



Keeping In Touch

NOVEMBER 2013



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

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Meeting, New
Orleans

"Autumn arrives in radiant splendor and is but a fleeting yet exhilarating bliss." (*borrowed from a state publication*) We are in the midst of this brief splendor across our states, and it is my great fortune to view it from Tennessee to New England to Indiana and finally in Bethesda, Maryland as I visit our members. Tennessee meets in Paris Landing State Park near Buchanan for their 60th annual Conservation Camp with speakers on such programs as Water, Bees, and Native plants... and Leaf-O (as in Bingo) with prizes! It is encouraging that our states are embracing the tenets of our Conservation Pledge and educating their members on the impact their choices have on our natural resources. **Our Choices do Matter.**

Did you know that 97% of bugs we find in our gardens are good bugs? They do not harm the plants. They eat pests, pollinate the plants and improve our soil quality. To learn more about good bugs/bad bugs go to <http://bugguide.net>. And did you know that if we will compost old plant material, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, and paper, even cardboard, we can keep 25% of what usually fills the landfills out and turn it into good stuff for our soil? **Our Choices do Matter.**

Did you know that 1 out of every 3 bites of food we eat must be pollinated by bees? Alarmingly, the bees are dying off for unknown reasons. *Time* magazine had this focus as their cover story in their August 19, 2013 issue. They state "we are very close to the edge." They report that "honey bees are the glue that holds our agriculture system together, and the glue is failing." What can gardeners do? NGC has partnered with Crown Bees to educate gardeners about how the solitary, non-aggressive Mason Bee can help solve this dilemma. Did you know that 1 Mason Bee can do as much work as 100 honeybees? We can also participate in BeeGAP – Gardeners Adding Pollinators – to add the common, kindly Mason Bee to our own gardens, encourage them to nest and individuals or clubs can even sell their excess cocoons to Crown Bees. NGC bee gal Debbie Skow can give you all the information on participation or information on programs on bees. Please research the NGC website and find all kinds of information on this and the other areas included in the President's Projects for states as well as clubs, or contact Marion Hilliard at marionh@bellsouth.net. **Our Choices do Matter.**

I know that we have influence in our communities. I have seen how the garden clubs are **Making A World of Difference** in their communities. We can demonstrate our care for our natural resources by becoming better educated. We can be the motivating force to influence family, friends and neighbors to make a difference by choosing to use earth friendly gardening practices. **Our Choices do Matter.**

As you give thanks in this time of Thanksgiving, keep in mind our garden club friends who have recently experienced natural disasters, and consider making a donation to the NGC Natural Disasters Fund. I wish each of you a splendid autumn and an abundant Thanksgiving. We are so blessed. I express my gratitude to each of you for enriching my life.

Love to you all,

Linda

Submissions for KIT are due January 1, 2014

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NGC Member Services

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2013-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS Roster changes and additions appear in the Board Member Section of the NGC website.

FOREST FIRE RISKS

Linda Whetsell

Environmental Concerns / Legislation Committee Chairman

Forest fires have increased in frequency in our communities due to an extended drought, rising average temperatures and the buildup of dry, highly flammable vegetation. As this article is being written, eleven of our western states have wildfires burning. Lives have been lost, homes destroyed and acres of our forests have been burned. This is happening as a result of our government cutting back federal funding of local agencies responsible for controlling this flammable vegetation.

For decades, most government fire agencies attempted to prevent fires. But in the absence of intermittent, naturally occurring wildfires, forests became overgrown with dry brush and oily flammable scrub. Without occasional fires, dense forests and brush areas can become highly flammable. As a consequence of these, many advocate occasional controlled burns, forest-thinning and regular brush clearing in wilderness areas.

We can not control lightning strikes or behavior of man, but we can control flammable build-up in our forests. Budget cuts are being made by legislators - be aware of what is going on and let your legislators know of your concern for continued high risks of wildfires.



