



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

May-June-July 2013

GREETINGS from Shirley Nicolai, NGC President

2011-2013 Theme - NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities

The greatness of National Garden Clubs, Inc. is a product of the time given by individual members across this country and beyond. Our community projects, educational opportunities, outreach to help others in need, environmental and legislative priorities, activities with children, scholarship programs, and pride in our endeavors all contribute to this greatness.



Another impressive aspect to garden club membership is the bonding that takes place within our clubs, from the grass roots to the national level. Shared interests foster lifetime friendships and a second family to be with us during good times and bad. This personal contact cannot be replicated electronically.

Serving as your President has been a distinct honor. I have met the most wonderful people and, like NGC Presidents before me, am privileged to have experienced "the big picture."

There are so many to thank for making NGC: Proudly Serving our Members and Communities a reality. First on the list is my husband Frank, who has been most supportive. Second on the list are Tanta-Cove Garden Club and Fergie's Gardeners. Next comes the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, which hosted the 2011 National Convention in Washington, DC.

Other states followed by hosting Fall Board Meetings (East Central District of The Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri and Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.), Winter Executive Committee Meetings (New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.) and National Conventions (Federated Garden Clubs of New York State and Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs). NGC appreciates the efforts of these organizations and invites others to share and showcase their states.

NGC board members, Executive Committee and staff have worked

diligently to serve members at all levels, while encouraging community service through continuing options, Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems and Plantings for Public and Special Places. Major strides have been taken to upgrade our website and make it more useful. Our new horticulture book is now a reality.

Incoming President Linda Nelson will bring a fresh perspective with a theme of MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE – Choices Matter. NGC will prosper under her leadership and enthusiasm. Our future is bright.

With warmest wishes and gratitude for your support,

Shirley

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ASK ... Increasing Club Membership Linda Nelson, President-Elect, NGC Membership Chairman

If you want something just **ask for it** is the attitude taken by a club president I spoke with. Their club membership was declining and the club realized they needed to take action. They contacted the upcoming Home and Garden Show and asked if they would give their club a free booth space. The show manager said yes... to them and 2 other garden clubs. The club created a nice garden spot with potted shrubs, a little table with a large container of cut flowering branches, pots of blooming plants, had some posters printed with club activities and a table on the side with free material from our national headquarters. Instead of having a table set across the front with them sitting behind it... they stood in front wearing their club aprons, and greeted visitors. They **asked** people as they walked by if they were interested in gardening, and followed with "would you be interested in meeting with other gardeners?" **46** people gave them their email/phone# to call for a meeting. Now the club is busy planning two outstanding programs for these possible new members, and they plan to ask any new member help plan new activities that interest them.

Ask them to join

Share information

Keep them busy

**Blossom our new membership Bee is coming to Seattle ...
she's all abuzz about membership**

IN MEMORIAM:

Barbara Halverson's husband recently passed away. Barbara is presently the Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota's State President. Barbara's address is 11017 Ewing Avenue S., Bloomington, MN 55431-3846.

Patricia Cargnoni's husband recently passed away. Pat presently serves as Habitat for Humanity Gardens Chairman. Pat resides at 5432 Collett Road, Shortsville, NY 14548.

Long-time NGC supporter and Membership Committee Mentor Eunice Antosik died peacefully on January 23rd. Condolences may be sent to her husband Andy Antosik at 17 Pualoke Place, Apt. 2, Lahaina, HI 96761-1130.

Loretta Lively lost her husband, James, on February 5th. Loretta is presently serving as a Golden Circle Member. She is a former President of West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. and former Director of the South Atlantic Region. Condolences may be sent to Loretta at 1112 Country Club Road, Oak Hill, WV 25901-2053.

Ginny Grandpré recently lost her husband Lou. Ginny is presently serving on the Gardens with Edibles Committee. Ginny's address is 86 Woodlot Road, Stoddard, NH 03464-4646.

Eloise Cumbaa lost her husband Noel Cumbaa on March 7, 2013. Eloise Cumbaa is the daughter of former NCSGC President Geraldine Rousseau Dean. She is presently serving on the Golden Circle Committee and has been on the NGC Board of Directors for many years. Eloise D. Cumbaa, 127 Bayou Oaks Circle, Greenville, MS 38701.

