



Keeping In Touch

November 2016



Sandra H. Robinson
2015-2017 President
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

In This Issue

- The President's Greeting and Travel Schedule
- NGC Schools News
 - Gardening Study
 - Landscape Design
- President's Special Projects
 - Youth Container Gardening Contest
- Bee a Wildlife Action Hero
- Membership Ideas
- NGC Life Membership
- National Garden Week
- National Consultants Day
- NGC Website
- AMES Partnership
- NGC Scholarship
- Pollinators
- Photography
- *Leap Into Leadership!*
- SAGE and ROSES
- News from the Regions
- In Memoriam

The Garden Club Federation of Maine hosted a well-planned, informative and highly enjoyable Fall Board meeting in Portland, followed by a tri-refresher tour that inspired everyone to continue investigating and sharing their areas of expertise. Thank you, Chairman Rebecca Linney, Vice Chairman Pamela Newcomb, and fairy godmother Diane Bullock for sharing the beauty and flavor of Maine.

The 30 finalists of the International Photography Contest celebrating the National Parks birthday were on display at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. A continuous PowerPoint® presentation of all 197 entries added to the delight of the design banquet. Chairman Arabella Dane compiled a presentation of the finalists with music for a truly moving feast for the senses. Every entry was outstanding and highlighted the artistic talent of our members.

National Flower Arrangers designers' exhibits added another layer of opulence to the Victorian Mansion during the "Botanical Elegance" garden party. Thank you, NFA for this highly anticipated talent showcase.

The garden clubs are busy erecting Blue Star Memorial Markers, hosting meetings and flower shows, working with local civic groups and schools, and planning for next year's projects. Fall is the perfect time to stop and reflect on our accomplishments.

The plight of pollinators is still a topic of conversation around the world, and NGC is among those in the forefront working to improve their survival rate. Was your pollinator garden filled with working bees and butterflies this summer? To my great disappointment, not one nibble was evident on any of the milkweeds on our property, nor was a Monarch butterfly spotted flitting around. A larger garden may be the answer for next year.

One of the perks of serving as National President is the excellent programs you see while visiting the clubs. The history of milkweed is a topic gaining attention. Milkweed has been used for food, fiber, and medicine by Native Americans and traditional medicine.

Did you know...

- Carl Linnaeus gave milkweed its botanical name, *Asclepias*, after the Greek god of medicine.
- Milkweed has been used to remove warts, for bee stings, ringworm, venereal diseases, contraceptives, to prevent hemorrhage after childbirth, and as a laxative, among many others.
- While in the larva stage, the Monarch butterfly is totally dependent on milkweed for food.
- The Alternative Crops Research Program of Western Illinois University is working to add milkweed to the agronomic crops list.

- The Natural Fibers Corporation is manufacturing comforters and pillows from milkweed fibers. The fibers have a higher thermal rating than goose down and are hypoallergenic.
- Milkweed pods were collected by school children during World War II for their floss. The floss was used for its buoyancy in life preservers for sailors and airmen. School children received 15 cents per onion bag of pods and 5 cents extra if the pods were dried. Two bags contained enough floss for one life jacket. Two million pounds of floss were needed annually to fill 1.2 million life jackets.
- Milkweed floss is used to clean up oil spills.
- Rope or strong twine is made from the stringy fibers of the stem.
- During WWII Japan controlled most of the world's supply of rubber trees, and milkweed sap was considered as a possible alternative source of rubber.
- American milkweed is an important nectar source for native bees, wasps, and other nectar-seeking insects.

Researchers continue working with this amazing plant that we call a weed. Plant milkweed next year, enjoy its colorful history, and anticipate its still-undefined future.

Leap into Action!

Sandra H. Robinson

PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

January 24-27, 2017 Atlanta, GA
 Winter Executive Committee Meeting and
 Symposium
 February 2-3, 2017 Colorado

Find Us On Pinterest and Facebook under National Garden Clubs Inc.

Website: www.gardenclub.org

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

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Submissions for KIT are due January 1, 2017

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NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

**GREG POKORSKI, ES, GS AND LD SCHOOLS
 COORDINATOR**

Is your Consultant status due to lapse December 31, 2016? If you don't know (you should be keeping copies of your records – refer to the guidelines for each school – an information brochure included among the forms for each school, available on the NGC website), check with your State Schools Chairman. If you don't have a State Schools Chairman, contact the applicable NGC School Chairman listed on the NGC website or me. If your good standing expires December 31 and you have no further opportunity to refresh this year, request an extension of time to refresh from your State Schools Chairman. State Chairmen should be sure to handle, according to the appropriate Schools Handbook, forwarding the form to the appropriate NGC Chairman on a timely basis. We don't want to see retroactive extension requests after the first of the year. And we don't want to lose you as a Consultant! You may be eligible for a one-year extension so that you can refresh next year.

Schools Committees met on September 22 at the Fall Board meeting in Portland, Maine. Let us know if you have questions or suggestions concerning these schools. We constantly strive to improve and simplify. A presentation was made to state presidents and region directors to make sure they know that administration of Environmental Studies, Gardening Study, and Landscape Design Schools differs from (and in many ways may be easier than) Flower Show School (FSS). There are no time restrictions between our courses. The sponsoring club, district, council, state or region may hold one course per year or one per week or handle in any manner that you choose. You use local instructors and do not draw from a limited pool of NGC instructors as is the case with FSS. You do not pay for their transportation and lodging (other than perhaps a mileage allowance). Some subjects may be taught by representatives of cooperative extensions and agriculture departments with a minimal honorarium. Don't dismiss the thought of conducting a school, thinking that it may be too much work or too costly, without talking to our NGC Schools Chairmen.

Our Schools Committees are grateful for the long-term support we had from Katie Roth as Schools Secretary at NGC Headquarters. Katie is now serving as Administrative Assistant, and we wish her luck and success in her new role. We welcome Emily Huck as our new Schools Secretary and also wish her luck and success. These staffing changes are posted on the website (Headquarters Staff). Those involved in schools administration should note that Emily is now our contact at Headquarters. EHuck@gardenclub.org – Extension 210.

There continues to be misunderstanding about participation in Multiple Refreshers despite the fact that they have been around since 2002. Some think you cannot participate unless you have completed all three schools. Not true. Some think you cannot participate unless you are a Master in all schools. Not true. Anyone, consultant or not, should be allowed to attend to take advantage of the education provided. If there is limited space, however, priority may have to be given to consultants who are eligible to receive credit. Then, any consultant in good standing may refresh at a Multiple Refresher in at least one school. Master Consultants may simultaneously refresh in all schools in which they are a Master Consultant – whether that be two or three schools. Questions should be directed to this chairman or any of our School Chairs.

Fairbanks Garden Club in Alaska, a small club of 25 members, is sponsoring its first Landscape Design School beginning this month and had already added six dynamic new members as of last month, including one of the instructors, because of the Landscape Design School. They are so excited about this educational project. If they can do it, you can do it. *Leap into Action!*

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

BARBARA HADSELL, GSS CHAIRMAN

It is a pleasure to see the many states holding Gardening Study Schools. We just received notice that Tennessee had 35 in attendance with 28 taking this Course 2 for credit. While this is not the first time Tennessee has held Courses in GS—it has been a long time ago, so we are happy to see this new interest in Gardening Study School. What was especially exciting was the interest shown in joining a Federated garden club by the Master Gardeners in attendance. They were not aware of NGC and our wonderful garden clubs and our programs in the community and with our youth.