NGC BEEGAP (GARDENERS ADDING POLLINATORS)

Debbie Skow,

d.sk.1159@gmail.com

Native Bee/BeeGAP Chairman

The facts are in! We need more bee pollinators to supplement the decline of the honey bee. The solution rests with us, and our *Choices Matter* to solve this issue. We can help by increasing the number of solitary, native bees. A first step

is to plant at least one pollen-rich native plant in your garden.

NGC's newest partner, Crown Bees, can also help us *Make a World of Difference* by offering discounts on bee safe products and providing PowerPoint presentations and materials for NGC's BeeGAP Speakers Bureau so we can spread the word about bees. Simultaneously, Crown Bees is offering fundraising opportunities for all levels of garden club.

To learn more about how you can be *Making a World of Difference* for bee pollinators, please visit www.crownbees.com/category/NGC and sign up to participate at www.crownbees.com/ngcsignup.

ENVIRONMENTALLY YOURS — ONE STEP AT A TIME

Mary Sue Colvin, Coordinator

Environmental Concerns and Conservation Committee

Planet Earth has been blessed with a wealth of environmental gifts—whether it is the air we breathe, thousands of daily usages of water, an abundance of birds, butterflies, and other land and marine wildlife, energy to fuel our activities, forests for recreation and industry, or abundant land on which to live, play and work.

For years National Garden Clubs, Inc. members have been educating, motivating and activating our citizenry about environmental issues. Not only should we continue to promote the conservation and protection of our natural resources, but we must advocate actions such as recycling, identification and eradication of invasive species, and support of environmental legislation.

Environmental issues become more critical each year as our air and water become more polluted; birds, butterflies and wildlife suffer the loss of more and more of their habitats; land is often sacrificed in the name of "progress"; forests are decimated or irreparably harmed; and energy is wasted at an alarming rate.

You may ask, "What can I do? It's such an overwhelming undertaking."

Take one step at a time. Drink less bottled water; plant one beneficial plant for the birds, bees and butterflies; raise your thermostat one degree in summer; choose to go paperless for credit card bills; use less fertilizer and pesticides in your home garden; car pool to garden club meetings; recycle paper, bottles and cans; and talk to your grandchildren about the importance of being a champion of the environment. The list is endless.

Making a World of Difference – Choices Matter is the 2013 – 2015 theme of National Garden Clubs, Inc. It is imperative that garden club members make choices that will, indeed, make a world of difference in our daily lives and for the

future. **Each individual garden club member taking one step at a time by conserving and protecting our natural resources in some way, will add up to hundreds of thousands of steps daily, as together, we can make a difference for the improvement of our world.**

AS THE WATER WORKS...

Mary Sue Colvin, Water Protection & Conservation Chairman

Water is one of our most abundant, yet is also one of our most at-risk, natural resources. For years we have taken the availability of plentiful, clean water for granted. Because of the over-use, misuse and abuse of our water supply, we find ourselves faced with escalating adversity in obtaining and maintaining clean, safe water for our daily needs. **Less than 1% of the earth's water is considered usable for human consumption.** Our everyday choices in using water can make a difference in our world today and in the future.

- * Turn off the water when brushing your teeth • Saves 3 gallons/day
- * Shorten your shower by 2 or 3 minutes – or install a water saving shower head • Saves 5 gallons/day
- * Fix leaky faucets • Saves 20 gallons a day per faucet
- * Wash only full loads of clothes or dishes • Saves 15 to 20 gallons per load
- * Water your yard before 8:00 a.m. to reduce evaporation and wind interference • Saves 25 gallons/day
- * Install a smart sprinkler controller • Saves 40 gallons/day
- * Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks • Saves 150 gallons each time
- * Check sprinkler system for leaks, over-spray, and broken sprinkler heads • Saves 500 gallons/month
- * Use organic mulch around plants • Saves hundreds of gallons/year
- * Install water saving fixtures • Saves 25 gallons per person per day up to 9000 gallons a year per person
- * Use a pail of soapy water to wash the car, using the water hose to rinse only • Saves as much as 150 gallons of water each time