NGC Executive Director, Michelle Smith's husband, Joe Smith died suddenly of a heart attack on March 13, 2013. Joe Smith had been a Chesterfield police officer for 17 years. During a 31-year career, he had served with several departments, including the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Joe Smith had received the Crusade Against Crime Medal of Valor, for saving the life of a Chesterfield resident in 1994, as well as the U. S. Attorney's Office Distinguished Service award for his work in narcotics interdiction. In lieu of flowers, the family would like memorials to be made to Backstoppers St. Louis – their link: <https://backstoppers28304.thankyou4caring.org/donate>.

PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE



May 8-9 Virginia State Convention, Charlottesville, VA
May 14-16 Missouri State Convention, St. Joseph, MO
May 20-27 NGC Convention, Seattle, WA

Linda Nelson, President-Elect's 2013-2015 TRAVEL SCHEDULE

April 11-13 Alaska Convention, Fairbanks, AK,
April 15-16 Indiana Convention, Richmond, IN
May 3-4 Wisconsin Convention, Madison, WI
May 29-30 Michigan Convention, Holland, MI
June 1-2 Nevada Convention, Las Vegas, NV
June 5-6 New Jersey Convention
June 8 Colorado Convention, Ft. Collins, CO
June 12 Washington Convention
June 14-15 Wyoming Convention, Riverton, WY
June 16-19 Oregon Convention
June 21-22 Iowa Convention, Pella, IA
June 26 South Dakota Convention
June 28-29 Montana Convention, Helena, MT

2013 GARDEN WEEK

It is never too early to start thinking about how your clubs or states are going to celebrate **National Garden Week June 2-8, 2013**. You can go for an award. Just 3 pages. Check your award manual for instructions or go to www.gardenclub.org the NGC website. Elaine DiPietro, Chairman

Deadline for the next issue of KIT -

JULY 1, 2013

Please send information, articles, etc.
to:

gardens@bresnan.net

Phyllis White
P.O. Box 921
Bozeman, MT 59771

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Website: www.gardenclub.org**

**MEMBER SERVICES:
For current orders
1-800-550-6007
headquarters@gardenclub.org**

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.
4401 Magnolia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
(314) 776-7574**

NGC President's Project - 2012-2013 PLANTINGS FOR PUBLIC AND SPECIAL PLACES Betsy Steele, Coordinator

Plantings for Public & Special Places - TREES AND SHRUBS

It has been thrilling to have received so many wonderful applications for this National Project. Your clubs have contributed so much to the improvement and beauty of parks, roadsides, school grounds, public buildings, with the list going on and on. Thank you for Proudly Serving our Communities so well!

Lissa Williamson, Chairman
Phyllis Besch
Evalee Ciuca

Planting in Public and Special Places - EDIBLES

A huge thank you to all who sent in their EDIBLE GARDEN ENTRIES. I have received 41 entries from all over America. I know that your clubs are active and the people in your communities benefit from all that you do. Keep up the great work and continue to EAT THOSE VEGGIES.

Pat Rupiper, Chairman
Virginia Grandpré
Elizabeth Lewis

Plantings for Public & Special Places - CONTAINER GARDENS

What a wonderful year this has been for the President's project "Plantings for Public/Special Places" in the Container category! We are delighted to receive so many more applications than last year, especially from those regions that previously didn't apply. It's overwhelming to read about and look at such colorful undertakings in which so many federated clubs are involved. The extensive collaboration between the local club and the local businesses, the Boy Scouts, churches, local town officials, hospitals, special needs' groups, etc, etc. is amazing! And that says nothing about our love for teaching and sharing our gardening skills. Thank you, one and all!

Sue Robinson, Chairman
Mary Ann Moreno
Colleen Weiler

NGC MEMBER SERVICES - Candace Morgenstern, Chairman

Member Services has encouraged all our members to think green by ordering our recycled luggage tags, magnetic name badges, placing orders on-line etc...but now we want you to think BLUE!!!!

We have a special limited edition blue scarf, now available for purchase on our website and will be available at our convention in Seattle. It is the same design as our green scarf ~ both are 100% silk georgette featuring all the state logos, NGC & International Affiliate logos with the columbine running through it ~ exquisite! The scarf makes a versatile spring fashion statement, measuring 22" wide x 67" long. A lovely gift for incoming or outgoing officers at \$35.00 each.

