



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Nov-Jan 2011-12

GREETINGS from Shirley Nicolai, NGC President

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

A huge topic discussion at all levels of our organization is the print versus digital approach to publications. In many cases, the decision to “go digital” is a financial one, which leaves some of our members unhappy or even unable to cope. It is incumbent upon those of us who have adapted our lifestyles to communicating electronically and have access to good internet service to be supportive of those who feel left out.



Situations vary from club to club. However, let’s have a buddy system to spread electronic communication and boost confidence. Done the right and fun way, mentoring and workshops can have truly positive life-changing results too. Let’s have a win-win situation for all of our members.

They are all special people who deserve our TLC.

As we approach the holiday season, your club may want to support one of our outreach projects. Natural Disasters, International Disasters, Plant it Pink, Habitat for Humanity Gardens, Therapy Gardens and School Gardens come to mind. Personally, I will support NGC’s Sage and Roses project by sending e-cards and donating the money that would have been spent on cards and postage to a fund for Blue Star

Memorials. Each person who participates will have her/his State Garden Club’s name entered for a drawing.

With best garden club wishes,

Shirley

We Want EVERY State on Flickr

Only thirty-two state garden clubs are represented on our NGC Flickr site – how can YOU fix that? Would YOU be willing to send me pictures of projects from your club, district or state? Send pictures with a short description identifying the club (or district), project and location. But maybe all you want to see are pictures of California? Maybe you don’t want to share the accomplishments from your state?

Send pictures to Robin Pokorski at RobinP@juno.com.

Visit our Flickr site (Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs) and find a wealth of ideas just waiting for you!

PLEASE SHARE THIS KIT WITH OTHERS

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MEMBERSHIP AWARD - Linda Nelson, Membership Chairman

A new Membership Increase Award..... \$\$\$\$

*\$100 for the greatest increase in paid membership from October 31, 2011 to March 31, 2012

*\$100 for the greatest per capita increase in paid membership from October 31, 2011 to March 31 2012

(Deadline for dues is October 31; deadline for additional dues paid is March 31.)

TO WIN THESE AWARDS PARTICIPATE IN **ASK**

ASK THEM TO JOIN--SHARE KNOWLEDGE--KEEP THEM INVOLVED

NGC SCHOOL GARDENS PROJECT 2011-2013

June B. Ashworth, Chairman

**“PROTECT OUR FRIENDS THE POLLINATORS...
THEY ARE PLANTS’ BEST FRIENDS”**

Objectives: (1) To educate school students to create and maintain native gardens on school grounds, emphasizing the importance of pollinators; (2) To help teachers and students alike be “Friends to Pollinators..Plants’ Best Friends” by providing food and habitat for pollinators with their choice of plants; (3) To emphasize the use of native, pollinator friendly plants and reduce pesticide use by using organic methods in flower and vegetable gardens; (4) To emphasize plants for all seasons, different colors, shapes and scents to attract the widest variety of pollinators (bees, beetles, moths, butterflies, hummingbirds and even bats); (5) To provide NGC Awards - 1st Place - \$100; 2nd Place - \$50; and 3rd Place - \$25.00.

Scope of Project: May be large or small, portable or stationary, may incorporate educational instruction.

Certificates will be presented to local Garden Clubs, Regions, States, International Affiliates at 2012 and 2013 NGC Convention for completed projects. Participating schools will also be acknowledged, as will clubs that promote the project as a Special Exhibit at any meeting or Standard Flower Show.

Application: Complete 1-page application form found on NGC website by March 1, 2012 or March 1, 2013 and send to NGC School Gardens Chairman (address below). No book of evidence is required.

For more information contact:

June B. Ashworth, NGC School Gardens Chairman; 562 N. Inwood Dr.,
Huntington, WV 25701 (304) 523-5185 jj.ashworth@frontier.com

Sandy Mangels, IA School Gardens Chairman
Rua Angra dos Reis 267, 04643-060 S. Paulo, SP Brazil
sandy.mangels@yahoo.com +55-11-5523-5905 or +55-11-9985-5949

MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR - Jackie Davies, Chairman

Every garden club has that very special member who works tirelessly and gives years of service in many areas...here is an opportunity for YOUR CLUB to say “We appreciate you and thank you for all your efforts!” The Member Award of Honor is presented annually to ONE member in each of the EIGHT REGIONS whose volunteer efforts of five or more years have made outstanding contributions to club and community in one or more of the following areas: Civic Development, Horticultural Therapy, Youth Activities, Conservation, Floral Design, Horticulture, Landscape Design, All Around Excellence.

