishments of the West Virginia clubs and members.

This Director will be with the members of Kentucky, South Carolina and Virginia in April and will visit North Carolina next year.

DEEP SOUTH REGION

SARA LANIER

The 51st DSR Convention was held in Murfreesboro, TN, March 18-20, 2012. The ladies from TN rolled out the red carpet to welcome Shirley Nicolai, NGC President, and members from the 6 Deep South States. Thank you Tennessee for hosting a fun, educational and entertaining convention.

The DSR states are planning their state conventions. Tennessee was in full bloom as they hosted their State Convention and the DSR Convention including a beautiful flower show sponsored by the Judges’ Council. Tennessee held a successful Conservation Camp with 150 attendees. Georgia is gearing up for their State Convention and annual Flower Show Judges Symposium to be held in Athens, GA on July 15-17. Alabama will be celebrating their 80th anniversary at their State Convention. Louisiana has added 5 new garden clubs and two youth garden clubs, erected 5 Blue Star Markers and 1 By-way Marker. Mississippi is busy getting ready for their State Convention, April 17-19 in Vicksburg. Magnolia Garden Club, Charleston, MS, received a grant of \$5,000 from the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi for a community

garden. Thirty-five designers from Florida will be participating for the 19th year in the International Flower and Gardening Festival at Disney’s Epcot Center. Florida will be hosting their 86th Annual State Convention May 10-11 and an Advanced Standard State Flower Show.

CENTRAL REGION

FLORENCE SMITH

Spring is officially here along with State Conventions in Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa and Indiana. Indiana, Michigan and Iowa will host Flower Shows in conjunction with their Conventions. Sharon Yantis, Alternate CR Director, has graciously accepted to attend the Indiana State Convention in my absence.

I have received information and inspiring newsletters and publications from the CR states, some of which have clubs in Districts give a brief report on their club activities. These publications are informative and inspiring. Upon reading these publications I’ve learned that State Presidents continue to promote Garden Clubs and the benefits of belonging as well as offering ways to encourage and attract new members.

A couple of samples of garden club projects include The Wedgewood Garden Club (Illinois) celebrated the completion of a five year project with the dedication of the Wedgewood Rain Garden. It was planned and planted in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Thyme to Garden GC in Illinois built a Community Garden with raised beds to grow vegetables and herbs. They donated the produce to local food pantries for “Plant a Row for the Hungry”.

I will soon be attending the National Convention in Buffalo, New York - May 18-19, 2012. Will you be attending? John Ruska will be speaking on the Eastern Bluebird at the Central Region’s Breakfast on Saturday, May 19.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

JUDY GROTTTS

In Arkansas, we learned about the planting of an estimated 31,000 bulbs; making it second in the world, only Holland plants more bulbs. Arkansas was the host for the SCR Convention. Their state convention was two days prior. The results of their planting and gardens of dogwood, azaleas and other spring blooming shrubs provided a festive feeling. The theme was “Paint it Pink” and the gardens were in every shade of pink that there is known to man. SCR is continuing to work with the youth. At our annual convention new awards were

approved and will go into effect immediately. A new awards book will be available on line (www.ngcscr.com), email, disc, or mail. At the annual meeting it was voted on and decided to select a Regional Butterfly. We chose the Monarch. It will become the center of our new seal with the four states surrounding.

There are environmental, landscape, and gardening study schools in three states. A new series of Flower Show Schools started in Roswell, New Mexico and Little Rock, Arkansas. Texas continues to have all the four NGC Schools yearly. Please check *The National Gardener* for dates. Three Blue Star Memorial dedications are planned for later this spring. New Mexico will hold its annual convention in May at Angel Fire. Oklahoma will be holding their Convention in Alva, a city in the Northwest part of the state.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION TERRY KROKE

The early spring in the Rocky Mountain Region finds the state garden clubs deep in their projects. Several states are emphasizing recruitment and have added new members and new clubs.

The South Dakota FGC is getting ready to restore the riverside park at the state capitol that was severely damaged by floodwaters last summer. In addition to planting trees and flowers, they will be installing birdhouses to replace some of the nesting spaces in trees that were killed by the flood.

North Dakota SFGC is sponsoring a hands-on floral design class for members and the public. They hope to encourage broader participation in the clubs' flower shows by giving designers more confidence in their work.