SAGE AND ROSES – SEND A GREETING ELECTRONICALLY AND RECOGNIZE OUR SERVICEMEN'S EVERY SACRIFICE

Send your NGC Board Member and other friends an email greeting at Christmas – save the time and cost of the card and stamp. (Grandchildren are wonders at creating email greetings.) Then:

1. Make a donation to the SAGE AND ROSES BLUE STAR MARKER FUND to NGC headquarters.
 - a) \$10.00 to \$25.00 – one chance for your state to win.
 - b) \$26.00 to \$50.00 – two chances for your state.
 - c) each additional \$25.00 – another chance to win.
2. Your name will be on your chance tickets.

3. The winning ticket will be drawn by the president at the NGC Convention.
4. The winning ticket holder decides where the Blue Star Marker will be placed in the state.
5. All monies collected will be spent in the same year for the erection and landscaping of markers.

The Blue Star Marker program is the premier National project which 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 nationwide organization.
- * Remember those whose sacrifices give us our many freedoms

Previous state winners are Rhode Island, Nevada and NCA (By-Way Markers), Virginia and Pennsylvania.

For additional information, please email Lois Shuster, LOIS@CHALKL.COM or Pam Braun, BRAUN3@EARTHLINK.NET

CONTAINER GARDENING

Mary Ann Moreno

Fall is here and soon will come the freezing temperatures. Now is the time to look at your outside containers and decide on what to keep, give away or store. So many of us use actual potted plants, such as hibiscus, geraniums, ferns, ivies and others tucked into the container for color and form, to add interest to our containers. A lot of these plants are expensive and I always save, repot and give some away for use by residents of adult living facilities. By now the annuals are already showing wear, so they grace my compost pile to add more nutrients to my soil. All summer bulbs need to be dug out and examined for ROT or other damage; give them the heave-ho if they have problems. A variety of our summer bulbs are not usually freeze tolerant and perish in the cold. I will dig and store gladiolas, dahlias, tuberous begonias and caladiums. I also save semi-tropical succulents that will die in the cold winter. These succulents can be replanted in containers to be part of your houseplant collection for the winter. You will need to amend your recently-used container by adding some nutrients, peat moss, perlite and good compost. Then plant those gorgeous spring bulbs you ordered. You can have fun and be amazed by planting a BULB LASAGNA container. Email Suzy Andrego for her famous bulb recipe, sandrego@qwest.net.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY — PROJECT OUTREACH

Recently, we were asked, how can club members support a NGC H4H Landscaping Project without having to actually dig holes and plant! There are several ways—the most obvious being financial support. Here is an innovative way to do that: dedicate the money for a tree to honor or memorialize

someone and ask Habitat to put that in the Dedication program. One club honored their Flower Show judges with a dedicated tree as a thank you for judging their Flower Show. Other ways of support: volunteer to help give the new Habitat homeowner a seminar on landscape maintenance; plant containers for the front porch and/or yard with flowers, flowers and vegetables, flowers and herbs, butterfly-friendly plants; give gardening books that emphasize simple tips for yard maintenance, use of native plants, etc. and present them at each Dedication with a person and phone number to call with questions (a great way to use the knowledge of your Master Gardeners). Purchase a lawn mower and present at the Dedication. H4H affiliates are also most appreciative of garden club members supervising the young adults who volunteer to install the landscaping, but do not have experience in planting and mulching. And, of course, the club could design (with input from the new homeowner) the landscape, purchase the plants and do the installation. Lastly, don't forget that several months later many of those homeowners will need a refresher on trimming, fertilizing and mulching. You may offer to put a "We can help" notice in their mortgage bills with garden club contact information and offer a garden center gift certificate to those who call and make an appointment with you. Send us your NGC H4H ideas and success stories. Judy Sheets judithansheets@gmail.com, Landscape Project Chairman or Barbara Hadsell barbarahadsell@cs.com, Vice-Chairman.