The color blue we chose is one of the top 10 women's pantone colors for spring. Monaco Blue is not a bright cobalt or sapphire blue, but falls in between with a shot of sparkle! Guess what President Shirley Nicolai's favorite color is... blue!

Ordering is very easy on our website www.gardenclub.org or contact:
Teri Virga at 800-550-6007 at the NGC Headquarters.

It has been a pleasure researching products for our NGC members ~ keep watching for new items!

Candace Morgenstern
candacemorgenstern@gmail.com



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

Your NGC Schools committees will soon be meeting at the NGC convention in Seattle. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns regarding our schools.

We hope many of you are planning to attend the convention where you can learn so much about garden club from business meetings, featured speakers, seminars, tours, exhibits and networking with garden club members from every state and from our International Affiliates. We hope many of you will take advantage of the convention Tri-Refresher and this exciting opportunity to refresh your certificates in Environmental Studies, Gardening Study or Landscape Design.

As summer approaches and State Garden Clubs and their districts, clubs, and councils plan their activities for the next garden club year, consider sponsoring a NGC school. This can be a substantial team project for your organization and a significant educational experience for members and a means of drawing in the public for an educational opportunity (who can then be encouraged to become members). Consider timing a school course to tie in with observance of Arbor Day, Earth Day, National Garden Week and other special occasions or in conjunction with a State Garden Club meeting, convention or with a regional convention. Your Schools committees are here to assist.

Answers to NGC Quiz page 8

1. New England, Central Atlantic, South Atlantic, Deep South, Central, Rocky Mountain, South Central and Pacific
2. St. Louis, MO
3. Environmental Studies, Flower Show, Gardening Study and Landscape Design
4. Ideally, every garden club member (State Presidents forward it electronically down a chain to reach club presidents and then club members.)
5. 2,500
6. Award of Excellence (#24)
7. Gardens with edibles
8. The first full week of June
9. Burgundy/Pink
10. Member Award of Honor

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS - Greg Pokorski, Chairman

It continues to be a challenge to get people to correctly identify and brand our school. It is Gardening (not Garden) Study (not Studies) School.

At the Winter Executive Committee Meeting in January, a Gardening Study Schools (GSS) Committee recommendation to remove *Living With Plants* from the GSS required reading list and add the new textbook *Botany for Gardeners* by Brian Capon to the recommended reading list (effective immediately) was approved. *Living With Plants*, our long-term text has not been updated for some time and is hard to find, moves to the recommended reading list. (It is no longer available in print and Member Services has only 16 copies in stock - so hurry and order a copy before they are all gone.)

Botany for Gardeners is a comprehensive biology text with good information and fine illustrations. The book is available in paperback and also as an on-line (Kindle/e-book) version. Copies may be purchased online (Amazon.com) and in book stores.

Botany for Gardeners offers a clear explanation of how plants grow. What happens inside a seed after it is planted? How are plants structured? How do plants adapt to their environment? How is water transported from soil to leaves? Why are minerals, air, and light important for healthy plant growth? How do plants reproduce? The answers to these and other questions about complex plant processes, written in everyday language, allow gardeners and horticulturists to understand plants "from the plant's point of view."

Thanks to Cathy Felton, GSS Vice-Chairman, for all of her work in facilitating this change.

My club, Southern California Garden Club in Encino, California, just completed Course IV of California Series 22 with 48 attendees, culminating with 32 new Gardening Consultants. What struck me most about this school is how much has changed since I took my first GSS Course 19 years ago. Subjects are evolving. There are new and different ways of doing things – and there are new ways of learning (we were not using the Internet in 1994 and now it is a primary information resource). Gardening keeps changing and gardeners need to keep learning. It may always be beneficial to attend a Gardening Study Course. So keep in mind that if and when you “refresh” at another Gardening Study School there will always be more to learn. And you get different information and perspectives when you have different instructors and when the courses are given in different geographic areas. Even if you take the same course over and over, you may be exposed to significant variety in information presented. It can be most worthwhile to refresh at a school. A takeaway from our recent school: “if you’re not patient, you have no business being a gardener.”

We will soon have new state presidents for 2013-2015. If a new state Gardening Study Schools chairman and/or a new Gardening Consultants Council chairman is appointed, State Presidents are kindly requested to send these new state chairmen’s names, complete mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses to: Greg Pokorski (GregPokorski@earthlink.net), and to Cathy Felton, Vice Chairman (camafelton@comcast.net).