Montana FGC has awarded seven garden clubs their MFGC Jubilee Grants for community beautification projects. The grants are in celebration of their 75th anniversary. Special events at their state convention in June will include their first State Standard Flower Show in 25 years titled "Diamonds in the Big Sky".

PACIFIC REGION DEBBIE HINCHEY

One of the priorities for this term has been to embrace computer technology to aid communications, make historic and up-to-date information available and save money.

Thanks to the computer talents of Carol Norquist, our Alternate Director, a new website has been constructed for the Pacific Region. She continually adds to it to make it a better resource with new information, our Policy and Procedures Manual, a calendar of schools, conventions and other events

throughout the region with links to more information and registration materials. There are also links to send an e-mail message (without showing the address) to the eight PR state presidents. In the Members Only section you can see or print the most current and updated addresses in the Directory. (No printed version was produced.)

A section for committees is designed for information from past and current chairmen to make notes about what has been done, successes and suggestions for the future. This part has been harder to accomplish.

Our goal is to have a website where all of the garden club answers can be found.

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

Are YOU on Flickr?

Our NGC Flickr site is growing more slowly than it should. Isn't there any project or flower show or activity that your club or district sponsored that you are proud of? Has your club dedicated a **Blue Star Memorial Marker**? Apparently very few states have **Blue Star Memorial Markers???** because the NGC site is missing several states. Email me a picture to post – show the rest of the country what happens in your state!

Email pictures with a short description identifying the group, project and location to Robin Pokorski at RobinP@juno.com. Then visit our Flickr site (Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs) - YOUR online idea book!

2011-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROSTER CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

DATE: May 1, 2012 (underline denotes change)
Page 23 ~~DELETE~~ 2013 Fall Board Meeting Chairman
Kay Schaefer
2013 Fall Board Meeting Vice Chairman Sophie Connor

ADD 2013 Fall Board Meeting Chairman
Sue Reed 636-220-4143
1019 Cy Ann Road
Town & Country, MO 63017
smrzt@earthlink.net

2013 Fall Board Meeting Vice Chairmen
Ivy Baebler (314)843-8076 (314)616-1265(C)
5513 Heatherbluff Court St. Louis, MO 63128-4130
lvbaeb@att.net

Jackie Reynolds (314) 968-5004 (314) 732-2122 (C)
452 Foreston Place Webster Groves, MO 63119
jreynolds452@charter.net

PROTECTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Oklahoma State President Donna Marsheck is encouraging Oklahoma Garden Club members to assist in keeping pharmaceuticals from being abused and out of waterways and water systems by promoting the "Safe Trip for Scripts Program."

The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) is partnering with the City of Tulsa and Covanta WBH, the owner/operator of the Energy-from-Waste facility in Tulsa, to safely dispose of prescription drugs collected throughout the state. Since March 1, 2011, through the 'Safe Trip for Scripts Program', OBN has distributed nearly one-hundred (100) permanent drug disposal metal containers in police and sheriff department lobbies for the public to safely dispose of prescription drugs in their homes and medicine cabinets. To date, the agency has collected nearly two (2) tons of old, expired medication from the disposal containers. OBN spokesman, Mark Woodward, says it's critical to get these drugs out of the home. At the Covanta facility, the collected medications are combusted at high temperatures to ensure their complete destruction, unlike other methods of disposal that can contaminate water sources.

When flushed down the drain, or disposed of in landfills, medications find their way into waterways and contaminate surface waters, having an adverse effect on our drinking water and the environment. These drugs cannot be removed from water supplies at typical waste water treatment plants and the contaminated water can then have negative effects on aquatic organisms, fish, and other wildlife.

Page 39 Grants/Development/Bequests Committee
Grants/Gifts/Bequest Committee,
ADD and NGC Natural Disasters Committee
Patricia Smith

Page 41 Infrastructure Committee Tours Vice Chairman
Guyneth Priem Guyneth.2@comcast.net

Page 46 Organization Liaisons National Butterfly Chair
Rilla M. Crane (703)801-3537(C)
54333 Caminito Herald LaJolla, CA 92037-7192
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Page 59 International Affiliates Activities Committee
IA Mentor
Miradalba de Trejos
011-506-2224-7359
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