



Keeping In Touch

MAY 2014



Linda G. Nelson

2013-2015 President

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Has Spring finally kept her promise to all areas of our country? ... She has been a fickle friend this year!! She wants us to truly appreciate her when she finally arrives. Spring was in full bloom as I visited the Dallas Arboretum in Dallas, Texas while visiting the South Central Region. The tulips were a beautiful sight. Later, they welcomed some much needed rain which was followed by the Texas Garden Clubs convention. Their convention was filled with excellent educational programs, educating their members and urging them to make choices that protect our natural resources. Water is a precious resource in Texas and many other areas. They had a major program on "*Earth Kind: Environmental Stewardship Program*." The objective is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a new horticultural system based on real-world effectiveness and environmental responsibility. Research more info at earthkind.tamu.edu. As I attended the various state meetings I have found you are all working hard, and I am so very proud of this effort. As we come to understand the impact of choices made from a lack of understanding the long term consequences, we can, and will, **MAKE CHOICES THAT PROTECT OUR RESOURCES**.

While in Alabama, I met a feisty gal who is Mayor of her small town, and a garden club member. Shortly after taking office, she discovered that an "industry" was going to be located just at the edge of her town. The "industry" turned out to be a landfill, commonly known as a dump...a 5,000 acre dump. She got in full gear; she alerted everybody, garden clubs, neighbors, people she didn't know except that their names were in the telephone book. This environmentally concerned group banded together to keep garbage from as far away as New York being dumped in their backyards, and they were successful. It was a powerful story. This group, led by a garden club member, **MADE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE** in their community. Education empowers us to take a stand as caretakers of our air, water, land, forest and wildlife. If we share this information with our neighbors and demonstrate our beliefs by our gardening practices, or efforts to protect the habitat of our butterflies, birds, pollinators, we will have an influence on more than the destiny of our community. Indeed, it will impact the world.

....And some people still think garden clubbers are just social groups, wearing their gloves, sipping tea and munching on cookies!

Be significant...make a difference!

Love,

Linda

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT --

Doris Jackson - Air Quality Chairman

Since spring is here and summer is approaching soon, garden club members are eager for the upcoming season and planting their gardens. When planning your gardens both inside and outside, I am suggesting the following ideas and links in order to inspire a dialogue concerning applications and possible solutions for the President's Project - MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE — Choices Matter.

Air pollution is the introduction into the atmosphere of chemicals, particulates, or biological materials that cause discomfort, disease, or death to humans, damage other living organisms such as food crops, or damage the natural environment or built environment.

Indoor air pollution and urban air quality are known to be two of the world's worst toxic pollution problems.

- What varieties of plants or trees would cost less to grow, would grow faster and would reduce toxic emissions into the environment? Are there species of inexpensive, robust and plentiful fauna that would offer a viable economical alternative for those cultures and individuals who currently depend upon burning wood for their winter warmth and cooking? Is this a fantasy or is there a possible alternative?

- Is it possible to improve or enhance Indoor air quality with certain plants? What plants increase oxygen output? Can air quality within a building or dwelling be improved with a specific or greater number of plants or is this simply a fantasy?

To find more information about how plants improve air quality, Google the keywords "[air quality improvement via plants](#)"

Watch a video of a TED talk from 2009 - it is still important in 2014: [How To Grow Your Own Fresh Air](#)

Exterior gardens in cities - rooftop gardens, wall gardens. Do they, or could they improve air quality?

[How To Start A Vertical Garden](#)

[Where To Buy \(or DIY\) Vertical Garden Panels](#)

I hope some of these ideas and links will help give Garden Clubs or State Federations some ideas for a project or point us in the direction of possible solutions to our ever growing air pollution problems. Clubs can build on an existing project or establish a new project. Consider taking on an air quality project and entering the President's Project for an award in

2015. The President's Project and awards were published in KIT and can also be obtained on the NGC website.

Caroline Wittman - Land Chairman

Growing up in the Midwest, I saw first hand the results of plowing under the wheat fields after they were harvested. It was a common practice to work the fields several times, turning the soil into fine powder. With the strong winds blowing from the South, the whipped soil and tumbleweeds would blow for days at a time. The sky would turn black with the soil. With no rain for several years, and with no crops raised, the farmers sold their cattle. Many farmers abandoned their homesteads and moved to other states to work as tenant farmers.

When the rains returned, the farmers realized that terracing might be the answer. This was done in a pattern to hold the rain, with no runoff. They also learned it was more practical to work the wheat stubble once and plant the wheat seeds at the same time.

It is a beautiful sight to drive on the Interstate Highway system when the wheat fields turn green in the spring. Another plus, in the last few years, are the wind turbines that wind their way along the road; it looks like an artist's painting. The Midwest has learned and continues to practice soil conservation.

MEMBERSHIP - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Kitty Larkin, Membership Committee

Whether or not you believe that you as an individual can make a difference, imagine what almost 179,000 federated Garden Club members who are committed to providing education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members, can do when we work together. If you publicize your goals and accomplishments, they will come.