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

Your Schools Committees met at Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis and are working collaboratively and learning more about each school. We are moving toward the 21st Century as we embark on a project to review the possibility of common forms and a common manual/handbook.

Common problems identified for all schools involve basic lack of having the school handbooks or reading them or following the instructions (at the state and local levels of school administration). **We believe that the jobs of state and local schools chairmen can be greatly simplified if the guidelines are just read and followed.**

As the year winds down, encourage Consultants who are due to lapse 12/31/13 to **request extensions before 12/31/13**. Extension requests should be made by the Consultant to the State School Chairman who should process them in accordance with the Handbook/Operations Guide for that school.

At the Board of Directors Meeting in Seattle in May, motions were passed to **eliminate (effective January 1, 2014) the re-**

quirement to collect *The National Gardener* labels (proof of subscription) for all NGC schools. This does not change the requirement to subscribe to and read *The National Gardener*, the official source of news about our school programs – it just eliminates one piece of "red tape" in conducting a school and processing the associated paperwork. Proof of subscription is still required for schools and refreshers taking place in 2013.

A Bi-Refresher (ES & GS) is available in conjunction with the NGC Costa Rica tour coming up 11/4 to 11/10/13. Education is a cornerstone of NGC. **Plan a multiple refresher, and plan a school**, and make a world of difference to your members, your clubs and your communities.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Jane R. Bersch, Landscape Design Schools Chairman

Congratulations to all the states which have scheduled either a Landscape Design Schools Course or a Refresher for this fall or next year. In October, Schools are being held in Michigan, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Louisiana. West Virginia gardeners are offered a Course in May 2014. Refreshers are on the calendar in Florida and the National Capital Area. These states are providing their members with one of the special benefits of being a part of National Garden Clubs, Inc. With the knowledge gained at these events, members can be ***Making A World of Difference*** by their choices. ***Choices Matter.***

To help expedite the requirements for accrediting these Courses and/or Refreshers, it is important that the necessary LDS Forms be completed and sent to the appropriate Landscape Design Schools Chairmen well in advance of the date of the Course. The Committee is listed on the NGC website under Landscape Design Schools/ Forms. This is especially important when instructors have not been previously approved by the LDS Instructors' Chairman, Janet Kinney (jh.jbkinney@verizon.net). To assist in obtaining outlines, test questions and other material from instructors, consider advising them that there are NGC policies which you must follow.

The *Instructor Resume And Record*, LDS 4a, has been updated and is available on the web. Please use it for future approvals of Instructors. LDS 2a and 2b should be sent to the Instructors' Chairman, Janet Kinney, as two separate forms. At the conclusion of a Course or Refresher, presenting all who have attended with LDS 16, *Landscape Design Mini-Guide for Students and Consultants*, will help to remind them of the Course and Refresher requirements. Following a Refresher, Chairmen are reminded that a Roster is sent to all States' LDS chairmen from which an out-of-state Consultant came.

States are encouraged to consider holding two schools a year if possible. Students and Consultants may want to attend a Course in a nearby state.

The LDS Committee is here to help in staging a Course or Refresher. Each state can make a difference.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOLS

Judy Newman, Environmental Studies School Chairman

There are more and more opportunities to learn about Environmental Issues and Concerns. The Curriculum for the Environmental Studies Schools includes many of the current issues with opportunity to include issues/concerns of a community, state, and/or region in the course content. Some of our schools chairmen are having difficulty getting instructors. The next series of ESS Courses in Wisconsin will be co-sponsored by a private college which has an Environmental major and WGCF. Garden Club members will become ESS Consultants; college students can earn CEU's or college credit with the submission of an additional paper/assignment. The course content will be taken from the ESS Handbook. The head of the Environmental Major will obtain the instructors and provide the classroom and AV equipment. Lunch will be in the college cafeteria.