Eligibility: Any member of a State Garden Club who has never served as a member of the NGC Board of

Directors; (State Presidents are not eligible). Book of Evidence Required: Please refer to the NGC website for complete details and instructions. (Please follow the new shortened Book of Evidence Rules/3 pages.) The eight winners will be recognized at the next NGC National Convention. Nominees must be sent to your State Awards Chairman by January 1st. Entries are judged and the State Winner is forwarded to the Region Awards Chairman for the next judging.... the winning entry from each Region automatically becomes the National Winner for that Region. Questions? Contact: Jackie Davies, Chairman NGC Member Award of Honor, jadDavies@comcast.net; 610-670-1751.

PRESIDENT’S TRAVEL SCHEDULE



November 16 Wilmington, Delaware
General Meeting
Jan. 26-29 Winter Executive Committee
Meeting, Albuquerque, NM
March 19-20 Deep South Region
Murfreesboro, TN
March 21-22 Tennessee State Convention
Murfreesboro, TN
March 25-27 South Atlantic Region
White Sulphur Springs, WV
March 30-31 Alabama State Convention
Huntsville, AL

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK JUNE 3-9, 2012

Dear Garden Club Presidents--It is not too early to start thinking about **National Garden Week--June 3-9**. The weather is getting cooler and we are spending more time indoors. So, we can make a plan for how we are going to celebrate garden week. New next year is a monetary award with a certificate for 1st place in Small, Medium and Large Clubs. We would like to see many applications. Elaine DiPietro, National Garden Week Chairman

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

Please send information, articles, etc.
to

SRGOSSMAN@aol.com

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Website: www.gardenclub.org**

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

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

Special NGC Project - PROTECTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS Mary Sue Colvin, Chairman

NGC President, Shirley Nicolai, has selected Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems as one of her special projects for 2011 – 2013. Garden club members have a platform and an opportunity to participate in projects that will rescue, recover, revitalize and protect aquatic ecosystems in their community.

Aquatic ecosystems include rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, creeks, springs, marshes, bogs, wetlands, coastal estuaries, floodplains and aquifers. As an organization, National Garden Clubs, Inc. is committed to supporting and undertaking proactive initiatives for the protection, conservation and restoration of the quality of our aquatic ecosystems.

Garden clubs should strongly consider one or more of the following projects for 2011 – 2013:

- Appointment of a Water Protection/Conservation Chairman for the club.
- Inclusion of a brief report from the Water Protection/Conservation Chairman on the agenda for all club meetings.
- Creation and promotion of educational hands-on programs for youth (classrooms, Scouts, 4-H, Junior Garden Clubs).

- The sponsoring of seminars, workshops and/or community education events to foster awareness and procedures for protecting aquatic ecosystems in the area.
- Adoption of an aquatic ecosystem as a club project.

There are several internet resources available to garden club members to facilitate the implementation of Aquatic Ecosystems projects:

1. NGC Website - www.gardenclub.org - Special Projects>Aquatic Ecosystems
2. US Geological Service - www.usgs.gov/water
3. Environmental Protection Agency - www.epa.gov/aquaticbiodiversity
4. Food and Water Watch - www.foodwaterwatch.org
5. H2O Conserve - www.h2oconserve.org

Two interesting books for Aquatic Ecosystems inquiry and study are: *The Ripple Effect* written by Alex Prud'Homme and *The Big Thirst* written by Charles Fishman. *NGC's Keeping in Touch* and *The National Gardener* are both excellent sources for articles of information as well.

NGC ENDANGERED SPECIES Michelle Mensinger, Chairman

HELP SAVE OUR POLLINATORS

The US has lost over 50% of our managed honeybee colonies over the last 10 years due to chemical misuse, introduced and invasive plant and animal species, diseases and parasites.

WHAT CAN WE DO to promote and protect pollinators?

- **WATCH FOR POLLINATORS:** Get connected with nature. Take a walk, experience the landscape and look for pollinators, midday in sunny, planted areas. Install houses for bats and native bees, encouraging them to thrive.
- **CREATE** a pollinator-friendly garden habitat.
- **DESIGN** your garden so that there is a continuous succession of plants flowering from spring through fall. Check for the species and cultivars best suited to your area and gradually replace lawns with flower beds.
- **PLANT NATIVE SPECIES** that will thrive in your region, using plants that provide nectar for insects and hummingbirds and also food for larvae, such as milkweed for monarchs.
- **SUPPLY** water for all wildlife.
- **REDUCE YOUR IMPACT:** Reduce or eliminate your pesticide use, increase green spaces and minimize urbanization. Pollution and climate change affect pollinators, just as they affect people.
- **SPREAD THE WORD:** Pollinators have enabled our diverse variety of plants to prosper and grow, creating an abundance of food for our hungry world, for thousands of years. Now, THEY need OUR help. Please help them by creating a pollinator-friendly environment, through conservation and education, ultimately establishing a global awareness of our fragile planet. Teach our children the importance of pollinators with fun facts, such as a tiny fly ("a midge") no bigger than a pinhead is responsible for the world's supply of chocolate!