In conjunction with supporting the GSS current theme of “Reconciliation Ecology,” there will be a power point presentation available on our NGC website for use by your instructors as a supplemental subject at any of the 4 Courses.

The NGC Gardening Study School Directory containing State School and Council Chairmen, GSS Regional Chairmen and NGC GSS Committee members is updated, and members can find it on our GSS NGC website.

NGC Gardening Study School Consultants and Consultant Councils are encouraged to participate in National Garden Week in 2017. Please see details in this issue of KIT.

Nebraska has completed their first GS School. Please enjoy the “Confessions” below contributed by student Charlotte Swanson, President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska.

CONFESSIONS OF A GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL GRADUATE CHARLOTTE SWANSON

I’m now a card-carrying Gardening Study School Consultant! The card doesn’t work as an ID or cash substitute, but it does acknowledge that I’ve been exposed to and studied through a good many horticultural topics and gardening issues with experts in those areas (and that I passed their tests)!

The topics in the second half of the course that I recently completed had a broad range, some that seriously challenged my somewhat skimpy science foundation but others were highly practical, and my favorites included the “hands on” learning opportunities. They all combined to make for a wide experience to broaden my base of knowledge, learn some things to improve my garden, and stimulate my appetite to both apply and share useful information and techniques with others. Plus, gardeners are fun people—so being around them and being taught by those who have pursued their passion is my idea of a day well-spent.

Now to the confessions:

- *I must confess that although my son-in-law is an expert in aquaponics and has practiced it many years—it was not until I read material in my GSS that I learned some of the important nuts and bolts of such a style of gardening.
- *I must confess that learning more about organic gardening has helped me to appreciate the label all the more in the grocery store. Also, I was pleased to find that an organic farmer would approve of most of my gardening attitudes and practices.
- *I must confess that the opportunity to tour a daylily farm and organic apple orchard was an enjoyable way to learn how a plant passion can turn into a business. Additionally, I was happy to learn that the organic apple farmer found a ready market by supplying the local schools with fresh apples—free of any pesticides.
- *I must confess that I never considered rock gardening but found that I might want to try it in the future. At any rate, I have found myself absorbed in *A Gardener Obsessed* by Geoffrey A. Charlesworth who loved math (a professor of such), rock gardening and writing (proof that the three can mix well).
- *I must confess that I never gave much thought to growing nuts, but I was astonished by all the details to consid-

er before establishing a nut grove. I now appreciate the luxury of simply opening the package of nuts and crunching down. But, if anyone comes my way who wants to start a nut farm—I can help!

*I must confess that I do not have a pressure regulator on my soaker hose, but now I know that I need one. The lecture on home irrigation exposed several sins that waste water. I repent.

*I must confess that I have forgotten much of the science that I was taught and it stretched my cerebral parts to grasp the terms involved with identifying landscaping plants. (Then there's the phonetics of pronouncing all that science.) I may not always remember that a cherry is a drupe and not a pome (as is the apple), but I do have the information in my handy reference materials for when I want to impress my grandchildren!

*I also confess that I relished the "hands on" part of the landscape lectures. Being able to handle the specimen while we matched vocabulary to the part was helpful.

*My final confession: attending Gardening Study School is good for the gardener in you and equips you to bring out the best in other gardeners, too!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

JANE BERSCH, CHAIRMAN

Congratulations to the many states which held a Landscape Design Course -or even Courses - this fall. Our members are becoming better educated in all phases of landscape design, and more aware of the importance of making decisions in regard to landscaping which benefit our environment.

I hope each State President, the LDS State Chairmen, and LDS Council Chairmen will urge their members to read the LDS **Newscape**. It is available on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org, under Schools, Landscape Design at the bottom of the list of available Courses. **Newscape** is issued twice yearly and contains a wealth of information about what is happening in several of the states. Several back issues are on the Web. From them, Council members will learn about possible projects which they may want to consider in their region. Council Chairmen, please forward **Newscape** to your Consultants. State Presidents might consider putting **Newscape** on their state website for the benefit of all of their members.

Caroline Carbaugh is the editor of **Newscape**. She welcomes information on projects, meetings, and schools. Photos add to the articles. Her email is CSCarbaugh@verizon.net. Deadline for submission for the spring 2017 **Newscape** is February 1, 2017. We look forward to reading about the many projects throughout the nation.

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECTS

KAY FISHER, CHAIRMAN

It has come to the attention of the President's Special Projects Committees that there is considerable confusion concerning President's Special Projects Awards. The President's Special Projects Award Application and "Service in Action" Participation and Award details have been revised. Also, this may help to answer many questions.

- No awards are offered for Leadership Development projects and programs done by clubs, councils, districts, states or regions. This special project refers only to the President's new NGC committee formed to provide leadership development ideas and assistance for our membership.
- "Service in Action" Awards are only offered for Crown Bees BeeGAP, Monarch Watch/Waystations and **The Frightened Frog** (not Youth Clubs) projects and programs.
- This year, many award applications were received for Butterfly Garden and Pollinator Garden projects and programs. For clarification: an award application submitted for a Monarch Watch/Waystation project or program would be given priority over a generic Butterfly Garden project or program award application. A Crown Bees BeeGAP project or program would be given priority over a generic Pollinator Garden project or program award application.
- All "Service in Action" award applications should be submitted to Kay Fisher at kkay19@windstream.net. "Conservation in Action" Roadside Development Award applications should be submitted to Debi Harrington at photodebi@gmail.com. "Protecting Our Pollinators" Youth Award applications should be submitted to Mary Ann Moreno at jbmamoren@gmail.com. "The Frightened Frog" Youth Award applications should be submitted to Brenda Moore at b_moore@frontier.com. "Bee a Wildlife Action Hero" – Commit to Garden for Wildlife applications should be submitted to Becky Hassebroek at beckyhasse@aol.com. **All applications are due to the above chairmen by March 15.**

Please contact me at (859)537-1776 (cell) or refer to the President's Special Projects and/or Awards section on NGC's website for more information.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

YOUTH CONTAINER GARDENING CONTEST

MARY ANN MORENO, CONTAINER GARDENING FOR BEES AND BUTTERFLIES CHAIRMAN

A reminder to all Garden Club Members! The President's Special Projects -- Container Gardening for Youth contest, needs all NGC members to help children plant a Pollinator Container. Youth should plan a pollinator-friendly container by choosing plants that encourage our threatened pollinators to eat, drink, pollinate and possibly reproduce. As with any contest, there are rules to follow. A Garden Club must sponsor elementary students in first through fifth grades who plant a container. Containers have to be in a public place. A book of evidence compiled with pictures of the project and finished container, names of plants the student chose for the container, student's name and where the container was placed. The rules are listed in the President's Special Projects awards section on the NGC Website. We will award \$100.00 to the (5) first place winners, (5) second prize winners \$75.00, (5) third prize winners \$50.00, and (5) honorable mention winners \$25.00.