SHOP NGC
at www.gardenclub.org
1-800-550-6007

**State and Club Presidents,
Please share the KIT with your
board and club members for further
distribution.**

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS - Jane Bersch, Chairman

The 2012 NGC Landscape Design Schools Operations Guide, including all required LDS Forms and Documents for Reproduction, is available at NGC Headquarters for \$10 plus shipping. The Operations Guide may be ordered by contacting NGC Headquarters at 1-800-550-6007. All state Landscape Design Schools chairmen are required to have a copy of the 2012 LDS Operations Guide. State Chairmen whose states are "grandfathered" to continue a series using the previous curriculum will need to retain the 2007 Operations Guide.

Beginning with the 2013-2015 NGC Administration, the 2012 LDS Forms must be used by all state LDS chairmen. The 2012 LDS Forms and Documents for Reproduction are in the 2012 LDS Operations Guide and are posted on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org, in the Landscape Design Schools section. Most of the Forms are interactive. Directions for filling them out are given.

Outgoing LDS Chairmen are urged to obtain the 2012 LDS Operations Guide, pass it on, along with the 2007 Operations Guide, to their replacement and serve as mentor in the period of transition. During these spring months, we will be welcoming new state presidents for 2013-2015. If a new state Landscape Design Schools chairman and a new LD Consultants Council chairman is appointed, state Presidents are kindly requested to send these chairmen's name, complete mailing address, phone number and email address to: Janebersch@aol.com, and to LDS Newsletter Chairman Victoria Bergesen, victoriabergesen@gmail.com. "Newscaper", the LDS newsletter, will be emailed to these new LDS Chairmen.

The LDS committee is available to assist the LDS Chairmen. The 2013-2015 LDS Committee will be posted on the NGC website following NGC Convention in Seattle in May. Please feel free to contact us.
Jane Bersch, NGC LDS Chairman; 609-654-6580; Janebersch@aol.com

WORLD GARDENING GLOBAL PARTNERS -Barbara Wesley, Chairman

Global Partners/Running Waters and Haiti Projects thrive with support of Members!

National Garden Club members can be proud of the support given to these World Gardening and International Disaster Projects.

NGC is again reaching out to aid families in Guatemala. We are joining with another organization seeking to reverse global warming. Donors will assist the people in developing self-sustaining agriculture and educate the population about protecting the environment.

Reforestation of macadamia nut trees will provide the opportunity to market natural foods and cosmetics. Over 200,000 trees have already been planted with funds collected before we became involved. In addition to benefiting the earth, the nuts also provide food. The macadamia nut contains a wealth of nutrients.

The project is located in San Antonio Community Ixoc, Joyabaj, El Quiche, Guatemala. The climate is cold. Maize and beans are grown and help them to survive. Buildings are of local material and adobe clay tile.

The money which has been collected will make this community water project possible. The object is to provide 129 families with water. Since water is not in the vicinity, it must be carried from the river for drinking and other needs. Untreated water causes recurrent gastrous diseases.

The water supply will be taken from the area above the community and placed in a storage tank. Water will be distributed through a PVC pipeline directly to the homes of the families. Members who have donated will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are part of a force for good. You will all be remembered daily.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOLS - Judy Newman, Chairman

All of the ESS forms are now on the NGC website, as well as the updated curriculum which was approved at the NGC Winter Executive Committee meeting. The Environmental Studies Handbook at NGC Headquarters has the updated curriculum, forms, brochures and changes/corrections since the 2010 printing.

Please feel free to contact NGC ESS Chairman Judy Newman, (newman9641@aol.com) with any questions or concerns.

NGC 4 and 5 STAR MEMBERS Julie Schoenike, Chairman

NGC CONSULTANT:

A student who has successfully completed all four courses of a NGC school must be a member of a NGC affiliated garden club, or may receive consultant status by joining an affiliated garden club within one year after completion of the school. Students must have proof of subscription to *The National Gardener* with label. The four courses may be taken at any time interval. This constitutes the Four Star Certificate when application is applied.

NGC Master Consultant:

After achieving the consultant status, one must complete four refreshers, one per year, in order to become a master consultant. This constitutes the Five Star Certificate when application is applied.