MEMBER SERVICES Candace Morgenstern, Chairman

Member Services is your "go-to" garden club store!

It is a pleasure to research products that our members will embrace, be proud to receive and that are unique to our needs. Please feel free to contact me (ms.candace@cox.net) with suggestions that you would like to see offered by Member Services.

NEW 4 and 5 Star Member Pin was introduced at the FBM in St. Louis. Show off your achievements by wearing this special pin! See the website for a complete description. Price \$22.00

Magnetic Name Badges are now available and can be customized for you or your club's individual needs. Price \$15.00

By special request Foldable Canes that will fit in your purse, patterns galore! Birds, butterflies, paisley and black formal with "diamonds" surrounding the top. Prices range from \$35.00 to \$50.00

To compliment President Shirley's project "Plantings for Public and Special Places", we are now associated with Brent and Becky's Bulbs. They have created a special group of bulbs specifically for container gardening for NGC. Go to www.bloominbucks.com, click on the pull down menu – click on National Garden Clubs, Inc. NGC will receive credit for each sale – including bulbs, books and tools! To find the container bulbs, type in "National" in the search tab – and start shopping!

Don't forget your calendars, school books, ribbons, pins, certificates and special gift items.

Keep checking the NGC website for new products – there are many surprises in the works!!! Orders only 800-550-6007; E-mail: headquarters@gardenclub.org; FAX 314-776-5108

MEMBERSHIP - Linda Nelson, Membership Chairman

ASK = Membership

Members...

how to get them and how to keep them...that is the question!

The bottom line is that the getting and the keeping rest largely with the club and its members. Our national membership committee is determined to help you in any way they can. There are free brochures at headquarters, our website (**www.gardenclub.org**) has downloadable handouts on which you can add your club contact info and we are working on a couple of new posters. BUT the proven way to gain new members is to:

Ask someone to join. ...

Share knowledge ...

Keep them involved in activities.

The membership committee is **asking** you to share ideas of projects, events or campaigns that have increased your club membership.

Please contact any member of the NGC Membership committee with your ideas and we will share them through this column for all clubs to use.

Alice DeSomma - desomma@arq.net
Stephanie Hockensmith - shocken@comcast.net
Kitty Larkin - kittysltr@wi.rr.com
Cheryl Obediente - cheryl.obediente@gmail.com
Eunice A Antosik - flowerae@aol.com
Claudette Smith - smithclaudettej@gmail.com
Mary Owen - rxowen@aol.com
Ginger Knutsen - gingerknutsen@msn.com
Pat Haering - gphaering@att.net
Diane Herman - dbherman10@atlanticbb.net
Sandra Dennis - sbdenn2@bresnan.net
Carol Hopp - carolehopp@w.rr.com
Linda Nelson - lindanelson4439@msn.com

NGC AWARDS - Bobbie Verser, Chairman

Thank you to all of the sponsors of NGC awards. The response to this plea has been wonderful. Whether you have made donations to help with funding for many years or if you have recently joined the ranks as a sponsor, your interest in this wonderful program is greatly appreciated. The cooperative efforts of NGC members prove to make our organization stronger each year.

A reminder to State Presidents and IA Chairmen...

Please ask all of your chairmen to be certain that all clubs applying for awards are in good standing and that NGC dues have been paid, prior to judging any award entries.

This committee is looking forward to the many entries we will receive in January 2012. Best wishes to all of you as you gather information and submit applications. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Bobbie Verser, NGC Awards Chairman, bobbieverser@att.net

WEBSITE NEWS - Kathy Thomas, Chairman

Please send all articles with spelling and grammar checked, as an attachment in word. The Website committee members are not editors so if there are any changes to your existing web documents - the document must be corrected by you and sent with corrections to the web chair. Please state in your e-mail your position and where this information is to be posted. The committee thanks you for your help.