Great success will happen if you plant Native Plants that pollinators love in your area or region. They are hardy and will come up in the spring and bloom again. The deadline to send entries to this Chairman is **March 15, 2017**. We need YOU, our garden club members, to help the children get involved with planting Pollinator Containers. For some children, it will be a brand new experience. Equip the children with trowels, containers, and potting soil. Take them shopping for those pollinator plants. Give the children the ABC's of how to plant the container, nurture the plants, and then the pleasure of watching it grow. You could adopt a classroom or youth group and involve your children or grandchildren. Remember that prize monies are waiting for the winners. Some of you have some warm days ahead; it's not too late to plant a nice container. So join us in giving children the opportunity to plant a Pollinator Container. Let them be an EVENT PLANNER. Share the happiness; Bee a winner!

Info on Rules and Application? jbmamoreno@gmail.com

BEE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO COMMIT TO GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

WHY SHOULD YOU BOTHER?

BECKY HASSEBROEK, HABITAT CHAIRMAN

You all know by now what it takes to garden for our wildlife (all plants, fungi and other organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans). You need

to provide food, water, shelter, and a place for our wildlife to raise their young. And, yes, if you thought something was missing, you're right – you also need to incorporate sustainable gardening practices so that even our smallest pollinator friends are protected. Gardening sustainably eliminates the impact of pesticides on pollinators, conserves water, and provides an overall healthy habitat for pollinators and people.

Is it worth the visible imperfections that this brings to your garden?

You bet it is! Thank goodness, attitudes have changed. No longer is it popular to have a sterile garden environment where your plants don't have a bite out of their leaves, and it is perfectly quiet and still.

The perfect garden now is a place teeming with activity with wildlife of all kinds – where all of our creatures – that includes us - are safe from harm from our uneducated decisions and practices of the past.



What's in it for you?

YOU are protecting your children and grandchildren, your pets, and the birds and other wildlife in your garden from the incredibly harmful effects of the chemicals you used to use!

YOU are preventing contamination of our groundwater and watersheds from runoff.

YOU are increasing the native habitats for our wildlife that are decreasing at an alarming rate by adding native plants for food and cover. One yard or garden at a time will truly make a difference!

YOU are setting an example and showing your friends, neighbors, children, and grandchildren that you care about our land and care enough for **THEM** to show them how to be good stewards to protect it.

MOST OF ALL, YOU can go out into your garden and **interact with LIFE!** LIFE of all kinds!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU, YOU ASK?! EVERYTHING!

THANK YOU for proudly

Becoming a Wildlife Action Hero TO US ALL!

If I can ever help, please contact me. beckyhasse@aol.com, 907-456-3066.

MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

JO KRALLMAN, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Membership Begins With Me

Me

As members of a garden club we should each be inviting friends, neighbors, and others to join our garden clubs.

Member

As a member we should be willing to mentor new members. Otherwise, they may become discouraged and drop out or become a non-productive member. Without an active member to inspire new members they will not grow or be willing to **Leap Into Action** and leadership.

Membership

We're losing members and clubs for lack of recruiting and mentoring. Be willing to help new members become knowledgeable and productive members. Be excited and productive and be willing to mentor and pitch in to do your part, and you will inspire others to do likewise.



NGC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

BOBBIE VERSER, CHAIRMAN

NGC Life Memberships are available to any individual deserving the honor. You may have one presented to a state or club president, a friend or relative, or even for yourself. Consider other possibilities. Your gift of \$200 is shared equally by the Scholarship Fund and the Permanent Home Endowment Fund.

Complete the Life Membership Application Form found on the NGC website. For new members wanting to receive recognition during the Life Members Banquet at the convention in Richmond, Virginia, the completed application form and check should be mailed to National Headquarters, postmarked no later than April 1.

It is a great time for all of us to honor someone and should certainly be considered by South Atlantic Region members who have the opportunity to attend a national convention in one of their own states. Think and plan ahead. Let's see how many new members will be able to attend and enjoy the banquet in their honor.

See you in Richmond!

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK, JUNE 4-10, 2017

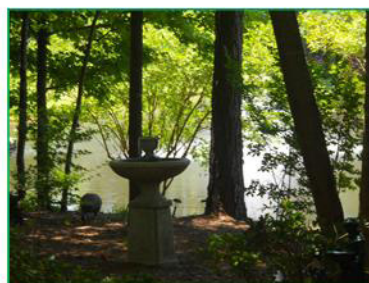
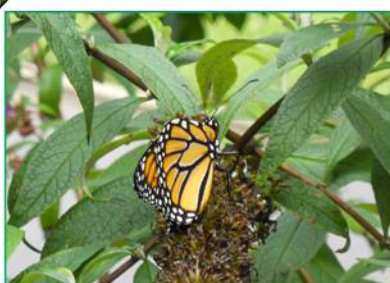
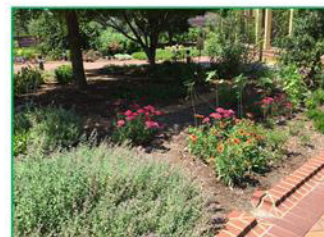
MARSHA ALEXANDER, CHAIRMAN

National Garden Week offers many possibilities to promote the NGC objectives of beautification, gardening, and environmental efforts. It is also an ideal time to share the service of garden club members in the community, and encourage new members, as well as the general public, to join in those efforts. We need to use this special week to educate and inspire pride in our communities. There are many ways that we can promote National Garden Week. Make your plans now, so that your garden club can involve as many of your members as possible and create publicity. Download and display the beautiful NGC National Garden Week posters and an event or project that you plan. Just a tip, print them on photo paper for a lovely and professional looking finish.

Ideas to consider:

- Plan an educational program at the library and garden center.
- Plan a workshop at a public garden or garden center. It could be a hands-on workshop.
- Organize a garden tour. National Garden Week is an excellent time to share our gardens with neighbors and the community. Share your knowledge of growing, while exchanging ideas. Have handouts about your garden club in each garden for potential members.
- Plan an activity with a school classroom or youth groups such as the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.
- Arrange a work day to beautify an area in your community. The day would be a perfect opportunity to partner with other groups.
- Provide an arrangement or plant, placed with a poster, at City Hall, the Post Office, and various public facilities. This is an easy way to publicize National Garden Week while thanking the public employees.
- Plant and maintain container gardens at Welcome Centers, public buildings or a location where they will enhance an area.

Share your pictures of events and activities with your local newspapers and social media, as well as the NGC Flickr website and Facebook page. See the next page of pictures from last year's National Garden Week celebration in Cary, North Carolina. The Cary Garden Club members hosted a tour of seven beautiful, local gardens. The more information and involvement we can share in our community, the more interest we generate in our clubs and NGC.



NATIONAL CONSULTANTS DAY

GREG POKORSKI, BARBARA HADSELL,
CATHY FELTON, AND PATRICIA RUPIPER

NGC National Garden Week and Schools Chairmen are collaborating to challenge all NGC Consultants to celebrate their consultant status and use and share knowledge gained in NGC schools during National Garden Week, June 4-10, 2017. The idea of NGC Gardening Consultants Councils Chairman Cathy Felton is to make NGC's Consultants more visible and vibrant, to give them a stronger purpose and a national purpose, and to provide them an opportunity to give back by observing a **National Consultants Day** during National Garden Week.