Consider networking with environmental groups, organizations, and an industry which has an environmental focus. Private and Community Colleges are looking for opportunities to reach out to the community.

Be sure to mention/include the NGC, Inc. name and logo as well as your state name and logo in all communications, (letters, videos, brochures, articles, etc.). These are advertising opportunities and membership promotion tools for all NGC member clubs.

Soon the ESS Certificates on the NGC Website will be interactive. Note from Poss Tarpley, member of the NGC Communications Committee, "In order to save an interactive form after it has been filled out, the user must have the latest edition of Adobe Reader, which is XI at this time. This update is available free from the Adobe site. Otherwise the form must be printed and then scanned, in order to save and/or use as an attachment."

NEWS FROM REGIONAL DIRECTORS

New England Region Maria Nahom, Director

As New England gardeners are busy planting bulbs to enjoy in the spring The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, in collaboration with other organizations, is planting "Marathon Daffodils" along the 26.5 miles of the Boston Marathon route.

To lift the spirits of the community and to support "Boston Strong", volunteers are busy planting through December. In April the runners will be greeted by the cheerful sight of thousands of Daffodils all along the route.

Bees and Pollinators are getting a "wing-up" in New Hampshire where the New Hampshire Federation President is involving all of the clubs with the Crown Bees project. Connecticut is busy planting natives to attract pollinators and design landscapes to nurture them. A PLANT NATIVE TREES CONTEST has been launched and a CREATE BACKYARD HABITAT CONTEST will encourage members to certify habitats with the National Wildlife Federation. Three clubs (small, medium and large) with the most new native trees and three clubs with the most certified landscapes will win a native tree.

Habitat for Humanity committees have been busy in Rhode Island and Maine. Clubs in Maine landscaped three homes within one month this summer, with plans for many more along the coast. In Rhode Island four homes in Providence were beautified during the hottest days in June. More landscapes are planned for areas outside of Providence. Vermont's president is stressing education at District Meetings in keeping with her theme "Education Choices that Protect Natural Resources."

We are busy as Bees in New England.

Central Atlantic Region Mary Warshauer, Director

Garden clubs across the Central Atlantic Region didn't allow much dirt to settle under their boots this past summer. They've been in full swing, working in communities, flower shows, workshops and prepping for fall harvest festivals.

The Pennsylvania Federation held 3 excellent "Leadership" workshops. Valuable information pertaining to 501C3, parliamentary procedure, protocol, public speaking, awards and more was presented effectively and with enthusiasm.

The CAR Web site was updated with a password protected section for our board members. It features current regional and state news and the *CAR Conference Manual* and *Standing Rules*. The site is a great platform on which to share local garden club news.

I had the pleasure to attend the FGCNYS Fall Conference in Corning, home to one of the country's most famous glassblowing communities. The conference was busy; a Judges Council, workshops, programs, floral designers and an award.

We are looking forward to the 2013 C.A.R. Conference "A Monumental Event" hosted by The National Capital Area October 25-27. The Conference features a tour, design program by Bill Schaffer, leadership workshops, and more. A Symposium

is scheduled immediately following the conference.

Summer is truly over and, as lovers of nature and horticulture, we look forward to the fall foliage.

South Atlantic Region Martha Morgan, Director

The Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis was very informative, with workshops and committee meetings well planned. As usual, the highlight of the meeting was the fellowship with gardeners from all across the country. We share so many common interests and goals that it is inspiring to hear what is happening within our organization. Our President, Linda Nelson, presided with grace and humor, and kept the necessary business moving along. We now need to process the information we gathered, and share it with our Region and members.

The past few months have been a time of planning for both NGC, SAR and local garden clubs. We are so appreciative in SAR for Mary Sue Floyd, who prepared our Directory. I have received several State and Club Directories, and, as I look over them, I wish I could attend the many interesting and educational events listed. We are certainly taking advantage of our many opportunities and being involved.