Kathy Thomas - ngcwebsite@aol.com, web chairman and
Poss Tarpley - posst@aol.com for the member only web chairman. Forms to be made interactive are sent as a word document to Vina McLeod-Rudolph - gardenfairie@mac.com

SOCIAL NETWORKING - FACEBOOK Yvonne McCormick, Chairman

Facebook Usage & Goals for National Garden Clubs, Inc.
NGC has made some changes to our Facebook presence. A **new** Facebook page has been established in order to promote our organization at the national, state and club levels. By reaching out to the members of our clubs, we will bring awareness and encourage new garden club membership from within the Facebook community.

In order to achieve this goal, each NGC State Garden Club President is encouraged to appoint a State Facebook chairman. This chairman would work with the NGC Facebook chairman to setup a Facebook page for their state garden club organization and also assist their state's garden clubs setup a Facebook page. If a FB page already exists for your state, you may consider appointing the page creator as the state chair, or perhaps appoint an additional member to become a co-administrator of an existing Facebook page for your state. (Note: Please establish a "**Page**" for this initiative, rather than a "Group". As groups are closed memberships, and we hope to reach new members and promote our clubs, a Page is the most appropriate choice.)

I would also ask each state president to submit the name and email contact information of your appointed state Facebook Chairman to me at yvonne@iastate.edu. Together we can work towards keeping our organization alive, viable and well into the 21st century.

P.S. Please remember to promote your State Garden Club Facebook Page through your email lists, and with a plug-in on your state website. Encourage people to "Like" your State's Page so you can grow your audience and keep them up-to-date.

New Facebook page for NGC is: National Garden Clubs, Inc.
<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.253914564649631.57195.253909934650094#!/pages/National-Garden-Clubs-Inc/253909934650094> (Be sure to include the comma for the new page, as our old page name has no comma.)

Yvonne McCormick, NGC Facebook Chairman

NGC President's Project - Planting for Public and Special Places - Betsy Steele, Coordinator

Facts about NGC President's Project

ALL garden clubs engage in community service when they focus on **Plantings for Public and Special Places**. Existing projects may be enlarged, past projects may be refurbished and new projects may be created. Your club qualifies for this NGC President's Project. Let your state be represented!

Receive recognition and appreciation by applying directly to NGC via the NGC website - www.gardenclub.org look under Special Projects on the Home Page (clubs apply directly to NGC) Instructions are on the form.

The three components of the project blend with and enhance existing outreach projects of federated garden clubs. Choose one or all of these categories to which you may apply: Contact the chairmen for information.

Gardens with Edibles: Pat Rupiper
arupiper@bright.net

Container Gardens: Sue Robinson
rerob@mac.com

Trees and Shrubs: Lissa Williamson
erw510@aol.com

Included on the website are special tips and suggestions, provided monthly, by chairmen and committee members for success with **Plantings for Public and Special Places**.

The article Bulb Lasagne was submitted by Container Gardens committee member, Mary Moreno of New Mexico. Read! Enjoy! Learn!

Betsy Steele, Coordinator Plantings for Public and Special Places;
betsysteel@truvista.net

Bulb Lasagne

ENJOY 3 months of blooms from layers of bulbs.

Ingredients: 10 daffodil bulbs; 7 tulip bulbs; 3 hyacinth bulbs; 5 crocus bulbs; 2 (6-packs) pansies; 16" x 16" flower pot; 1 ½ cubic-foot bag GARDEN soil; bulb food (1 tablespoon at a time)

Directions:

1. Start with a four-inch layer of soil in a minimum of 16"(deep) pot sprinkled with 1 tablespoon of bulb food, and plant your tulip bulbs in the center, placing them firmly into the soil.
2. Add additional three to four inches of soil, bulb food and a layer of daffodil bulbs that bloom in mid-spring. Arrange daffodil bulbs past the center of the pot, where you have already placed the tulip bulbs.
3. Add additional three to four inches of soil, bulb food and a layer of hyacinth bulbs and crocus bulbs, two inches from the edges of the pot.
4. Add the final four inches of soil. DO NOT add bulb food to this layer.
5. Top off your lasagne with winter pansies, already in bloom. They will survive the winter climate and will wilt, to remind you to water the pot. ###
6. Water with approximately four gallons of water after planting. Whenever pansies are wilted, water with approximately two gallons of water. Do not add plant food to your water or pot before February.

CHILL ALL WINTER: Leave the pot outside to take advantage of the winter's chill.

In colder climates you need to put your lasagne container in a cold cellar or garage rather than outside. If you do try to leave it outside, mulch it heavily with lots of leaves and branches. When the temperatures start to rise, you could try pansies and cover them if temperatures go way below freezing. Water the container during the winter. This recipe comes to us from Suzy Andregio, NMGC, Inc.