States with Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants could coordinate activities of the three groups on one day throughout the state. Or, each group of Consultants might embrace activities related to that specific school so that Environmental Consultants have activities one day, Gardening Consultants another day and Landscape Design Consultants on still another day. The second approach might be the way to go for states that are not represented by Consultants in all disciplines. Handle the activities any way you want in your club or state.

There are many things that a Consultants Council can do collectively or that Consultants can do individually to observe National Consultants Day and National Garden Week. We will provide suggestions in the next issue. Meanwhile, let your own brainstorming begin!

GARDENING, LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS PINS (BELOW)



NGC WEBSITE

POSS TARPLEY, CHAIRMAN

The NGC website has been updated, so it is easier for you to access the website on your hand-held devices, whether a cell phone, Ipad®, Kindle® or similar. The menu choices have been re-organized to allow for faster service and to be more user-friendly.

Tabs on the headings of the pages have drop-down menus as before, but now some items on the menus have arrows which indicate flyout menus. Those menus allow the reader to go directly to the page required for Projects, for instance. Not all the menu items have flyouts. There is also a “new look” to the banners and the opening home page. Please mouse around on the site to familiarize yourself with these new wrinkles.

While I have your attention, I would like to give a bit of technical advice to those of you who must download and print forms and other documents from the website. Occasionally a document will print out with part of the text cut off, or running in the wrong direction. When that happens, please use the “printer properties” link that comes up when you click on “print.” You will see various functions listed on the print properties screen, such as “fit to page,” “borderless,” “normal size,” etc. Try “fit to page” to adjust your document, and make it a habit to check that either “portrait” or “landscape” is checked to make sure your form will print out correctly. Another user of the computer and/or printer may have changed the printer properties while you weren’t looking!

If you are looking for a specific form or other information on the website and you don’t find it right away, use the Search function. It is at the top of every page on the website. You’ll recognize it by the magnifying glass icon. Use this function and save yourself some time.

GARDEN TOOLS FOR GARDEN PROJECTS

NGC AND AMES PARTNERSHIP

AMES + NGC = GARDENING

ELAINE GUNDERSON, AMES TOOLS LIASON
AND PROJECT CHAIRMAN

In 2014 NGC formed a partnership with AMES Companies, Inc. This partnership continues during 2016-2017 until September 30, 2017.

Founded in 1774, AMES is the largest U.S.A. manufacturer of gardening tools. Over the coming year, AMES will again

grant tools up to \$5,000 (retail) for approved NGC state or local garden club community projects/programs.

To submit an application regarding a project/program, please email Elaine Gunderson, NGC AMES Liaison and Project Chairman, the what, when, why and where of the event. What the project is; what is the garden club involvement in the project; why the tools are needed; what tools are requested (including tool name and item #); where tools will be securely stored; when the project will take place; where (location) including address tools are to be sent.

The AMES Tools Project Application Form is posted on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org under Ongoing Projects. Please fill out the fillable Application Form, save it and then email it directly to me at cggleg@gmail.com or NGC-AmesToolProject@gmail.com.

The AMES Companies, Inc.'s tools can be found on ames.com or Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TrueTemperTools>

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesTools1774>

<https://www.facebook.com/RazorBackProfessionalTools>

To allow time to approve the project and for AMES Companies, Inc. to mail the tools, this information needs to be received a month before the event.

Take photos and write a short article for possible promotion/publicity on NGC's website, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, **The National Gardener** and **Keeping in Touch** plus your state and region websites. The chairman of each would need to be contacted to obtain the guidelines for submission. Please email the photos and articles. Note: Publicity Release Forms are on the NGC website and need to be used for the garden club's protection.

Additionally, email the photos and short article to NGC President Sandra H. Robinson, sandyr5342@gmail.com, AMES Director of Marketing Karen Richwine, karen.richwine@ames.com, AMES Brand Manager Prema William, Prema.William@ames.com and myself as NGC AMES Project Chairman.

I’m looking forward to receiving information about your project.

There are three kinds of people in this world.

Those who are good in math, and those who aren't.

NGC SCHOLARSHIPS

"EDUCATION IS THE TRANSPORTATION TO OUR FUTURE"

ELAINE GUNDERSON, CHAIRMAN

At our NGC 2016 Convention in Grand Rapids, 39 university students were announced as recipients of a NGC Named Scholarship.

The students' gratitude and appreciation for this tremendous honor bestowed and generosity provided by National Garden Clubs, Inc. was expressed in their written thank you notes.

"It will be invaluable to me as I pursue my dream of becoming an environmental engineer."

"It is motivating to know that there are organizations like NGC, Inc., that passionately support my personal and professional interests in environmental conservation."

"This scholarship will allow me to focus on school instead of having to worry about my finances."

The students feel very fortunate to receive the honor. In 2017, up to 41 NGC Scholarships are available, each in the amount of \$4,000.

Each state is eligible to submit one candidate using the NGC Scholarship Program Application and Financial Guidelines and Forms. States with a membership greater than 10,000 members may submit two candidates. All guidelines and forms are available on the NGC website gardenclub.org. Click on Scholarships -- Scholarship Instructions & Guidelines and Scholarship Application Details.

Deadline for the student to submit to the NGC State Scholarship Chairman is **February 1, 2017**.

State Chairmen must send NGC Application Form, NGC Financial Aid Form, Transcripts, Applicant's Letter with List of Activities and Letters of Recommendations to the NGC Scholarship Chairman *to be received by March 1, 2017*.

The NGC Scholarship Committee composed of the eight Region Directors seriously consider each candidate's credentials and rank all applicants.

It would be wonderful if every state could receive a NGC Named Scholarship. It is a realistic goal to strive for and is within reach. Students need our support.

PROTECT OUR POLLINATORS

MARIAN McNABB, MONARCH WATCH CHAIRMAN



We need to speak up and protect our pollinators, butterflies, bees, birds, moths, as without our help they can become extinct. They are spraying for mosquitoes with a chemical called naled. This chemical affects the nervous system. It's not just killing mosquitoes, it's taking a toll on moths, bees, butterflies and is highly toxic to birds.

According to a report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, naled puts many threatened and endangered species at risk. It has effects on humans, such as eye, nose, throat irritation, breathing problems, and nausea. When tested in one lab, naled reduced brain size up to 15% in animals exposed to it.

My question is how safe is it to humans, birds, bees, butterflies, moths, all of our pollinators? What are we doing to our ecosystem by allowing use of this chemical in our area? Aerial spraying of naled during daylight hours killed 2.5 million bees in Dorchester County, South Carolina in late August. It is now routinely used in areas of Florida and Puerto Rico to kill mosquitos, even though concerns about naled caused it to be removed from the market in Europe.

There are alternatives: protect yourself by putting insect spray on your clothes, use Skin So Soft®, or vanilla on your skin. Introduce bats to your area. Bats can eat 1200 mosquitoes in one hour and eat their body weight of insects in one night.