We all need to be enthusiastic when we talk about and promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. Don't forget our pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet *Membership (continued from previous page)* earth. Also remember that we're doing this for our children, grandchildren and future generations.

Let's make our organization even stronger by recruiting/retaining/engaging members. Membership is everyone's responsibility. Remember **TEAMwork - Together Everyone Achieves More**. Following are some retention and recruitment ideas for you to try:

- Know your competition. Ask non-federated garden club members why they made their choice of clubs and explain to them the advantages of belonging to a federated club.
- Hold a membership "sale" for renewals and new members where dues are a dollar or more cheaper,
- Create a packet of information for new members highlighting club activities and introducing your officers and committees. Include with your welcome letter items, such as a list of committees and chairmen, a calendar of events and volunteer opportunities, a recent newsletter, and facts about your club.
- Nurture the needs of the younger members in the club (i.e. if possible offer child care so your members can attend a meeting.)
- Invest in a booth at the mall, county fair, and other locations. Develop road shows where selected club speakers and materials are presented to other organizations - a good way to solicit membership.
- Include membership literature with all non-member speaker gifts. Consider a gift membership for appropriate speakers.
- Offer to pay membership dues each year for the person who sponsors the most new members.
- Develop membership recruitment contests in which all members can participate.
- Maintain an open door policy. Encourage members to call you with their concerns.
- Hold an annual kick-off meeting to share successes of the prior year and plans for the upcoming year.
- Add additional ideas to this list and submit them to your NGC Membership Team to share with others.

Bee-GAP and NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

Debbie Scow, Chairman

NGC Native Bees/BeeGAP/Crown Bees Partnership

NGC's BeeGAP (**G**ardeners **A**dding **P**ollinators) Special Project dovetails beautifully with National Pollinator Week, June 16 - 23, 2014. Initiated and managed by Pollinator Partnership and approved by the United States Senate, National Pollinator Week is a time to share the importance of ALL pollinators with as many people as possible. Please consider an event for your garden club, community and schools.

For more information about NGC's BeeGAP Special Project, please visit the NGC section of www.crownbees.com to learn how to raise mason bees and to spread the news about BeeGAP. Spring mason bees are ready to fly when

daytime temperatures reach 50 - 55 degrees.

Thank you for participating in BeeGAP to help close the gap created by the decline of the honeybee.

MEMBER SERVICES

Barbara Campbell, Chairman

Debating at our National Convention in Oklahoma ~ We now have beautiful handmade state flower prints for all the 50 states created by artist Kristen Ley. These colorful prints make great gifts to honor presenters, club officers, long-time members, new members, friends or just treat yourself. The idea for this state series came from a quote Kristen read when traveling through the beautifully flowered highways in east Texas near Austin. The quote is by Lady Bird Johnson and reads, "Where flowers bloom so does hope." Kristen found the quote to be truly inspiring and the starting point for all her state flower illustrations. These 11" x 15" prints each come with a packet of wildflower seeds. Prints are available through Member Services for \$25 plus \$6 for shipping. Shipping charges are reduced on multiple orders. Also available is a large print of all 50 states.

Please continue to shop our partnerships and encourage friends and family members to do the same. Use our online Member Services catalog for many other sale items.

2015 Vision of Beauty calendars are now available! Order through the NGC website or call Headquarters.

Submissions for KIT are due July 1, 2014
Phyllis White, KIT Editor, gardens@bresnan.net
Jan Sillik, Assistant Editor, gluegunjan@aol.com

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NGC Member Services

To place orders, call 1-800-550-6007

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

According to Aristotle, "Education is the best provision for the journey to old age." Make a World of Difference by holding schools and refresher events.

Multiple Refresher Chairman Lana Finegold reports: Tri-Refreshers were held in West Palm Beach in January and one featuring a Panama tour was held by our International Affiliates in March. Upcoming events: a Bi-Refresher in Philadelphia May 28-29, and Tri-Refreshers in Michigan April 26, in Glendale, California June 6 and 9, in Gainesville, Florida June 16-18, in Ireland June 17-26 and in New York September 8-9. Thanks to everyone for emphasizing education.

Multiple refresher forms have been updated and are interactive on the NGC website, thanks to Poss Tarpley and her team of proofreaders.

A perk of becoming a Master Consultant: one who holds Master Consultant status in more than one school may receive simultaneous credit at one multiple refresher for each of the schools in which he/she is a Master. All other refreshing Consultants receive credit for one school only. Consultants and Multiple Refresher Chairmen do not always understand this. If you have questions, please ask.

Reminder – as of January 1, there is no longer a requirement to collect *The National Gardener* labels (proof of subscription) for all NGC school courses and refreshers (no change in the requirement to subscribe to/read *The National Gardener*, the official source of news about our school programs).