Mary Ann Moreno, Container Gardens Committee jbmamoreno@gmail.com.

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS - LEGISLATION Marion Hilliard, Chairman

YOU ARE INVITED. Every state, every garden club, every NGC Environmental Consultants Council and every individual is welcome to add their name and personal efforts to "THE POWER OF WATER" CAMPAIGN introduced to the NGC President Shirley Nicolai and members of the NGC "Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems" committee during the NGC Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis (by the NGC Legislation Committee).

The National Clean Water Network (CWN) is planning this major water campaign to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act -- one of our nation's landmark environmental laws. The goal of the 1972 Clean Water Act, to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of our nation's waters, cannot be met unless all waters are safeguarded against pollution.

The **Power of Water** campaign will be an opportune time to remind decision makers on local, state and national levels that clean water is essential not just for public health and the environment, but essential for a strong sustainable economy.

The Call to Action states "Water, our most precious and valuable resource, defines life. Unlike other natural resources, such as oil or natural gas, there is no substitute for water. Clean water, just like clean air, is essential for our health." Signing the pledge is simply agreeing that you, or a group, pledges to work collectively to identify solutions and tools to address and tackle threats to our national water resources. You also are agreeing to make use of every opportunity to actively educate government officials, garden club members, neighbors and fellow citizens about threats to our fresh water resources.

Participating in "The Power of Water" campaign is an opportunity -- another way of carrying out our President Nicolai's special project "Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems." Signing the Call to Action Statement couldn't be easier. Please email cwnheadquarters@cwn.org providing your name, title and garden club. The campaign is expected to involve a number of public events, as well as offer public outreach materials on the history and accomplishments of the Clean Water Act over the past 40 years. MARION HILLIARD, CHAIRMAN, marionh@bellsouth.net

Want to be part of a BIG WATER Project? Your club members can help provide clean water to a village in Latin America through NGC and its partnership with the non-profit organization, Global Partners Running Waters, and thus improve the lives of many people. If each garden club member gave only fifty cents, NGC members would be able to help complete a project in one village. An engineer oversees the project and the villagers contribute financially and with manual labor. This project also helps with our President's project "Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems" and donations are tax-deductible. Please write Global Partners/Running Waters on your check made out to NGC and become a part of helping with this International Disasters project. Send check(s) to National Garden Clubs, Inc.; 4401 Magnolia Ave; St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

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

Your NGC Schools Committees met in individual and joint meetings for many hours at the September NGC Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis. Each of these schools developed independently and at different times (Landscape Design (LD) in the 1950s, Gardening Study (GS) in the 1970s and Environmental Studies (ES) in the 1990s). Changes have been made in the programs over the last ten years to make them more consistent (e.g. fees and time to refresh). We continue to work toward identifying areas where additional consistencies may be achieved in order to make the schools more user-friendly to our students and consultants.

Actions taken in St. Louis to be ratified:

1. The designation Environmental Intern for students who have successfully completed two courses of ES School will be changed to Provisional Consultant, which is the existing designation for students who have successfully completed two courses of the LD and GS Schools.
2. In order to be an NGC Consultant, a student who has successfully completed all four courses of an NGC school must be a member of an NGC-affiliated garden club, and may receive Consultant status by joining an NGC-affiliated garden club within one year (for all three schools) after completion of the school. This changes the time permitted to join a member garden club from the current 6 months for GS and five years for LD and for the first time establishes this policy for ES – so that all three schools deal with this provision in the same manner.
3. The \$5 NGC fee currently required on ES Form #5-07 to apply for Environmental Consultant Accreditation is eliminated because there is no similar requirement for LD and GS. There is no change to the requirement that all students who test in each school and all Consultants who refresh in each school pay a \$5 NGC fee.
4. Proof of subscription (submission of label or NGC Life Member number or proof of purchase) to The National Gardener may be submitted any time a student tests in each of these schools, and must be submitted (at the time of the school or event) when a student is testing in her/his fourth course of each of these schools (and therefore applying for Consultant status) and when a Consultant attends any of these educational programs for refresher credit.

All local, state, and regional Schools Chairmen should note these policies. State Presidents and NGC Schools Committee members, please share this information with your state ES, GS and LD Chairmen.

If there are questions, please contact the Educational Opportunities/NGC Schools Team, led by the following for the 2011-2013 term:

Environmental Studies School:

Judy Newman – newman9641@aol.com

Gardening Study School:

Greg Pokorski – gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Landscape Design School:

Jane Bersch – janebersch@aol.com

GRANTS/DEVELOPMENT/GIFTS Pat Westgard, Chairman

Planned Giving Program

The Grants/Development/Gifts Committee is in the process of establishing details for a Planned Giving Program to provide funding for valued NGC programs with gifts from the membership through financial planning. The concept for implementation was approved during the 2007-2009 administration.