We live two blocks from the Little Sioux River in northwest Iowa -- a beautiful area. Our town was going to spray for mosquitoes until I spoke up at a Council meeting and said, "If people are coming to a river town, they need to protect themselves instead of us destroying the environment." Then I copied information off and gave it to our Mayor on the effects of these chemicals being sprayed in town and their effect on pollinators. As of this writing, they've decided not to spray. We've gained another summer in Linn Grove without chemical spraying of mosquitoes.

I'm asking that we all step up, speak out, and save our pollinators from possible extinction. Extinction means gone forever, never seen again. Imagine a yard where children never see a butterfly or some of our birds or never get a taste of honey because the bees are gone.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS / CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MARY SUE COLVIN, COORDINATOR
POLLINATOR DID-YOU-KNOW QUESTIONS

DID YOU KNOW....

- 80% TO 90% OF ALL FLOWERING PLANTS ON PLANET EARTH DEPEND ON INSECTS AND ANIMALS FOR POLLINATION?
- THE CACAO TREE, THE SOURCE OF CHOCOLATE, IS POLLINATED ENTIRELY BY A TINY FLY RELATIVE CALLED A MIDGE?
- FIG TREES ARE POLLINATED BY WASPS?
- ONE SPECIES OF NECTAR-FEEDING BATS HAS THE LONGEST TONGUE IN RELATION TO ITS SIZE OF ANY MAMMAL IN THE WORLD? THIS BAT IS ONLY THE SIZE OF A MOUSE, BUT ITS TONGUE IS ALMOST 3 ½ INCHES LONG!
- BUTTERFLIES TASTE WITH THEIR FEET?
- BUMBLE BEES ARE THE ONLY BEES THAT USE "BUZZ POLLINATION" TO DISLodge THE POLLEN?
- BEETLES PLAY A MAJOR PART IN POLLINATION?
- HOVER FLIES ARE THE WORKHORSES OF THE ORCHARD - POLLINATING A VARIETY OF FRUIT CROPS?
- HUMMINGBIRDS ARE FOUND ONLY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE?
- A VARIETY OF NIGHT-BLOOMING FLOWERS ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON MOTHS FOR POLLINATION?
- WETLANDS ARE AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION FOR POLLINATORS?
- OVER 300 SPECIES OF FRUITS DEPEND ON BATS FOR POLLINATION?
- AT LEAST 185 SPECIES OF POLLINATORS ARE CONSIDERED THREATENED OR EXTINCT?



Pollinator Power

An Educational Publication of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Pollinator Power is available for downloading on the NGC website at no cost!

Twenty-three pages of facts about bees, butterflies, bats, birds, beetles, flies, moths, and wasps – and their mission as pollinators. Information is provided on pollinator habitats, perils, plants and websites. (Located at www.gardenclub.org ≥ Youth Programs page > Bees and Butterflies > Resources.)

POWERful environmental resource for classrooms and garden clubs.

• PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

PRESENTED BY ARABELLA DANE
IN PORTLAND, MAINE

Participants gathered at 5:00 a.m. to journey to Cape Elizabeth, home of the Portland Head Light, to catch pre-dawn and sunrise. The assignment was to explore the possibilities of landscape photography featuring the beautiful coastline of Portland Harbor and this historic lighthouse at sunrise. Pictures of the lighthouse and Atlantic Ocean are below and on the NGC Facebook page.



Tips for Landscape Photography:

- leading lines - use them to draw your eye into and through the composition
- angle of view - try to avoid taking your shots from a predictable angle: for variations - shoot up or down or low or high
- composition construction - consider the forms and shapes in the scene and make them work for you
- foreground - consider taking your shot using something in the foreground to add interest and individuality to your shot
- horizon - don't place your horizon in the middle of your composition as it will divide your image in half...unless that is what you want to do, of course.

PLEASE SHARE THIS ISSUE WITH A CLUB MEMBER

LEAP INTO LEADERSHIP! CHANGE

ROBIN POKORSKI, CHAIRMAN

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Robin Pokorski spoke to the Board of Directors at the NGC Fall Board meeting in Portland, Maine. The following is her presentation regarding the necessity for change.]

I was asked to speak to you today – to inspire you – but when I sat down to write my thoughts – I had nothin' ... blank, empty, nada. I hoped and prayed that inspiration would come to me. Inspire the NGC Board? Are you kidding me? What could I bring to this table? But then Greg and I visited Yellowstone National Park this summer and in watching one of the educational videos on the National Park Service's wildfire management practices, inspiration hit. The Park Service Director said, "We had to change our methods if we wanted to preserve our national forests."

Couldn't the same be said for garden club? If we look at our numbers, the measure by which we judge "how we're doing," then maybe we need to "change our methods" to preserve garden club. Maybe plowing ahead holding steadfastly to the "way we've always done it" isn't working as it used to. Georg Lichtenberg said, "I cannot say whether things will get better IF we change; what I can say is they MUST change if they are to get better." He died in 1799 – change isn't new.

For years, the Park Service had, at any cost, extinguished all fires as soon as possible. Is that us, dousing all new ideas as soon as possible? Do we encourage people to bring new ideas and then work like the devil to make them a success? Or do we hear ourselves saying, "but we've always done it this way." Douglas Adams said, "Anything that is in the world when you're born is normal and ordinary and a natural part of the way the world works. Anything that is invented between when you're 15 and 35 is new and exciting, and you can probably get a career in it. Anything invented after you're 35 is against the natural order of things." So it's an uphill battle for most of us.

I think of garden club like a train. We all have a goal: to move this train down the tracks. Are we moving the train down the tracks? Or are we stuck on a spur, going nowhere? We can climb aboard at stops along the way – we don't all get on board at the depot.

I know it's hard. I've been in garden club going on 30 years, I find myself saying, "Wait, what's wrong with the way we've been doing it?" I know if ain't broke, don't fix it but sometimes there are better ways, newer techniques, faster means we could embrace and benefit from. Remember the

corporate tenet of change, hear out the idea and then ask, what's the worst that could happen? What's the best that could happen?

The National Park Service found that fuel was piling up and made for a much worse fire when a careless match ignited. Do we let our old "ways" pile up, making more clutter to sort through by not dealing with change as it came to our organization? Have we become so steeped and mired in tradition that we can't see the forest for the trees? And particularly those trees that are ablaze? And burning up or out?

It seems that every organization I am aware of is undergoing significant, transformative change, including NGC. Change does not come without effort and is inherently unsettling. But how do we adapt and go forward while preserving what we are at the core? It would be easy-peasy to continue to do things the way we always have IF everything was the way it always has been. But society itself is changing. Technology is changing faster than any sane person can keep up with. It would be difficult though to run our organization on the same budget adopted 75 years ago, or 20 years ago, or even five years ago.

The Park Service also found that a fire could clear out the understory to allow for light and air to penetrate. Do we need to clear out some of our old understory, thereby allowing novel ideas and innovative methods to take root? Dealing with change isn't new, Napoleon said that you had to change tactics every ten years to maintain superiority. In today's society, the pace of change is immensely faster, and it will only continue to accelerate.

I am reminded of the boss's instruction to his employees to meet on the other side of the street. One walked to the intersection and crossed the street and proceeded immediately to the meeting point. One dashed across in the middle of the street (after looking carefully for traffic); one shopped her way up to the intersection, crossed the street and shopped her way down to the meeting point. They each had a different method, but they all moved the train down the track. An organization with no room for learning, no room for growth is no longer equipped for an inherently changing environment.