Application Forms:

Interactive 4 and 5 Star application forms can be found on the public side of the NGC website. To access: www.gardenclub.org

- Click on clubs
- Click on forms
- Scroll down to 4-5 Star
- State presidents must verify applications with their signatures.

Submit signed application forms to:

Julie Schoenike,
NGC 4 & 5 Star Chairman
email: jwschoen@frontiernet.net
82 Eighth Street
Clintonville, WI 54929-1442

**NGC AWARDS -
Bobbie Verser, Chairman**

PREPARING YEARBOOKS FOR 2013-2015

Many of you are planning and preparing yearbooks for the upcoming year. Please notice the following changes and make adjustments concerning Yearbooks - Scale of Points under Programs (4). Delete letters (d) and (e). The 4 points have been distributed among the remaining areas. (a. will have a possible 14 pts); (b. will have a possible 12 pts.); and (c. will have a possible 14 pts.).

This Committee continues to improve the NGC Award Guidelines. We appreciate your questions, suggestions, and comments. Best of luck as you plan for the year ahead.

Bobbie Verser, NGC Awards Chair
bobbieverser@att.net

**NGC EDUCATION/TOUR REFRESHER,
Bonnie Dinneen, Chairman
NGC TOURS, Mary Ann Bryan, Chairman**

Two Wonderful International Opportunities to Refresh!

President-Elect Linda Nelson will be offering two upcoming tours for NGC members, during the first year of her administration.

In her theme:

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE – Choices Matter. She states "It is my hope that the committees will find that this theme will work for their projects. We will stress the basics of our Conservation Pledge in our daily life decisions: *'I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.'* I firmly believe that education is the key to responsible decisions."

The key to NGC education is our schools. Beginning this November, a 7 day trip to Costa Rica with a Bi-Refresher offered in ESS and GSS and then June, 2014, a 10 day trip to Ireland incorporating the Wafa Event! with an opportunity to Tri-Refresh in all 3 schools, plus the excitement of Wafa!

Complete information on the two tours and for the Refreshers will be included in the members' packet at the Convention in Seattle, May 24-26, 2013. Further information is also posted on the NGC Website www.gardenclub.org under News & Events 'more news!' It is not too early to register.

Bonni L. Dinneen,
NGC Education Chair/ Tour Refresher Chairman
bonni.dinneen@gmail.com

Mary Ann Bryant , Tour Chairman
maryannbryant@gmail.com

**VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR
Jan Warshauer, Chairman**

**VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR
2015 Entry Deadline -- August 1, 2013**

The Requirements and the Entry Form for the 2015 edition of the Calendar are now on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org. Log in on the Member side. At the left click on Publications, then click on *Vision of Beauty Calendar*, then click on Requirements and Entry Form which are highlighted in red.

The Entry Form is interactive, which means the form can be filled out on the computer, printed and mailed to the Chairman with the photograph of the design.

Please, read the **revised** requirements carefully, noting that the titled photograph must also be sent to the Chairman by email: ngcvob@gmail.com. This **DOES NOT** take the place of sending an actual photograph.

Individuals are limited to 5 entries with only 1 background per entry.

**GRANTS/DEVELOPMENT/GIFTS
Pat Westgard, Chairman**

While the economy and future may seem uncertain, charitable planning can help you stay on track to meet your goals. Whether it's saving on this year's taxes, creating more income for the future, avoiding higher capital gains on the sale of your assets, your attorney and financial planner can help you by including gifts to the 501c3 organizations you have devoted time and energy to during your life. *Within all of it, is a gentle reminder to all of us to **plan and act now**, to prepare a legacy for your family and beyond.*

I recently heard this powerful quote from Henri Nouwen, from his book entitled "The Greatest Gift." *"How can I so live that I continue to be fruitful when I am no longer here among my family and friends?"* What a great and powerful question!

Former NGC President Babs Barnette recently gifted a sizable portion of her estate to NGC as a legacy to her years of service. After planning for your family's needs, have you chosen to leave a part of your estate to your local, state or National Garden Club? Will your fruitfulness continue after you are no longer here?

For more ideas feel free to talk to someone on our committee or check the NGC website. It can be as easy as listing National Garden Clubs, Inc., 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St Louis, MO 63110, to receive a dollar amount or a percentage of an asset. You choose the endowment, program or project you wish to benefit.