The following options will be available:

- A) Wills and Estates
 1. Direct bequests to NGC of cash and/or property
 2. Charitable Remainder Trusts
 3. If properly executed there may be savings in Estate Taxes (federal & state), Income Taxes, Capital Gains Tax and Gift Taxes. Check with your Professional advisor.
- B) Life Insurance Proceeds
 1. Designate a percent of a present policy to NGC via a beneficiary designation form.
 2. Budget a monthly payment to purchase a product of greater value upon death. Most policies typically cost less than \$.30 per dollar of proceeds. (Affordable & helps set the amount of gift.)
 3. If properly planned may qualify for Income Tax and Estate Tax savings. (ie. All or part of premiums may be Income tax deductible based on current tax laws.)
- C) Donations of stocks and other assets
 1. If one sells them, one must pay capital gains. If gifting stock, one receives full benefit of the gift and avoids capital gains.
 2. Method of transferring assets out of Estate. Check with your professional.
- D) Planned Giving Program by individuals
 1. May establish a planned giving program to make on-going gifts on a monthly, semi-annual, or annual basis.
 2. Individual establishes parameters for amount, time frame and 'fund of interest'.
 3. NGC provides an annual report of donation for tax reports.

Planned giving often benefits the donor as well as the recipient, resulting in a win-win situation for both parties.

Contact this chairman for more details and suggestions.
Pat Westgard, Chairman, LWestgard@aol.com

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LANDSCAPE PROJECT Pat Cargnoni, Chairman

Habitat for Humanity Project--"Opening your Heart and Hands". We will continue to promote this project by holding our "HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WALK-A-THON" at National Garden Clubs, Inc., 83rd Annual Convention, Buffalo, New York. The walk is scheduled for Friday, May 18, 2012 at 6:15am to 7:15am and will follow along the Buffalo River and beautifully restored Buffalo Waterfront. All information pertinent to the walk will be emailed to all Officers, Regional Directors and State Presidents after Jan. 1, 2012. We look forward to your continued support, AND if your club has not yet become a "growing" partner in the Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project, please consider doing so.

NEW ENGLAND REGION

JOYCE A. KIMBALL

New England is again gorgeous in all its autumn glory and the NER Board Members who attended the recent NGC Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis are rejuvenated and eager to share all they absorbed and experienced with their states and club members. It is always enjoyable to meet back up with NGC friends and acquaintances from around the country at NGC meetings and to meet new people as well. Our state presidents were right on task and it was delightful spending both meeting and social time with them at some point during the days we had in St. Louis together. The NER's 77th Annual Regional Meeting was held in Chelmsford, MA on October 17 & 18 immediately followed by the NER 44th Annual Symposium on the 18th-20th. The Annual Meeting's morning program, representatives from all six New England states presented a series of 15-minute presentations covering a variety of subjects (think "speed dating") pertaining to this Director's Theme of "Observe, Conserve and Preserve the Beauty All Around You..." It was well received by attendees for its fast pace and the information it offered. We invite you to visit our www.ngcner.org website and we wish you and yours "Happy Holidays".

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

JEANNE T. NELSON

As we enter the fall season, the Central Atlantic Region is in a unique geographic position to share the glory of autumn's colorful foliage with our neighbors of the New England Region.

I am encouraged by the enthusiasm shown when visiting clubs around our region. Many of our clubs have gone back to their basic roots of community involvement. County fairs with flower shows, sharing talents with young people, planting trees & shrubs to continue beautifying town centers & the continuing pride in one's accomplishments. Many sharing their expertise with others, establishing and helping to run "community gardens" for the needy.

Hurricane "Irene" has decimated entire areas along the waterways of several of our states. Many communities have lost whole green areas where town parks, landscaped venues for Senior Citizens or play grounds for children existed. At the CAR Conference this month our members will help where ever possible with new programs of service, "Let's Green & Grow Together."

It is a tribute to the leadership of our states for taking the opportunity to enlarge the number of Blue Star Memorial markers

to our service personnel.

Thank you for giving me the chance to serve & share all your many accomplishments with my fellow Regional Directors.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

MARY DIXON

As the states in the South Atlantic Region work toward projects to fulfill their themes, as well as NGC President Shirley Nicolai's, clubs are inspired to invite new members to join them to make their communities more beautiful.