When NGC was organized in 1929, it was cutting-edge – imagine, a national group organized to direct, support and encourage member states and clubs. But are we operating from the same perspective? That was nearly 100 years ago;

the world is changing, faster and faster - that's something we can't change. We need to make decisions for the best possible path to the future so that NGC is strong, dynamic, vibrant and once again cutting-edge at its centennial in 2029 and beyond.

Think of the mighty oak and the winsome willow trees. As strong as oaks are, they don't have the flexibility to survive like the willow when a storm sweeps through. We must be flexible to weather the storms that will surely come our way. Kristina Saffran said, "Sometimes knowing when something is NOT working and pivoting to something new leads to our greatest opportunities and successes."

When I asked a member of this board whether I would see her here in Maine, she said to me, "Oh, you don't need me at Fall Board." Let me tell you how I understand "The Power of Team." The flightless fairy penguin of Australia stands less than a foot tall and is clumsy on land, where the fox is its natural enemy. Alone, one penguin wouldn't survive for long. So, after each day in the water, they gather where the surf meets the shore, waiting until the last penguin joins them. Then shoulder to shoulder they march up the beach to their burrows. They support each other. They rely on each other. And everyone, except the fox, wins. We're a stronger team because of each of you.

We need to remember why we are here. As a member of this Board of Directors, other than the state presidents, we aren't here to represent our individual states, we sit on this board and are charged with making the best decisions for this organization to keep it robust, resilient, and vigorous. We are carefully selected to represent a diverse cross-section of our country. We aren't elected by our states to represent them; we are invited to bring our careful consideration of new ideas and projects for the good of our organization.

In 1945 when the Blue Star Memorial Marker program was proposed to NCSGC – did we say, "well, that's a new idea but it doesn't have to do with horticulture," or maybe "the brass markers are too expensive for clubs to afford"? What if we had let that opportunity pass? This summer, Greg and I made a game of finding Blue Star Markers at vista points, rest stops, and public parks. What if those markers read "in cooperation with the Women's Club of...?" Think of the publicity that has been generated by just this one project. And we've got a bunch of programs that are noteworthy – what if we hadn't seen our way clear to adopting any of them? Let us fire up our passion for garden club.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it -- but sail we must and not drift, nor lie at anchor." NGC members have not been lying at anchor. They have been sailing full on, and our sails are trimmed to sail even further and faster and to more wonderful ports than we have seen to date.

We do have challenges ahead but we are well-armed to meet those challenges with new instruments. Now we need to summon our courage and our support and take on the changes that will come our way. Maybe one person can't make a huge difference, but more than 150,000 garden clubbers – each making some difference – can make a lot of difference. That's what we're a part of – an incredible force for good.

We must ignite our enthusiasm for what our organization is and does and can do in our communities, in our states, in our country, in our lives. One careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire. Rekindle your commitment to NGC. Fire up your interest in garden club. Spark your zeal.

So I was hoping and praying for inspiration, but then I thought of you and I realized YOU inspire ME. I could not be prouder to be a part of the most magnificent group of people I have ever had the pleasure to know.

Together we are poised to make NGC blaze its path to a strong, secure and successful future!

SAGE AND ROSES

Send **A Greeting Electronically** and
Remember **Our Servicemen's Every Sacrifice**
(A Blue Star Marker program)

BE WISE – Save money on postage and cards

BE GREEN – Saving paper, saves trees

BE SPEEDY – A click of the computer is faster than
a written note.

Make a donation to the SAGE AND ROSES BLUE STAR
MARKER FUND and **send it to NGC Headquarters.**

A donation of --

\$10 to \$25 – one chance for your state to win a marker

\$26 to \$50 – two chances for your state.

Each additional \$25 - another chance to win.

NEWS FROM THE REGION DIRECTORS

NEW ENGLAND

Vera Bowen, Director

<http://www.ngcner.org>

In the past several months this director has had the pleasure of visiting with members from seven garden clubs and attending two Blue Star Memorial Marker dedications. One marker is in Barrington, Rhode Island where Barrington and Hameho Garden Clubs got together and pooled their resources and talents to place their marker alongside the road (Highway 114) in the beautiful, newly-created Police Cove Park. The second was a rededication of an existing marker in Rutland, Vermont. Here, the club members worked hard to raise funds to refurbish the Leonard F. Wing Blue Star Memorial Marker. Funds from a spaghetti dinner helped not only pay for refurbishing the marker, but it also helped with the beautiful surrounding garden. Members of General Wing's family were there to witness this wonderful event.

New England's first Gold Star Memorial By-Way Marker was dedicated in Lowell, Massachusetts. How wonderful to see the marker placed in a garden adjacent to an existing Blue Star Memorial. The park, situated along a river and on a busy intersection, is a great place to get away from the hectic pace of life and remember and reflect on those who serve and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Maine hosted our annual Fall Board meeting. What a delight! The Flower Show in the Mansion, a successful Board meeting and the food, Lobster, Lobster, Lobster and Clam Chowder! Who could forget? This was the third time that the New England Region has had the pleasure of hosting NGC in the past ten years. Nine years ago, we hosted the annual NGC Convention in Massachusetts with a beautiful flower show, "The History of Floral Design," where we had the pleasure of witnessing our own Barbara May installed as the 2007-2009 NGC President! A year later, Rhode Island hosted the NGC Fall Board meeting that also included the very first Educational Day. We visited the sights and sounds of Rhode Island and had the pleasure of spending time perusing three private gardens in Newport and spending time at the famed Newport Mansions.

Our six state presidents are continuing the wonderful job that they do. They never cease to amaze me with their



dedication, energy, and love of their states. As I have said before, the best part of being NER Director is being able to visit the members and see what the clubs are doing first hand. It's always amazing to me to see how so few people can accomplish so much. Thank You All.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC

Anne M. Bucher, Director

<http://www.ngccar.org>

Fall has finally come and with it some good news for the Central Atlantic Region. After many months of discussion and consideration, the Executive Board of the CAR voted to go forward with obtaining 501(c)(3) status, to become incorporated in Delaware, and to pursue purchasing liability insurance. I attended a workshop September 28, 2016, in Dover, Delaware that provided information on how to apply for these forms and get approval. Attending with me was the incoming Region Director Regina Brown, who will oversee the filing of these documents for the Region. The other Regions of National Garden Clubs Inc. are also either pursuing the same framework or have already succeeded in becoming 501(c)(3) along with other forms required.

The region will continue, and we can look forward to continuing with them. There may be some changes in the structure of the regions as to how we operate, but sometimes a change is good to inspire new ideas. I am happy that the board was able to see the future of the region as a positive move and voted unanimously for the decision to continue.

In addition to going to Maine and Delaware, I also flew to Columbus, Ohio to attend a wonderful Leadership Workshop in Youngstown, Ohio. There were many subjects covered by the speakers, and a very well-written guide booklet was given to all the attendees to take home. Speakers presented programs on Creating an Agenda, How to Make a Motion, Budgets, Tax Matters, and Benefits of Membership. It was an excellent meeting and one I enjoyed attending.