Pat Westgard, Chairman

NEW ENGLAND REGION

JOYCE A. KIMBALL

As my Director's term comes to an end, I find myself already reflecting on how much I have enjoyed—and will miss—representing the members of the Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont State Garden Clubs during these past two years. I will indeed miss visiting all of the state and local garden clubs in my region, participating in their events and sharing in their many successes. I have learned so much from so many and I applaud the leadership of each and every one of our members—whether they taught a gardening class to a group of young people at the local level or addressed hundreds of attendees at a national convention. We are all NGC member gardeners and/or floral designers, however by virtue of all we do within those roles, we are also artists, teachers, mentors, students and philanthropists as well as good friends and members of a very large garden club family. Together, we are the New England Region of Garden Clubs and we make a difference.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

JEANNE T. NELSON

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the NGC President, Shirley S. Nicolai, for her leadership, resourcefulness and commitment to the ideals of our organization and the members of her home region.

My compliments to the Executive Committee, Board and members of Central Atlantic Region for embracing the theme of this administration. The accomplishment of our goals by taking difficult steps to attain that mission has been rewarding.

Our triumphs, two successful National Conventions hosted by states in our region; the advancement of the "Trail of Blue Stars" honoring our service personnel; establishing a Life Membership Chairmanship to increase our contribution to the CAR scholarship program; saying "great job" to fellow club members with a "Perennial Bloom" award; joining forces with other organizations to promote community gardens and supply food for those in need; congratulations to clubs for awards received; creating a CAR pin for the members; having an outstanding newsletter that helps the region communicate with its members and the development of a series of symposia sponsored by CAR every other year.

We have just scratched the surface, planting new ideas, encouraging clubs to look to their communities and the youth programs that can be made available to schools. We have plowed and fertilized and have seen the beginning of the blossoms that we have nurtured. Only time will tell how successful we have been.

It has truly been an honor to serve my Central Atlantic Region and to be a part of the Executive Committee of this NGC administration.

"Gardening with Pride, Honoring Home, Community & Country"

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

MARY DIXON

It is really hard to believe that our two years are coming to an end. Time goes by so fast but it has been rewarding and an honor to serve as Director for our region.

We just returned from Lexington, Kentucky where we had our annual convention. In spite of the weather we had a wonderful time with great workshops and programs.

The goal for this director has been to increase membership through inviting friends and neighbors to join our clubs, communicating that we have clubs and that we are an important part of the community, and educating them of the opportunities available to them when they belong to a garden club. All five of our states have Newsletters and Websites and have used them to inform members about projects, scholarships available, and schools being held for their benefit. Our young people benefit so much because of the involvement of the garden clubs in their activities. Many worthwhile projects have included youth and members of other community organizations as our clubs reach out to help others.

This director is proud of the achievements made by the states and the participation in the projects within those states that have made our communities more beautiful and a better place to live.

DEEP SOUTH REGION

SARA LANIER

Spring is a season of beauty, rejuvenation and energy. Savannah embodied the spirit of spring's beauty with flowers abloom, trees sporting new growth and the Hostess City's charm seen all about. What a setting for our 52nd DSR Convention! Surely the 266 members in attendance felt a charge of new energy for the tasks ahead.

Sincere thanks to Shirley Lewis and

Dyanna Byers for chairing this event and members of the GCG for hosting "Georgia's Treasures." Tina Tuttle and Gina Jogan of Florida did an outstanding job of writing the schedule for the 3rd DSR Petite Advanced-Standard flower show titled "Deep South Treasures."

The presidents of the Six Deep South states have done a splendid job of promoting both the NGC and Deep South Projects. Our states have increased membership and continue to provide the tools needed to foster even more member growth. It has been a delight to work with such energetic and cooperative leaders.

Traveling through the states of our region has allowed me to meet delightful people, see the beauty each state has to offer, and make new friends along the way. I want to thank all of you who have helped make these two years fun for me and hopefully for you as well. These times will never be forgotten...such an honor to have had the privilege of serving as your Deep South Director.

A new season awaits us and Gloria Blake, DSR Director (2013-2015) and the six new presidents of our wonderful states. I wish for them the same wonderful support you all have provided me.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." Carol Bobieski.

CENTRAL REGION

FLORENCE SMITH

As this term comes to an end, I'm pleased and proud of the awards received by Central Region as well as major accomplishments of CR such as the regional unified project, the planting of flowering trees and shrubs in public or private spaces.