Members from SAR who attended the NGC Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis came home with many ideas to share with their Districts and Clubs through communication at meetings and in their newsletters. This director appreciates the hard work that the members of the Missouri Garden Clubs did to make the meeting a success.

Many schools are being offered to our members this fall and hopefully they will take advantage of them as the opportunity for education and renewed friendships is experienced at our schools.

The SAR State Presidents are making their fall visits to their district meetings. As they greet the members, share ideas and gain new ideas this director appreciates all they do to share our message.

"Members Are The Link To The Future" and through Inviting new members to join us, Communicating the rewards of membership, and Educating members about Opportunities for them, SAR will grow with new members and regain members. We are Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities, through our projects all will benefit with a more beautiful environment.

DEEP SOUTH REGION

SARA LANIER

The Deep South States are working hard to promote their State Projects, the NGC Projects, and Deep South Project. DSR's Unified Project "Building Membership" has started off with a big bang. An Initiative Team has been set up in Tennessee to set up displays and man booths at public events to spread the word about joining a garden club. Georgia is recognizing their new members with "Hats Off to New Members". A bonnet pin will be given to all new members. A quarterly newsletter is being published for District Membership Chairmen. At the Louisiana Summer Board meeting, the membership chairman put on a skit using "building blocks" to promote "Building Membership". Florida has recreated a Power Point presentation on "Building Membership". One club used a real "Welcome Mat" for a display and used

the "Welcome Mat" on their promotional materials. Mississippi created a brochure of ideas on how to increase membership and attract new members and has added 30 new members since their meetings. Alabama challenged each club President to invite at least one new member. A Membership Pledge was written for each President to sign to get one new member. Our DS States are getting the word out that we must grow!

CENTRAL REGION

FLORENCE SMITH

Fall is in the air and I might add it is a welcome change after the hot summer and storms we had in our Region. Hopefully we will get back to a more normal weather pattern. Whatever it is we will do our best to cope. As Gardeners we are used to adapting. We are like trees that bend in the wind. We are flexible.

After a year of planning for the Central Region Meeting it has been accomplished with great success. All that attended went back to their states with wonderful memories. The programs and speakers were outstanding. The programs were Landscape Design, Vegetables, Floral Design and Dahlias. The contrived flower and flower pounding (good way to relieve stress) workshops were outstanding. A NGC Tri-Refresher was held in conjunction with the Central Region Meeting and it was a success.

Plan on attending the next CR Convention October 8-10, 2012 in St. Louis. Meet me in St. Louis.

Central Region has a unified Project "Together We Bloom and Grow". The project focuses on individual member clubs and state Federations working together on special projects, especially those sponsored by NGC. Projects include planting flowering tree or trees in projects of landscaping and revitalizing area around schools, nursing homes, churches, Blue Star Memorials, etc. These all will qualify as a Unified Project. I'm counting on all of you.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

TERRY KROKE

The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. hosted the Rocky Mountain Region Annual Meeting in Bozeman, September 30-October 1. The meeting theme was "Back to the Future—Gardening Locally". Tours, meals, and programs supported the theme. The eighty members in attendance were introduced to the Townes Harvest Gardens where Montana State University students and faculty do practical research in sustainable gardening and how to make

it profitable. We also toured a practicing truck farm, where the owner explained the growing practices and explained the business practices necessary to keep the farm profitable. All meals during the meeting featured locally grown products, many of which were raised in the gardens we had toured. Attendees were very excited by the luncheon program about a (Ted) Turner Foundation initiative that retrofitted an old school bus into a mobile greenhouse that visits area schools and turns students of all ages into gardeners.

**PACIFIC REGION
DEBBIE HINCHEY**

Project Mission Blue is a partnership between California Garden Clubs, Inc. and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to increase the lupine diversity by propagating and planting California native pathogen-resistant summer lupine and varied lupine. It is the hope to stabilize the Mission Blue Butterfly community during years of fungal outbreak and allow these populations to increase over the long term. CGCI agrees to donate at least \$3,000 for each of the next five years. To raise the tax-deductible funds a pin is given for each \$100 donation. They have fulfilled the first \$3,000 in less than three months after CGCI President Julie West took office and established the project. They are coordinating with high school horticulture classes to germinate the lupine seeds and prepare plants for transplanting. This project was already a priority and glossy brochures produced by the time Julie (a long time butterfly conservationist) joined the project to add needed funds, gardening expertise, and coordination with personally known youth horticulture programs.