At Fall Board, we learned of partnerships between NGC and several groups, and I hope you are using both the NGC and the Regional websites to keep up-to-date on what's new, so we can all cooperate for these projects.

In the South Atlantic Region we are looking forward to our Regional Convention on March 23-25 in Roanoke, VA. Chairwoman Janice Clem and Co-Chairman Shirley Edillon, along with Advisor Marilyn Mason are planning a wonderful meeting for us, and there will be a Flower Show "A World of Opportunities-Be Involved." If that sounds familiar, it is our SAR Theme for 2013-15! We hope all SAR members and visitors will "Follow the Star to SAR" to Roanoke.

Deep South Region Gloria Blake, Director

The summer has "flown by" and here we are entering into Fall, although, as I write this the temperatures in the DS states don't seem to be cooling very fast.

This summer the new in print DS Directory went to press, and was distributed to all of the states for the Council. The first newsletter for the DS entitled "Deep South Matters" was added to the DS website, dsregion.org.

Much planning and great projects have taken place in the DS states this past summer and some highlights include:

ALABAMA --- has been implementing various projects "to make a difference", and some suggestions are to sponsor a youth garden club, beautify your community and/or clean up your environment, and share your love of gardening & talents by giving a program to a club.

FLORIDA – this past summer sponsored their Wekiva Youth

Camp for 592 children, and also SEEK, (Save the Earth's Environment Through Knowledge) for teenagers. Along with this much planning has taken place by the committees for the DS Convention in April 12-14, 2014.

GEORGIA – chaired officers' workshops, and awards workshops all over the state. Also, they held youth seminars, historic seminars, and the award committees have met and made plans.

LOUISIANA – has held seminars on Community Gardens, and creating a Power Point program. They are planning to present the following schools: Flower Show School I, Oct. 28-30, 2013, New Orleans; Landscape Design School III, Nov. 19-20, 2013, Baton Rouge; Gardening Study School I, Jan. 9-10, 2014, Lafayette.

MISSISSIPPI – has chosen to preserve our heritage, to beautify this land and to compost and recycle. Their programs and projects will reflect their theme, "Preserve, Beautify, & Enjoy Our Gifts, - our land, our resources, our friendships."

TENNESSEE – the main thrust this past summer was planning for their Conservation Camp which will be held in October; great speakers, programs, crafts, entertainment and tours are on the agenda. It is a wonderful fun learning experience for all who attend.

Until next time – Enjoy the fall and have a Blessed Holiday Season.

Central Region Gerry Ford, Director

The October Regional meeting held in Indiana in the Amish Country was a big success and much fun for all. Thanks go to the host state for planning and executing this wonderful meeting. It was a time to make new friends and to "meet and greet" with longtime friends. It's always a pleasure to hear of the great things that are going on around our region.

Reports told of the many projects the clubs are doing to "**Share, Care, to Protect the Future**" and everyone learned of ideas for projects that might work in their areas. The Clubs are **Sharing** their talents and knowledge, working together on projects during National Garden Week and also at Flower Shows and Garden Walks, etc. Our Clubs **Cared** for others by planting Community Gardens. One club with workers from Scout groups, along with other enthusiastic helpers, provided 10,000 pounds of produce for their community food pantry. Some gardens were created to provide produce for nursing home kitchens. Other groups planted beautiful flower gardens for the community to enjoy. To **Protect our Future**, other projects undertaken by members were the following: landscaping of Habitat homes; a conservation project at Rainbow Lakes, Minnesota; and the creation of Pink Gardens around the region in support of the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Awareness project.

These are just a few of the many activities going on around our region. Many have the goal of giving back to our commu-

nities. We are definitely *Making a World of Difference* in our region! In addition, the region has recently held all of the NGC Schools and Symposiums, providing educational opportunities for our members. As we all know, lifelong education is extremely important to our members, and we know that our educational opportunities are a great membership recruitment tool! Photos of club activities for the Central Region website can be e-mailed to www.NGCcentralregion.org.