Your Schools Committees will meet May 1 at the NGC Convention in Oklahoma. Let us know if you have questions or suggestions.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY SCHOOLS

Judy Newman, Chairman

One of biggest headaches for Consultants and school chairmen is maintaining accurate records of schools, courses with dates and locations, especially the Tri-Refreshers taken outside their home state. A Consultant may obtain refresher credit once a calendar year. Master Consultants may receive multiple Refresher Credits ONLY after achieving Master Status in one or more of the following, ESS, GSS, and/or LDS.

It is the Consultant's responsibility to maintain and provide ACCURATE records as to: date of Accredita-

tion Certificate and location (date 4th ESS Course was completed); dates and locations of all Refreshers; following 4th Refresher submit application for Master Consultant; dates and location of all Master Refreshers.

The NGC Accrediting Chairman issues cards using information from Course and Refresher Rosters. These cards are sent to the State ESS Chairman who records the information in the Consultant's records and forwards the card to the Consultant.

Available on the NGC website, gardenclub.org, Schools, Environmental Studies, Forms 5 - 10 pertain to Consultant Applications, Refreshers, Extensions, Reinstatement and Emeritus Status. These forms are interactive. Consultants can download the forms, complete and print in preparation for the 4th course to become a Consultant, receive Refresher Credit, become a Master Consultant, and receive Master Consultant Refresher credit. The form would be submitted to the State Chairmen for approval. It is strongly recommended that the Consultant also keep a copy of the form(s) as a reference. Please contact me to verify your records at newman9641@aol.com.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

Greg Pokorski, Chairman

Exciting news from the world of Gardening Study Schools (GSS):

The **Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.** has a school series in progress – its first in years. Reports are that it has been wonderful. The **Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota, Inc.** is preparing its first GSS in decades. Research indicates that the last course there may have been in 1979. School organizers will attend a GSS course in neighboring Iowa as part of their preparation. This is an excellent idea to get the big picture of the planning process. Generally, it is wise to have Consultants who have completed a school chair schools because they have experience with the subject matter and the process. But if there are no Consultants to do the job, it can be very beneficial for the prospective chairmen to experience an NGC school in person. We hope that one of Alaska's garden clubs will soon be holding a GSS. **Alaska Garden Clubs** is offering substantial educational grants to each of its clubs to assist in sponsoring NGC schools of their choice (another great idea!). A state committee was formed to assist each club in selecting the school that's right for them and to further assist in its organization.

We receive inquiries through the NGC website from people looking for a GSS near them. There are prospective students out there! Make a World of Difference by holding

Gardening Study Schools (continued from previous page)
or helping with a Gardening Study School – or just by attending and learning.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Jane Bersch, Chairman

After this snowy, cold winter, many of us are eagerly welcoming spring. Our gardens will need much attention. Be sure your “Choices Matter” when making any changes in your landscape.

Just a reminder: As of January 1, 2014, proof of a subscription to *The National Gardener* is no longer required on any LDS forms. All students and Consultants must subscribe to *TNG*, the official source of all NGC news and updates. Students at any LDS Course will have questions based on the current Landscape Design article.

Please encourage your members to check out *Newscape*, the NGC Landscape Design Newsletter. There are several previous issues on the NGC web site, www.gardenclub.org. Go to “Educational Programs and Schools” and click on “Landscape Design.” On the LDS home page, following the listing of all the schools taking place this spring, you will find *Newscape*, with several previous issues. The Spring 2014 issue will also soon be there. Read about landscape activities taking place in many of the states. In the Fall 2013 issue are articles about what the gardeners in California, Colorado, Maryland and Ohio have accomplished. Please share with us some of your landscaping endeavors. Send details to Victoria Bergesen, editor of *Newscape*, at Victoriabergesen@gmail.com.

NATIVE PLANTS

Carolyn Patterson, Chairman

There are several advantages to using native plants in your landscaping plans. They are adapted to the area where you live and require the local soil, temperature and water conditions normally available there. They are NOT invasive. They are less expensive and can be easily replaced if necessary. They are usually more resistant to pests and diseases since they have stood the test of time.

Native fruit-bearing plants are not only attractive in the landscape, but also some add food for both humans and other animals. Following are some of those I like to use in my section of the eastern United States:

- Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) – leafs out late in the spring. Fruits vary in color from black to red to white and

are about the size and shape of a blackberry but are very sweet. Children and adults love to pick them by the handful: birds plant them for you – they relish these berries.

- Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis* or *Sambucus pubens*) Both of these shrubs bear clusters of deep purple to black (*S. canadensis*) or deep red (*S. pubens*) berries in mid-summer after flowering in big white clusters. These berries are prized for making elderberry jelly. *S. pubens* is a little showier when it blooms but both are very hardy, coming up from their roots each spring.

- Juneberry (*Amelanchier* spp.) In our area this plant is called “sarviss” or serviceberry. In some regions it’s called shadblow. The plant can be either a tree or shrub and is loaded with white lacy flowers in mid spring, followed by maroon colored berries the size and shape of small blueberries. Birds can quickly strip a tree so it is good to have several planted. The almond-flavored berries are delicious raw but may also be used in place of blueberries in recipes. Since picking involves climbing up into a tree if you have the tree form, I suggest holding a sheet under the tree while some brave climber shakes it. This yields a lot of fruit quickly. The tree is nicely shaped and its leaves turn purple, orange, and yellow in the fall.