Another CR goal accomplished was to increase the balance in the Scholarship fund. The scholarship fund is increased by becoming a CR Life member. In addition to a Life membership, applicants could also purchase a gold star pin. There were also various items sold at the CR meetings with proceeds deposited into the scholarship fund. A job well done by all.

It was determined at the 80th Central Region Convention in St. Louis, that two scholarships could be awarded at the 2013 convention in Seattle. With a reserve amount left for the following year.

Come and join us at the National Convention in beautiful Seattle, Washington as we will be welcoming the new Central Region Director Gerry Ford and Alternate Julie Hansen from Illinois.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION JUDY GROTTTS

The South Central Region is doing fine and ready for the new Administration. Nancy Voyles will be the new Director and Bobbie Verser will be the Alternate Director, both are from Arkansas. Nancy will be telling you all about her plans and theme in the next issue.

This administration has been busy and productive. With the new Awards Booklet and the changes there was an increase in entries. At the Awards Banquet in March, all four state Presidents (Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) accepted awards for their state. We are continuing to work with the youth. Our new Regional Seal was used for the first time for the awards. It has the four states with our Regional Butterfly, the Monarch, above the states. There are environmental studies, landscape design, and gardening study in three states. Flower Show Schools will be held in New Mexico and Arkansas. Texas continues to have all the four NGC Schools yearly. Blue Star Memorial dedications were beautiful and inspiring. Oklahoma Garden Clubs, in conjunction with The Native Plant Society, will be hosting a "Wildflower Workshop" June 7th and 8th, 2013, in Alva, Oklahoma.

The past two years have been an education in geography, tradition, and unexpected treasures. The members top the list of treasures. Attending the events, learning about new products, and ways of educating members as well as our youth leaves me wanting more. I enjoyed my administration, and had the best board of Elected and Appointed Directors ever assembled. Thank you all for your time and support. Working with the other seven regional Directors has been an honor and a privilege.

May your garden give you peace, beauty and inner strength. From these may you have the courage to plant more so your soul will have less troubles and your daily life be more joyous.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION TERRY KROKE

It is truly amazing! Two years really have passed since I was installed as Director of the Rocky Mountain Region. It has been a wonderful experience and a joy to work with the members in the Rocky Mountain Region's eight states. The geography of the region is so diverse; as I visited the states, I was fascinated by the variety in the landscape. It has reinforced for me how, in spite of different environments and issues, each of the states is carrying out NGC's projects under its own unique set of

gardening zones and temperatures.

Our regional project involved making a concerted effort to inform the community about the good work done by garden clubs. The clubs used a variety of strategies to educate their members and the public about their garden clubs and the goals of NGC. Some got press coverage of their events or projects, while others paid for advertising or brochures. Signs were used to take credit for the work. Social media and word of mouth were also popular ways to spread the word.

PACIFIC REGION DEBBIE HINCHEY

It is not often that a NGC convention is on the Pacific coast. So, do not miss this wonderful opportunity to experience a rare event. The tours visit all my favorite garden spots in the Seattle area. It would be easier to come early and stay longer to see the ones you missed, than choose between them.

And the speakers are lively, humorous, and informative. I have heard most of them several times as headline speakers at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show (and bought their books, too).

Even if you decide to register after April 19, the late fees will be worth it. So, quick, register for the May 24-26, 2013 convention in Seattle. All the convention details our Washington members have put together are on the NGC website.

And, with the closing of this term, I now fully realize why we stand and applaud our top leaders. It is a "Thank You" - because they work very long and hard for garden clubs.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS QUIZ by Shirley Nicolai

1. Name 4 of NGC's 8 regions.
2. NGC Headquarters sits on 6.2 acres in what city?
3. Name the 4 schools offered by NGC.
4. Who receives Keeping in Touch (KIT)?
5. Approximately how many Blue Star Memorial Markers have been installed?
6. What \$500 award is offered annually in 4 size categories for outstanding state projects?
7. The 3 categories for Plantings for Public and Special Places are trees and shrubs, container gardens and _____.
8. When is National Garden Week celebrated?
9. What color is the rosette given for a Flower Show Achievement Award for a Standard Flower Show Staged in a Public Building?
10. Which award has 8 national/regional winners and is offered to a member who has made outstanding contributions to club and community, but has not served on the NGC Board of Directors?

Answers on page 4