**YOUTH RECYCLABLE
SCULPTURE CONTEST
Suzanne Potts, Chairman**

Thank you for making the 2010-2011 Youth Sculpture Contest a success. This contest will continue into 2011-2012 and focus on the same theme of recycled, reduced and reused material. Club entries must be sent to the State Chairman. Please be sure to observe state deadlines. State winners must be sent to Regional Chairman by January 15, 2012 and Region winners sent to the National Chairman by February 15, 2012. Updated guidelines and a scale of points are available on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org. Please be sure to contact this chairman for any questions. Suzanne Potts, smp9114@att.net.

**You are invited to join
SAGE & ROSES**

**Send A Greeting Electronically
and
Recognize Our Servicemen's Every
Sacrifice**

Send your NGC Board Member friends an email greeting at Christmas – save the cost of the card and stamp.

1. Send \$1.00 for each email greeting.
2. Money collected will purchase Blue Star Markers.
3. Each participant will be an entry for their state.
4. The drawing will take place at the May convention.
5. All monies collected will be spent in the same year for the erection and landscaping of markers.

Christmas 2010 we collected enough money to buy 2 small markers which will be erected in National Capital Area and Nevada.

The Blue Star Marker program is the premier National project that advertises NGC's name from coast to coast.

- Be a three way winner;
- Remember your friends at Christmas.
 - Remind the public that NGC is a nation-wide organization.
 - Remember those whose sacrifices give us our many freedoms

Send your check made out to "NGC Sage and Roses" to:
Lois Shuster, 777 WaterWheel Dr.,
Champion, PA 15622

**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL
Mary Warshauer, Chairman**

Currently, there are over 2285 markers across the country honoring the Armed Forces that defend the United States of America.

For more information and order forms, please refer to the NGC website homepage under Special projects.

Mary Warshauer, NGC Blue Star Chairman Oonie56@aol.com

National Convention – "Explore the Wonders, Buffalo/Niagara – 2012"

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State are putting the finishing touches on next year's National Convention May 16-19 and Tri-Refresher May 20-21. We are excited about this event and invite all garden club members to attend. The latest information on the schedule, featured speakers, tours, tri-refresher, Flower Show, registration, etc. can be found on the NGC website - www.gardenclub.org. For questions contact the chairman, Babbidean Urban Huber at babbidean@hotmail.com.

**2011-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROSTER CHANGES AND ADDITIONS**

2011-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ROSTER CHANGES & ADDITIONS
Underline denotes changes *

Page 18 Calendar Committee Calendar Committee SAR Rep
Elene M. Combs, 318 E. Fincastle Turnpike
Tazewell, VA 24651-1311

Page 19 Calendar Committee CR Rep
Liz Murken lizmurken@gmail.com

Page 24 Conventions and Fall Board
ADD 2013 Fall Board Meeting Chairman
Kay Schaefer (314)837-8084
50 Waterford Drive:Florissant, MO 63033; soniver@aol.com

2013 Fall Board Meeting Vice-Chairmen
Ivy Baebler (314)843-8076 Ivybaeb@att.net
Sophie Connor (314)962-7873

Page 31 Landscape Design Schools
LDS Reading/ Literature Chairman
Jo'C Walker joewalker20@gmail.com

Page 33 Finance Committee Finance Committee Member/
Member Services Chairman
Candace Morgenstern (401)624-1230
39 High Hill Road (401) 573-5544(C);
Riverton, RI 02878-5005 (401)816-0122 (F)
ms.candace@cox.net

Page 34 Gardens Committee Arboreta/Public Gardens
Chairman Cynthia Alexander
P.O. Box 1258 Celina, TX 75009-1258

Page 39 Horticulture Coordinator/ New Cultivars Chairman
Carol Catlin crat34@gmail.com

Page 40 Horticulture Roadside Beautification Chairman
Delete (resigned) Jennifer L. Boyenga
ADD Carol R. Keefe (334)687-5220
446 Woodlawn Drive; Eufaula, AL 36027-5011
kkeefe4779@aol.com

Page 44 Nominating Committee Chairman
Dale W. DeFeo
(Delete Virginia Address)
(Full Time Address)
1070 South Collier Blvd. (239)394-2737
Unit 401 Marco Island, FL 34145-8431 Dwdefeo1@aol.com

Nominating Committee (C)
DELETE June M. Kummer
ADD Joan Hood (314)962-9421
1504 Avenue A (314)420-9184(C)
Webster Groves, MO 63119-5220
(314)962-9421(F)* tolewg@yahoo.com

Page 70 ROSTER OF STATE PRESIDENTS
WA Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
WAGARDENCLUBS.COM

* additional changes appear on the NGC website.