- American Beech (*Fagus grandiflora*) A large forest tree with smooth grey bark, this tree is the one lovers often carve their initials in. I like it for the small sweet triangular nuts it bears in the fall. My siblings and I would fly off the school bus to get our nutty snack on the way home from school. Squirrels love them too! The wood is used to make clothespins.

- Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) There are many hickories, but this one has the best-tasting nut. It can be used in place of a pecan and is never bitter. The name comes from the bark that hangs in strips from the trunk. In the 1950’s we used to crack the nuts and sell them for 25 cents a pint which bought a loaf of bread!

- Black Locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) Although not a large tree (it will only grow where it can receive plenty of sun, such as along a fencerow or wood’s edge), its spring bloom fills the air with a sweet fragrance and the bees flock to it. The honey is darker than sourwood honey and has a bolder taste but is still tasty. Since it is a legume, it enriches the soil with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. Its blooms resemble large white sweet peas. The tree grows quickly.

Some of the native trees and shrubs take many years to mature, so be careful what you cut when developing an area. You may be destroying a special plant that could give you many years of carefree growth. I urge you to become familiar with the natives in your area. Check with your state foresters and attend native plant symposiums, or host a program in your area. Gardeners will thank you!

NEWS FROM REGIONAL DIRECTORS

PACIFIC REGION Elaine Gunderson, Director

The Southwest winter has been unusually mild. However, for the states north, winter has been unrelenting. Take heart, spring is here.

WELCOME to Garden Clubs of Idaho's New President Janet Petersen who assumed the office in mid-January 2014. Janet is already up to speed with State, Pacific Region and National responsibilities.

DIRECTOR'S THEME AND PROJECT: Pacific Region States through Districts/Local Clubs' civic development projects and educational schools/programs are supporting Pacific Region's Director's Theme, "Expand Horizons – A Conservation Rainbow," bolstering NGC's Conservation Pledge, as well as fulfilling Pacific Region's Project "It's Our World! It's Our Responsibility! – Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship."

PR SCHOLARSHIP: Each year Pacific Region awards a scholarship to a deserving college student. Funds are raised through Pacific Region Life Memberships and the Book of Recognition.

NEWSLETTER: What a busy year! Communication through the region's newsletter, WACONIAH, has expanded from 12 to 20 pages of informative and educational news. Thanks to every board member who has written an article – 54 members who created 82 articles.

CONVENTION: 2014 Pacific Region Convention is being held in Coeur d'Alene, ID, July 1 - 3. Attendees will be wearing a Color of the Rainbow T-shirt on Wednesday's Boat Cruise in support of Pacific Region Director's Project and the NGC Conservation Pledge.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Beverly Heidelberger, Director

The clubs throughout the Rocky Mountain Region have been very good about reciting the Conservation Pledge at their meetings helping to remind them to become active with Linda's theme.

This winter Mother Nature has given us extra cold, snow, ice, wind, rain and wild temperatures. Do you think that maybe she is trying to get back at the human species for damaging her earth's crust?? She may not be done with her vengeance, so please be prepared for any future disaster, as they will come.

Since the RMR is stressing water conservation, this director attended a two-day "Water Fest" to increase awareness of the many uses of water and preserve its quality for future generations. There were 23 presenters, about 2,400 fourth graders attended and will go home and, hopefully, educate the rest of the family. Education should be our first line of attack for the next generation of conservationists.

RMR states are pushing new memberships, dealing with 9 out of 14 members having handicap parking, stressing fitness, having flower shows, planting a pink crabapple tree near the "Plant it Pink" flower bed, making pressed flower cards, conducting an educational seminar at an annual flower show, learning gourd art, starting a Prairie Garden for the free Life Light Concerts, and contacting the Bee Research Facility in Utah to answer colony collapse questions.

The 2015 RMR meeting will be in Sioux Falls September 10- 12.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION Nancy Voyles, Director

Members of our Region are busy preparing for spring conventions, and wishing they could stay home and work in their own gardens. We have had such a long, hard winter, and there is much work to be done outside. But we are true garden club members so off we go to our meetings. Attendance was good at the recent SCR Convention held in Addison, TX. We were excited to have 14 first-time attendees. NGC President Linda Nelson was our special guest. President Nelson inspired members to make changes. We have a tendency to get in a rut, and never improve on the way we do things. She had a fascinating way of getting her point across, "Choices Matter."

Texas Garden Clubs Inc. President Sarah McReynolds and her committees provided informative, entertaining and humorous speakers. It was a very emotional time when four Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Lone Star Chapter, posted the colors while seated in their wheel chairs. The SCR Convention, a two-day meeting, was filled with ideas and possibilities to inspire our members to move forward. We learned many interesting facts about amphibians, wine making, wine bottle recycling and table designs. Members enjoyed a tour of the Dallas Arboretum on a perfectly gorgeous spring day.