South Central Region Nancy C. Voyles, Director

The South Central Region has four states: Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Each of the four states is working diligently on many projects incorporating NGC's mission. Our states have a website with links to the NGC web page. Our states are looking at ways to recruit new members and retain current members. While serving as State President, I asked my members to be a mentor to new members, and to teach, train and encourage one another. As we know, everyone appreciates encouragement!

Texas has ten districts with themes based on the Conservation Pledge. For example, District VII's theme is "Choose Your Path, Make A Difference". Districts are preparing for meetings and TGC's Fall Convention will be held in October. The TGC President, Sarah McReynolds, is very busy preparing for the SCR Convention in March 2014. Check out the TGC website to find information concerning dates for scheduled schools in Texas.

Oklahoma has six districts and each is busy preparing for their fall district meetings. The OGC, Inc. President Roberta Burns is excited about the upcoming 2014 NGC Convention, to be hosted by her state. Find Gardening Tips and Bird Feeding Tips on the OGC website, as well as information concerning their Flower Show to be held in October, 2013.

New Mexico has five districts and their President Isabel Olsen is pleased to share their informative membership pamphlet and a colorful bookmark displaying her theme and dates of upcoming state meetings. This director regrets having a conflict on the dates for their Fall Board Meeting. (My granddaughter is getting married that same weekend.) NMGC enjoyed their flower show held in conjunction with the State Fair in September.

Arkansas has five districts and the State President, Liz Howell, presided at the Mid-Year Board Meeting held at a lovely venue overlooking Lake Dardanelle. Liz will be attending all of the district meetings in October and will update members on the exciting projects of NGC and SCR. AFGC members are looking forward to the annual State Flower Show, "Nature's Song", to be held in Little Rock, February 21-24, 2014. See winners on the AFGC website following the show.

Four states, 26 districts, and many happy garden club members in this region are working, planning and enjoying all of the opportunities ahead of us under the leadership of NGC President Linda Nelson. We will learn to "BE POLLINATORS"!

Rocky Mountain Region Beverly Heidelberger, Director

The RMR Convention was held at Salt Lake City with the theme "Bee-Utah-Ful Gardens: From Mountain to Desert". Bee novelties were at each event; aprons, bags, cups, candy, soap, and a hive made out of an inverted pot covered with rope. Albert Einstein said, "If the bees disappeared off the face of the earth, man would only have four years to live." Oh dear, I hope we are not on the way there. Please, Save the Bees!

RMR Secretary, Margaret Straley was driving through Colorado to the Salt Lake Convention during heavy rain. The roads became washed out. Although safe, she was unable to make it to the convention. This flooding disaster and many others, helped in the decision to form a RMR Disaster Fund. "Water" can be our best friend or our worst enemy; let's work at trying to keep it our friend.

Since, the RMR project is concentrating on becoming caretaker of our water, Chairman Linda Barker had the conservation pledge printed up for the members to take back to their respective states to be read at each club meeting.

Pacific Region Elaine Gunderson, Director

Pacific Region is poised to support the NGC Conservation Pledge. Newsletters and yearbooks received from state, districts and local garden clubs have programs and projects to educate members about plants and their care, birding and bee farm field trips, community plant sales, hypertufa and terrarium workshops, NGC Gardening Study Schools, developing civic development projects, and to using "green hotels" that emphasize sustainability to hold state and Pacific Region conventions. Pacific Region is planting seeds for knowledge and education.

In June I attended the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. state convention in Moscow. It was a thrill to learn this state membership of 362 members had won First Place for NGC's #12 Publications: Newsletter for a Small State Garden Club AND the Idaho Horticulture Society for NGC PR Yearbook for a Small Club PLUS two other First Place NGC Publication Awards.

In September at the NGC Fall Board meeting, National provided information and guidelines to help regions, states and local garden clubs learn and spread knowledge about programs and projects offered by the organization. PR members are encouraged to utilize and share NGC's *Keeping in Touch* with all members.