Our region meeting took place October 23 -25, 2016, at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs, New York.



SOUTH ATLANTIC

Sarah Ann Parler, Director

<http://www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org/>

The Fall Board meeting of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. "Rising Tides," could not have chosen a lovelier location than the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine to host this important meeting. We were to attend to the business at hand, but we were anxious to see the beautiful port and view the historic parks and landmarks, Victorian Mansion, and Longfellow House. Riding on the cobblestone streets was a unique experience, as well. Of course, we enjoyed shopping and dining in the excellent "Portland Dine Around" and the creativity of the world-class chefs who have settled in the area.



The food was delicious, and it gave the region directors an opportunity to relax, enjoy and share the common goals of making NGC a more viable organization by serving as liaisons between the states and NGC. We've had this responsibility since 1937-1939 when the South Atlantic Region's first Director was Mrs. Frederick A. Wallis from Paris, Kentucky. The Executive Board met on Thursday and, after attending to some business matters, the NGC Parliamentarian Joan H. Corbisiero stated that "Our NGC By-laws cannot be changed insofar as anything that relates to our regional structure until May 2018. Which means nothing that affects our regions can be in place until the 2021-2023 administration. Then it will have to be by a 2/3 majority."

Our SAR Treasurer June Ashworth informed me that, on October 4, 2016, the South Atlantic Region Association received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating, "We determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 1170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106, 2522." We have been instructed on how to file and the accounting period will end May 31 as in the past. We want to thank June Ashworth, SAR Finance Chairman, and the appointed committee that worked together to make this a reality. We will now move forward and encourage prospective members to join our organization.

DEEP SOUTH

Carol M. Bullard, Director

<http://dsregion.org>

Because of the recent devastating floods in Southern Louisiana, the Deep South Region established a special project – "Natural Disasters – Louisiana" – to promote donations for relief for garden clubs in the affected areas of Louisiana. The donations will be awarded as grants to clubs to replant, refurbish and/or start new landscaping projects in their communities. The deadline for donations is December 1, 2016.



The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. will sponsor several events on or near the Gulf Coast in early 2017. Environmental Studies School Courses III and IV will be held at Crosby Arboretum, near Picayune, on February 7-10. A Flower Show Judges Symposium will be held March 7-9 in Diamondhead with Barbara May and David Robson as instructors.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. is emphasizing Native Plants, Blue Star Markers, Gold Star Markers, and programs on pollinators as well as other educational programs that promote our mission. We are finishing up a flower show school and providing other schools to our membership. GCG is making plans for Native Plant Symposiums in the northern and southern areas of our state. The 2017 "Expressions" calendar has been released. WOW is the description for this publication. We never stop sowing seeds of knowledge.

South Louisiana is busy cleaning up after the Great Flood of 2016. With a lot of help from our friends, we are getting it done. We held our six Fall District meetings during the last two weeks of October. Louisiana will host both the 2017 Deep South Region Convention (March 26-28) and the Louisiana Garden Club Convention (March 29-31) in New Orleans at Harrah's Hotel.

The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. will begin their Fall District Meetings in October. Garden clubs are encouraged to hold fundraisers for Blue Star Memorial Markers. A marker was recovered in Prattville near the State Capital, and one will be placed at Rainsville. Alabama State Park funding is going to be on the November ballot. Garden clubs are encouraged to consider keeping park funds for parks and not have it used for other government projects.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is currently conducting courses in all four NGC Schools in districts around the

state. In February 2017, the Florida Flower Show Judges will hold a workshop on the newly revised Handbook for Flower Shows to inform Judges throughout the state. Barbara May will Chair the workshop, and Claudia Chopp will serve as Co-Chair. FFGC is very proud of the Blue Star Memorial Markers being placed within the state, including Cape Canaveral National Cemetery on April 1, 2017, South Florida National Cemetery in April of 2017, Sarasota National Cemetery on April 18, 2017, and a rededication on November 11th in Davenport.

This fall, TFGC clubs dedicated four more Blue Star Memorial Markers with one being in conjunction with a Gold Star Marker. Another is planned for the site of the 2015 terrorist attack in Chattanooga. In November, "Fun with Flowers" educational programs were presented in each of our four districts as ways and means for the districts and TFGC. Gardening Study School Course III will be held February 7-8 in Chattanooga and a Flower Show Judges Symposium, February 27-28 with Gina Jogan and Gay Austin in Memphis. TFGC has contributed generously to the Level II Arboretum and replaced the "Freedom Tree," given and dedicated by TFGC in 2002, at the Tennessee Executive Residence. TFGC membership continues in full force to be "Volunteers in Action."

CENTRAL

<http://ngccentralregion.org>

Judy Newman, Director

Members of the Central Region found "Inspiration in Abe Lincoln's Hometown" in Springfield, Illinois as they gathered at the CR 84th Annual Convention. There were opportunities to tour museums and historic sites. Abe Lincoln appeared to give us insights into his thoughts before moving to Washington DC. Later, Sgt. Woodhouse shared his recollections of when President Lincoln's body was returned to Springfield for burial. The floral design program was filled with creative ideas. The concluding program focused on how to amend soils to grow healthy microorganisms. Central Region Chairmen had the opportunity to share information and exchange ideas during two of the meal functions. Members enjoyed all of these activities in addition to CR and NGC Awards workshops, and the meeting was topped off with a leadership forum.

Central Region is now a 501(c)(3) organization; all funds under the NGC EIN number have been transferred to a new bank in Wisconsin. Central Region members are pro-

moting NGC and CR projects and increasing our visibility with the use of the Central Region and NGC logos on all publications, flyers, etc.

SOUTH CENTRAL

<http://ngcscr.com>

Barbara S. Baker, Director



Monarch butterflies and other pollinators are of prime interest throughout our region, especially in Texas. Major agencies are helping clubs. Botanical Research Institute of Texas has partnered with General Services Administration to study high-performance landscapes in 20 plots to increase habitats for bees and other pollinators, reduce water usage, and improve the ecosystem. www.brit.org. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has partnered with National Wildlife Federation to further civic projects through the NWF Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Signatories include 56 in Texas, 5 Oklahoma and 3 Arkansas mayors. www.nwf.org. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center also partnered with USFWS in their Milkweed Project. Many articles, including a germinating brochure, may be found at www.wildflower.org. Former First Lady Laura Bush announced "Texan by Nature," another joint effort with NWF, USFWS and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, among others. Businesses, organizations, ranch/farm landowners and individuals are encouraged to get involved in the conservation effort by planting native milkweed and other nectar-producing plants on their property. www.texanbynature.org.

Texas Garden Clubs summer President's Workshops included ideas on how to engage members in a positive, friendly atmosphere with "meet & greets," garden club icebreakers, and involving everyone in club activities. One session was on ways to introduce more horticulture at meetings – highlighting fruits, vegetables, and herbs. An ingenious idea described at the meeting was to have a scavenger hunt in a garden or nursery.

The Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Appeals for the Third District have effectively struck down the entire 1965 Highway Beautification Act (HBA) as it related to billboards and freedom of speech. Email if y'all want updates bbgardenclub@yahoo.com. At stake is the possibility that other state courts may declare billboard statutes unconstitutional. There will be little or no restrictions on unlicensed and unpermitted billboards along major highways until the Texas Legislature meets to replace provisions concerning construction and placement of bill-

boards. There may be a loss of needed federal highway funds provided through HBA and negative effects on visitors and quality of life.

The Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs partners with UA Cooperative Extension Service, AR Farm Bureau Federation, AR Florist Association, AR Green Industry Association and AR Master Gardeners to hold the annual Arkansas Flower & Garden Show. Tens of thousands will attend the show staged at the Statehouse Convention Center, Feb 24-26, 2017, with the theme "ARtrageous." Proceeds from the show, which began in 1992, provide educational scholarships in horticulture-related fields to students in Arkansas colleges and universities.

New Mexico Garden Clubs promoted environmental education during the summer, including The Sunflower Camp for children and NGC Environmental Study School held at NM Tech University in Socorro. Students are back in school, but all three youth clubs had a full summer. The Blooming Gardeners planted at the State Fairgrounds, made butterfly feeders, learned about butterflies, bees, dragonflies and other insects. Each student kept notebooks and took home seeds and plants for their home gardens. The Pecos Valley Garden Club had a summer camp at the Roswell Zoo, with students looking for frogs and turtles. The young Ponderosa Pines Garden Club members escorted guests at their Butterfly Garden Dedication; they used their newly-learned skills of public speaking. Blue Star Memorial Markers were dedicated by Angel Fire Garden Club, NMGC at Conchas Dam, District II, District IV and a marker rededication in Clovis.

Through an agreement with Midwest City Council of Garden Clubs, the Rubye Atkinson Garden Center is now the new "official" home of Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. A Standard Flower Show "Holiday Extravaganza" was held to celebrate the partnership. Dignitaries from the community took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the show and recognize OGC's new home. OGC has organized a Monarch Butterfly Celebration, along with Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, to recognize the decline in the Monarch population and get the whole state on board to reverse this situation. The event will be on Friday, April 21, 2017, at the State Capital Blue Room.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Darlene Skari, Director

<https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/>

The eight states of the Rocky Mountain Region met in September for their annual meeting at Riverton, Wyoming. At the meeting, they took a formal vote to continue on the path to becoming an IRS 501(c)(3) entity so they could continue to meet, have a treasury, and provide funds for the director to travel to the states. The region will incorporate in Wyoming. A member from North Dakota is providing the interim funding, to be reimbursed when RMR receives their funds back. Volunteers are donating much of the work. Next year's meeting will be in Jamestown, North Dakota at the end of August.



The annual meeting was a wonderful combination of great food prepared by a local Riverton café, garden tours hosted by residents who were very welcoming in sharing their plans and ideas, and speakers who shared their expertise on topics gardeners enjoy. Again, we learned about activities that were successful, giving all of us incentives to return home to extend our efforts in our states and clubs. Our members are a dedicated group of friendly people who love to discuss gardening in our often difficult climate and ways to improve our clubs.

Colorado once again received a grant which will be used to offer schools. They will also participate in the annual garden show in Denver in late winter. Nebraska completed the Gardening Study Schools. Their experience could help our states with lower membership plan ways to offer that school. Montana will complete the Flower Show School series in the spring. Members who take the schools and bring the information to their clubs and communities help to keep their clubs active. Attending schools is one of the real benefits of belonging to a garden club.

PACIFIC

Kristie Livreri, Director

<http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org>

Recently, I have been thinking a lot about communication. I feel that it is the key to life. Communication starts before we are born and continues, I believe, beyond



the grave. Whether we like it or not, we are always communicating with others around us by the way we talk, dress, stand, etc. Nowadays, there are so many ways to communicate; it can be overwhelming.

How does this relate to gardening or creative design, you might ask? Well, some of the best communication is done on knees in the garden. Sometimes, I speak aloud to the plants. I commune with Heavenly Father and even the insects as they buzz or crawl along. And as we use creativity to communicate in floral design, a strong statement can be made as we interpret the class title.

A special education teacher at a local high school created a vegetable garden with his class. He told me that a student who is non-verbal started to communicate with others in the class and with the teacher. That student is feeling something about digging in the earth and the care and nurture of plants. Each child was given a houseplant and asked to create a home for the plant in a clay pot decorated by the student. The communication through creativity can be deafening if one is listening.

As we reach out to children, and see the garden through their eyes, we must be careful to communicate correct information and knowledge so that they will learn and grow in their understanding of how to care for this beautiful earth and the environment around us. Often, things we learn at a very young age, are the things we remember as an adult.

Just as we communicate with children and with others within our garden clubs, we must give clear and accurate information. We must listen and answer questions to the best of our knowledge. If we don't know the answer to a question, we must try to find the answer.

It is my hope that the states of the Pacific Region will hold dear the opportunities to communicate with one another, to learn from one another, and to grow with one another. That we will look forward to meeting with each other to discuss ways to build membership and participate in the goals, objectives and projects of NGC. Receiving the publications from the states, districts, and clubs of the eight states is such a great way to learn what others are doing to communicate around the region.

So, some may say that talk is cheap, but I say that talk is necessary. Say what you mean and mean what you say. If we want to unlock the answers to problems in NGC, Pacific Region, states or clubs, communication is the key.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, we share the news of the passing on August 5th of **Jack Joyce**, husband of Sandi Joyce. Sandi has served on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors for many years and is the FSS Symposium Chairman. A private service was held.

Notes of condolence can be sent to Sandi Joyce, 30 Fort Meadow Drive, Hudson, MA 01749-3141.

We received the sad news of the death of **Ray Swider**, husband of Ann Swider on August 5th. Ann was with him and said he died peacefully. Ann is the President of the Hawaii Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and has served in this position since 2009. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Ann Swider, 95-1026 Holo-lani St., Mililani, HI 96789-4971.

Sadly, we pass along news of the death of **Diane B. Herman**. Diane passed away August 6. Diane was currently serving on the NGC Board of Directors Membership Committee and has served in several other positions over the years. She was very active on the state level and in her local clubs. Diane was also a Master Flower Show Judge. A Memorial Service was held on August 11, 2016.

Notes of condolence may be sent to her sister Corrine: Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Helman, 852 Viewmont Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905.

We pass along the sad news of the death of Judy Grotts's son **Donald Ty Grotts** on August 18. Judy served as the South Central Region Director from 2011-2013. She is currently serving on the Leap Into Leadership! Committee and has served on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors in many other positions over the years.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Judy Grotts, 349334 East 870 Road, Chandler, OK 74834-7022.

It is with deepest regret that we must inform you of the death of Jo Ann Guise's husband **Ernie Guise** on September 4. Jo Ann Guise is currently the Protocol Chairman and has served on the National Garden Clubs Board of Directors for many years.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Jo Ann Guise, 17571 Lake Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33487-1114.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Pat Haering** on September 22. Pat Haering served as President of Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. from 2001-2003 and has served on the NGC Protocol and Membership Committees. She served SCR as Recording Secretary, Alternative Director, Historian and Treasurer. Pat was a Master Flower Show Judge and very active on the state level and in her local clubs, as well.

Notes of condolence may be sent to her husband George Haering at 102 Trivista Right, Hot Springs, AR 71901-7502.