My goals are: (1) Help members in our Region receive information from NGC and SCR. (2) Help each member realize that they are important to our organization. (3) Make things happen by working together.

CENTRAL REGION Gerry Ford, Director

Three states held their annual meetings in April. I must congratulate them on their outstanding meetings and programs.

Indiana President Sarah Nahmia's 2013-15 theme, "Trees: Architects for Life" was also the 2014 annual meeting theme held in Columbus, Indiana. Very interesting programs and workshops were held including *Rare and Endangered Native Trees*, *Limber Up your Limbs and Trunks*, *The Understory: Trees, Shrubs, and Unique Plants for Shade*, *The Danger to Our Woodlands*, and *What's Bugging Our Trees*. It was quite a complete study. Three District Directors were installed.

Minnesota's winter has been brutal, with many 20-30 below zero days-even colder with the wind chill factor. Always

hoping for winter to end, their meeting, "Spring Awakening" was held in Stillwater, Minnesota. Programs on *Leaf Manipulation* and *Vertical Gardening* were held. Each year club members provide 2,000 garlands for the August Renaissance Festival. Garland-making is a great indoor activity for the long winter. The garlands are made with dried flowers and lots of ribbons.

The Illinois meeting, "The Secret Garden," was held in Northbrook, IL. The "Secret"—a Petite Standard Flower Show with very creative designs and outstanding petite horticulture was staged along with the meeting. Programs and workshops included such topics as, *Go Green – Embrace the Environment*, *Summer Fun – Secrets from the Garden*, *Secrets Behind Flower Shows*, and *Floral Design with a Creative Flair*. The business meeting and installation of officers concluded the day.

Hope to see you at the National Convention in Oklahoma and at our Regional Breakfast on Saturday, May 1. Our speaker is David Robson on the topic of "Pest Control Strategies for the Lawn and Garden."

DEEP SOUTH REGION Gloria Blake, Director

These past three months have been exceptionally cold in the Deep South, although we finally have some warm weather. Now is a time of planning spring conventions, flowers shows, and schools as you will see when you read this article.

ALABAMA - Members in the GCA turned out in record numbers for their annual 2014 Convention in March. This year is the 60th anniversary of their Scholarship program, and they made it a priority to promote ideas to encourage members to purchase GCA Life Memberships. All proceeds go the Scholarship Fund.

FLORIDA – One of the main priorities of the FFGC members for the last 1 ½ years has been planning the DS Convention, the state flower show, and the FFGC Convention held April 11-16. The Coral Restoration Project made the \$10,000 mark with donations from members. FFGC now has a coral reef named after them.

GEORGIA – One of their greatest sources of pride is the scholarship program. In March the Scholarship Committee awarded \$52,000 in scholarships to young people for the coming year. They raise the money through the sale of calendars, Life Memberships, and Patron of Scholarship donations. GA held both a North Native Plant Symposium and a South Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium. A Flower Show Symposium will be held in Athens on July 20-22.

LOUISIANA – Baton Rouge was the site of their 2014 State Convention in March where they celebrated 80 years as a Federation. LA will hold Environmental Studies School, Series III, Courses III & IV in Jean Lafitte. The Summer Board Meeting

will be held in Baton Rouge with NGC President Linda Nelson as their guest.

MISSISSIPPI – The first function of the New Year was Flower Show School I in McComb. Landscape Design School II will continue May 7-8th. The Feb. Board of Directors was held in Jackson. The Mississippi State Convention will be held Apr. 22 in Columbus. Mississippi President Mary Lynn Powers said, "Meeting members from other areas is one of the things I like best about garden club activities."

TENNESSEE – One District began a four part butterfly educational series open to the public. Other clubs have joined in supporting "Random Acts of Flowers." This non-profit organization gathers out of date, but still beautiful flowers, for distribution in nursing homes, hospitals and shut-ins. Many of the clubs are involved in developing community gardens involving youth groups and neighborhood groups that supply produce to Meals on Wheels and Food Banks.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION Martha Morgan, Director

As we traveled to Roanoke for the 53rd annual South Atlantic Region Convention, the sun was shining and the hills were beautiful with booming trees and new growth. Convention speakers shared programs of interest and many workshops were offered. The Convention flower show "A World of Opportunities - Be Involved" included design classes reflecting the five SAR presidential themes, and the horticulture section was filled with beautiful specimens. It gave us the assurance that spring is here, with opportunities to learn more, grow more, and experience more friendships in our garden clubs and our communities.

As members left the historic Hotel Roanoke in a snowstorm, the trees, with their open blooms, seemed to be filled with small snowballs, and the landscape looked like a fairy land. Such has been the winter of 2014 in many parts of the country.