PR 2014 Convention Chairman Sandy Ford has planned exciting programs with enticing presenters and enriching field trips in Coeur d'Alene, ID July 1-3, 2014.

With the holiday season here, PR members are encouraged to

note NGC's Sage and Roses Project (see the story on page 3).

Choices Matter!

MEMBER SERVICES

Barbara Campbell, Member Services Chairman

With the holiday season approaching, we all will be doing a great deal of shopping. Linda's theme *"Choices Matter"* is very appropriate. Please choose to shop through our partners and National Garden Clubs will benefit. We are now partnering with Patriot Seeds, Gardener's Supply, Brent and Becky's Bulbs, *flower Magazine* and Smithers-Oasis Floral Supply. Look for their logos on our website and follow directions to shop. Each one is slightly different. Once again, NGC benefits from all sales that begin through our website.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Brenda Moore, Membership Committee

"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do." -Helen Keller

One of my favorite movies is "It's a Wonderful Life". The movie, which I'm sure all of you have seen, is about the character George Bailey. The movie shows what other people's lives would've been like had George never been born. It was amazing this one life changed not only individual lives, but the economy and attitude of an entire town.

We've also heard the expression that one vote makes a difference. Did you know that in 1800, ONE VOTE in the electoral college made Thomas Jefferson President over Aaron Burr. In 1845, ONE VOTE brought Texas into the Union. In 1868, ONE VOTE prevented President Andrew Johnson from being removed from office, and in 1955, ONE VOTE elected the mayor of Huron, Ohio. Get the picture? Yes, one person can make a difference regarding their club, their state, their region and National Garden Clubs.

As a club member, make sure you are inviting people to your garden club meetings. Be on the look-out for potential new members by noticing them in nurseries or working in their yards, and invite them to your garden club meetings. Invite new neighbors. When you're in a store line and notice someone purchasing plants or gardening magazines or books, start a conversation about gardening and invite them. Most people join garden club by responding to an oral invitation. As a club, look at your bylaws to make sure they are member friendly. If not, change them. Keep your meetings short; today's members are too busy to spend more than a couple of hours at a meeting. Advertise your club by using signage, shirts and utilize social media. Make sure your meeting topics are centered on gardening. Make sure visitors feel welcome and are invited back. Read articles and learn from others proven ways to gain members. As a state, make sure your officers respond to members' needs. Advertise our educa-

tional programs and encourage attendance. Make sure members are receiving some benefit from their dues. Make state meetings exciting and attractive by selecting interesting venues and speakers.

Recognize the works of the club presidents and district officers and individual members. Make your state magazine's articles practical and useful for today's gardeners. Our regions and National Garden Clubs will gain members only when we start at the club level. And, clubs will only gain members when each member becomes proactive. We each have the ability to change history. Use that ability! *"One kernel is felt in a hogshead; one drop of water helps to swell the ocean; a spark of fire helps to give light to the world. None are too small, too feeble, too poor to be of service. Think of this and act."* Hannah More (1745-1833).



In Memoriam

Phyllis J. Wood, long-time NGC Parliamentarian and Executive Committee member, serving on the 2013-2015 Strategic Planning Committee, passed away October 16, 2013, in Florida. Services will be held Friday, Nov. 8 at 11 A.M. Satellite Beach United Methodist Church, 450 Lee Ave. Satellite Beach. Condolences may be sent to her family at 409 Norwood, Satellite Beach FL 32937.



Jeanne-Marie Parkes' long-time companion William (Bill) H. Quinlan passed away on Monday morning, September 30, 2013. Condolences can be sent to Jeanne-Marie at 8 Andrew Rd., Hull MA 02045.

It is with great sadness that we report the untimely death of the daughter of former NGC and GCSC President, Babs Barnette. Mary Barnette Ferguson, wife of Dr. Fred Ferguson, of Greenwood, South Carolina died August 8, 2013.