We have the task to deal with the stress the trees, shrubs and other plants have endured over the cold months. We should also be mindful of our pollinators, especially the bees and butterflies, as we plan our gardens. The flowers we plant are their food, and we need to include the varieties they prefer.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION Mary Warshauer, Director

The CAR has embraced BeeGAP, one of NGC President Linda Nelson's special projects. A bill was passed in NJ designating the Black Swallowtail butterfly as the official state butterfly. NGC's first BeeGAP speaker is our own Pat Rupiper from Ohio. PA, NJ, MD and NY have BeeGAP speakers and members. Special thanks to all of our garden clubs for recognizing the important role that butterflies and other pollinators play in agriculture and the ecosystem. Plant native pollinators!

The Delaware Federation state meeting in Dover features floral designer Julia Clevett "A Showcase of Creative Home Designs."

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland sponsored their **First Environmental Study School**, *The Living Earth*. Congratulations Maryland, the class was FULL.

The Garden Clubs of New Jersey's Flower Show "From Sea to Shining Sea" exhibited the exceptional talents of NJ garden clubs. The show's theme was **Water**, *Making a Difference Through Education*.

Honoring the Past...Growing with the Future, the 90th Annual meeting of the Fed. Garden Clubs of New York State, explores the history, Dutch culture, and beauty of the capital city, Albany. A trolley tour is offered through Washington Park which features tulip beds and "aged" trees.

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Annual convention *Pittsburgh--Our Fair Lady* showcases the "Bee in Your Bonnet" hat contest supporting the NGC project, Bees. Participants will decorate an Edwardian style hat with bees. A fun fashion show will exhibit the imaginative creations.

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.
~Proverb

NEW ENGLAND REGION **Maria Nahom, Director**
Spring is in evidence with the flower shows in our region! At the Portland Maine show, volunteers invited visitors to join a club. Membership flyers and bookmarks were available, with handouts highlighting club activities. A booth featured Mason Bees distributed coupons for purchasing bees. Mason Bee houses were for sale.

Each year at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, a membership table sponsored by the Board welcomes visitors, who then leave contact information. The membership chairman follows up with a call. One of the exhibits was "Call of the Wild", promoting wildlife protection, wildflowers and open spaces in honor of my term's theme.

A small club in Connecticut is working to revive their club; members are learning about having a successful club and the benefits of being a member of the State Federation and NGC. They joined another club in hosting the first IDEA EXCHANGE SYMPOSIUM. Eighteen other clubs were in attendance. I joined a panel of five to share ideas. During the luncheon, lively discussions took place. A club on the opposite end of the state is planning an Idea Exchange Symposium, and I hope the idea catches on in our Region.

IN MEMORIAM

Gilda Apedola de Garcia passed away on January 21, 2014. Gilda served on the NGC Board of Directors for many years and was currently on the NGC Calendar Committee for International Affiliates. Gilda was an Accredited Master FSS Judge. Notes of condolence can be sent to The Garcia Family c/o Santiago Garcia Hernandez, 809-A Savannah Avenue, McAllen, TX 78503 or to Idalia Aguilar's email: idaliaaguilarv@hotmail.com.

Jo Ann Wade passed away on February 15, 2014. Jo Ann was currently a member of the NGC Board of Directors as a member of the Membership Committee. Jo Ann was an Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, and also the sister-in-law of Garden Clubs of Alabama President, Trece Chancellor. Notes of condolence can be sent to: The Family of Jo Ann Wade, c/o Brian and Wendy Sieck, 3209 Shenandoah Dr., Phenix City, AL 36867.

It is with a sad heart that we pass along the information of the death of **Mr. Ben Denman**, husband of NGC Board member, Nell Denman. Nell currently is serving on the Board of Directors as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee. Ben passed away February 23, 2014; Nell and Ben had celebrated their 71st wedding Anniversary. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers that a contribution be made to the Texas Garden Clubs in Ben Denman's memory or to the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, TX 75218.

Jean Moran passed away March 10, 2014 in Lakeland, Florida. A Memorial Service is scheduled May 24, 2014 at the Forest Park Baptist Church, 26805 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI at 11:00am. Jean was currently the NGC Liaison for the Creative Flower Arrangers of America (CFAA), serving as that groups' president, and had served on the NGC Board of Directors for many years. Jean was an accomplished NGC Flower Show Instructor in Design and an Accredited Master Flower Show Judge. Condolences can be sent to her husband, Michael Moran and family at 6616 Sweetbriar Lane, Lakeland, FL 33813. A scholarship fund, the Jean Moran Scholarship, has been established in her name. Please send donations to Dorothy Lippincott, 10292 Washburn Rd., Goodrich, MI 48438-9727.

President's Travel Schedule

April 30 - May 3	NGC Convention, Norman, OK
May 14-15	Georgia Convention
May 27-28	New Hampshire Convention
June 2	Vermont Convention
June 3-4	Massachusetts Convention
June 6-8	California Convention
June 17-26	WAFA Ireland Tour
June 27-29	Newport Flower Show
July 1-3	Pacific Region Convention
July 17-18	Internal Audit Committee at Headquarters
July 21-22	Louisiana GC Fed. Board Meeting

Take a Byte Jan Sillik, KIT Assistant Editor

A column devoted to reviews of websites, with recommendations for those of interest to Garden Club Members.

www.countryhousefloral.com – This is a site that is loaded with information on supplies and mechanics for floral designers, from novice to advanced. When they say, “Everything for the floral designer,” they mean it! Tools, containers, floral foam, miniature acrylics, creative sculptures – you name it, it’s there. Shopping online will give you access to the full range of their products and to sale prices. The site is well-organized by topic with a full range of products, including the newest and most trendy products on the market today.

www.janegodshalk.com – Visit this site and you will learn more about this fascinating designer who will be representing the United States at the upcoming WAFA Flower Show in Dublin, Ireland. Jane is a member of the faculty at Longwood Gardens, teaching floral design, and is very involved with the Philadelphia Flower Show. She is a talented designer and teacher who got her start in floral design by entering a Flower Show for her newly-joined Garden Club. A great site with gorgeous photos!

www.butterfliesandmoths.org –

A site that self-describes its content as “Butterflies and Moths of North America – collecting and sharing data about Lepidoptera” - and this wonderfully comprehensive site does just that! Options for viewers include the titles:



Identify, Get Involved, Learn, Regional Checklists, Image Gallery, What’s New and much more. The photographs are gorgeous with a slide show made up of close-ups of each species in their various habitats. There is a Glossary of entomological terms. This site is filled with excellent information that runs the gamut – everything relating to the topic of butterflies and moths in North America. A visit to this beautiful and informative site is truly a learning experience!

www.kidsbutterfly.org – Visitors will find a site that educates children about the beautiful world of butterflies. This well-conceived site offers a great opportunity to introduce and teach youngsters an entrancing topic. There is material on Frequently-Asked Questions, coloring

pages to print out and color, links to other sites of interest for children, and more. There is a section on helping kids plant a pollinator-friendly garden. The site is filled with articles, ideas and photos, along with numerous teaching and learning tools for kids. The “Kids Shop” with products for purchase states the following: “All purchases support non-profit grant programs in schools and communities nationwide.”

FLORAL DESIGN GROUPS

The following information may be of help to NGC members interested in furthering their floral design skills. Each of these organizations welcomes new members. The groups sometimes partner with each other to share their workshops and talents.

ORGANIZATION OF FLORAL ART DESIGNERS

A new group of designers located on the West Coast has formed to encourage interest in all phases of floral design, share knowledge, and study advanced floral design. They are hosting their first design seminar Aug. 22-24 in South San Francisco. It is open to anyone, at any level, who is interested in learning more about creative floral design. Julia Clevett is the keynote designer and other top designers will be featured; hands-on workshops will be available.

Vendors will offer a wealth of design-related items: pottery containers, glass and metal containers, Ken Schwartz’ metal sculptures, and weathered wood. Joy4Design will offer acrylic sculpture, creative lighting and mechanics. There will be a boutique with used containers, dried flora, antlers, etc. “The Gallery” will consist of over 50 innovative designs created by members and staged throughout the hotel.

Membership is necessary to attend. General Membership is \$35. For membership application and seminar registration, please go to: www.californiagardenclubs.com/OFAD.

NATIONAL FLOWER ARRANGERS

NFA continues to sponsor programs and workshops at the National Garden Club Conventions and Fall Board meetings. They presented a seminar at the 2014 NGC Convention featuring Jim Johnson, AIFD. He spoke about his experiences at the WAFA event in Washington, DC where 90 international floral designers made designs to float on Constitution Lake between the Lincoln and Washington Memorials. Programs are open to all, but members attend at a reduced rate. We are also a member of the Assembly of Flower Arrangers (AFA). We publish two to three Newsletters per year featuring our programs and photos of outstanding designs from our members. Dues remain \$25 per year payable to NFA in May of each year. Please mail checks to Angie Raitano, 74 Hillcrest Ave., Charleroi, PA, 15022-2516.

CREATIVE FLORAL ARRANGERS OF THE AMERICAS

Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas, founded in 1998, is a member-supported, non-profit organization dedicated to the study of modern American creative floral design as an art form. An annual Seminar, held in Florida, features renowned guest designers, displays of designs created by CFAA's talented members, and interesting, optional workshops. A 20-page, full color newsletter, ***Design Dimensions***, is published twice a year. The objective of CFAA is to promote the study of advanced floral design as an art form, to offer educational opportunities for its members, and to provide a dynamic environment for exhibiting and networking. The CFAA website offers a gallery of photos, articles and an archive of material from past Seminars. Membership is open to everyone. To learn more, and for membership details, please visit www.cfaofa.org.

ASSEMBLY OF FLOWER ARRANGERS

AFA has partnered with the Flower Arranging Study Group of The Garden Club of America to create the United States Floral Design Society, which fulfills the World Association of Flower Arrangers' (WAFA) requirement that each country be represented by one member organization. Weezie Monroe of the Flower Arranging Study Group is the current president; Shirley Nicolai will assume that position in June.

Marge McGoff, a very creative NGC designer, will create the USA Honorary Exhibit at the 11th World Show scheduled in Dublin, Ireland, June 18-22, 2014. Jane Godshalk, GCA artistic judge and floral design teacher at Longwood Gardens, will also represent the United States at the World Show, ***A Floral Odyssey***. Jane recently shared her talents at the 2014 CFAA Seminar.

A VISIT TO THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

As a newly-minted NGC Flower Show Judge, my interest was peaked when a member of my garden club in Montana was invited to judge the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show. NGC President Linda Nelson and NGC Judges Marge McGoff, Arabella Dane, Lois Shuster, Wanda Davis, Mary Huntoon and many other talented judges and designers were also invited to participate. I want to share this world-class event with you as seen through the eyes of a 'newbie' from a rural area. I toured the Show as a member of the press the night before it opened while volunteers and landscapers were adding their finishing touches. Joy Ericson, the 2014 Artistic Judges Chairman, was kind enough to give me an overview of the behind-the-scenes organization, and allowed me to accompany the judges the next day.

ARTiculture, Where Art Meets Horticulture, a production of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), took place in the heart of the 13 Colonies. You may remember this was the year of the Polar Vortex, the phenomena of persistent, frigid air plunging south from the Polar regions, which resulted in damaged utilities and frozen homes. Despite several power failures, the Philadelphia area growers tucked prized specimens under the covers, and then brought them to the 10-acre convention center in early March. The premise was to unite renowned floral and garden designers in collaboration with 22 great art museums to fuse art and horticulture. Designers and landscapers explored the influence of natural landscapes on the arts and celebrated great horticultural design as an art form in its own right. The entrance garden, pictured right, is an example of artist Alexander Calder's mobile and sculptural art. One could walk through the 40 foot arches to experience the installation.



The Show was everything one thinks of when envisioning *The Philadelphia Flower Show*. Big, bold, beautiful, bright and blooming. Green, too, both in color and a strong emphasis on recycling and sustainability. The horticulture and artistic design competitions rotated so that visitors could view up to three different sets of entries throughout the 10 day Show. That necessitated many judges -- 74 artistic judges traveled from 25 states with an equivalent amount for horticulture judging. Garden Club of America and National Garden Clubs judges shared assignments and worked beside judges from numerous plant societies. Although not a Standard Flower Show, the scale of points was very similar.

ARTiculture's 62-page Exhibitor's Guide contained extensive rules, procedures, contact information for the 125 committee members, and class descriptions. An Artistic Barrier Committee permitted the judges to confer privately, although it looked like multiple crime-scene investigations. There were challenge and novice classes in both the horticulture and arrangement divisions. 'Positive and constructive' comments and final scores were computerized the same day.

Horticulture was staged in the new \$1 million, *Hamilton Hortcourt*, funded by philanthropist Dorrance "Dodo" Hamilton, a fierce competitor, who retired after decades of ribbon sweeps. Major classes included bulbs, succulents, begonias, orchids, herbs, rock gardens, container gardens, hanging containers and miniatures. An NGC panel awarded a Horticulture Medal to a miniature flowering rock garden this year (pictured right). NGC will award an Artistic Medal to one of the top 'blues' in 2015.



Imaginative class names included 3-D (sculpture), Threads (interpretation of a textile design), Artiste (hat inspired by a famous artist), Mosaic (challenge class of components), Hort Couture (brooch design inspired by nature), Still Life (store windows with a theme), and Where the Wild Things Live (a themed wildlife 'house' measuring 4' x 4' x 8'). Pictured here are NGC President Linda Nelson and Landscape Design Schools Chairman Jane Bersch in front of a store window entitled "The Puzzle of Style."

Visitors could look through frames to change their view of the installations, or walk through a butterfly garden, or make a floral hat. One could take 'selfies' in especially beautiful areas, watch floral designers compete, hear lectures and authors, eat freshly-cooked, local food prepared by famous chefs, and even register to win merchandise from Show sponsor Subaru on the electronic notepads provided.

The judged flower show was just a portion of the attractions offered at The Philadelphia Flower Show, and I recommend our members visit the Show next Feb. 28-Mar. 8. The experience is educational and entertaining while opening one's imagination to artistic expression. *Phyllis White, Editor*



FACTS

Founded in 1829

Oldest and Largest Flower Show in the Nation

Entrance ticket: \$32

Attendees: 260,000+

Expected Profit: \$1,000,000

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society sponsors the City Harvest Program, a gardening initiative that creates green jobs and fresh produce for 1200 families in need each week. Plant One Million is a multi-state, PHS tree-planting program.

Major Sponsors

Subaru of America and Bank of America

Media Covering the Show

Wall Street Journal
Huffington Post
CBS News - Sunday Morning
ABC News
BizBash
Associated Press
Organic Gardening
Los Angeles Times
GardenWeb
Garden Writers of America
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
and others