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The National Gardener

Summer 2019 | Vol. 90, No. 3

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Gay L. Austin, President

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The National Gardener

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THE COVER

Thanks to huge blossoms and sturdy stems, the Gerbera daisy, *Gerbera jamesonii*, is a perennial magnet for pollinators in the garden and a showy cut flower in floral arrangements. Photo by Phyllis Simon/Art by TaggART.

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Gay L. Austin

2019-2021 NGC President

INSTALLATION ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Thank you, Barbara, for such a meaningful installation. I appreciate you honoring the incoming Executive Committee by serving as the installing officer. You and I began our friendship in this very hotel, 18 years ago, when I was serving as the NGC Convention Chairman.

I also owe a sincere thank you to our former NGC Presidents, Lois Shuster, Kitty Larkin, Deen Day Sanders, Shirley Nicolai, Sandy Robinson, Renee Blaschke and Linda Nelson, for their continued support of NGC and for their unwavering support of me, as I journeyed through various roles on the NGC Board. You have all been my mentors, my teachers and my inspiration, and I am most grateful for your encouragement in preparing for this task ahead of me. Tonight, I feel so honored to be given the opportunity to continue their legacy, as the 46th NGC President. Working with each of you has been a joy.

There are so many here who have supported and encouraged me throughout my journey to this leadership role. With me this evening are several family members. First, and foremost, Will, my husband, who always has been

my number-one supporter and best friend. Also here this evening is my mother, Elisabeth, who exposed me at an early age to the magical happenings in a garden, as well as my children, Reg, Sara, Molly, Peter and David and their spouses, some of whom were unable to attend tonight. I don't want to overlook our 10 grandchildren, who represent our dreams for the future. Also with us tonight are my siblings, cousins and fellow board members from Keep Mississippi Beautiful.

From my initial invitation to join the McComb Garden Club 33 years ago, I began this exciting adventure through many venues, learning and growing as a leader along the way. I would like to extend a very special thank you to my local garden club members and also to members of the Natchez Garden Club and Natchez Trace District, who helped create this natural beauty tonight.

The spark that ignited my venture beyond my local club was my first attendance at a Natchez Trace District meeting. From that point on, my eagerness to learn, to participate and be involved has helped me to grow as a leader. The former state presidents of

Mississippi always have been supportive and encouraging as I increased my service time to our national organization. People such as Mary Jo Wedgeworth, Eloise Cumbaa and Bonnie Borne, just to name a few, were instrumental in initially planting a seed for my future roles in leadership. And, certainly, I owe my sincere appreciation to all of my Mississippi garden club friends, many of whom are here tonight. Rhonda Rosetti, Carol Bullard and Debby Cooper have worked tirelessly for several years to organize this "Gathering on the Gulf" convention. The beautiful installation setting tonight was envisioned by John Grady Burns, a native of Natchez, Mississippi, and a huge supporter of garden clubs across our nation. Thank you John Grady! Also, along with my own state's support, I wouldn't be here without the encouragement from the sister states of the Deep South Region.

It goes without saying that the NGC Executive Director, Michelle Smith, along with, Katie, Bill, Chris, and Rebekah, are all valuable employees of our headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. On a daily basis, their expert skills not only maintain our permanent headquarters, but also assist us in the overall management of NGC.

Our experiences in garden club have equipped us to continue with the mission of NGC, because the past molds and shapes us into dedicated, tireless volunteers across our world. We have been offered an endless number of learning opportunities, we have educated ourselves, and through this exposure, we have developed our sense of commitment to leave our world in better hands. A strong sense of appreciation, pride and knowledge helps us to continue the worthwhile traditions of NGC, as we all beautify and protect landscapes from coast to coast.

We, as garden club members, have strengthened our communities by using our time and talents to improve our surroundings. Let us continue to stimulate interest and identify needs in our communities by providing leadership, educational programs and by promoting our local, state, region, national and international garden clubs.

I challenge all garden club members to reach out to individuals who want to learn more about gardening. This act will broaden the exposure and awareness of National Garden Clubs. It is proven that gardening not only has health benefits, but it also strengthens our communities through beautification projects as we work together to bring beauty and pride to our communities.

This administration will continue with the Plant America Community Grant Program, financially assisting member clubs with community projects. Special emphasis will be on conservation of our natural habitats, membership and youth participation. It is our hope that our members will involve youth in outdoor activities, by encouraging them to "Reconnect with Nature."

I challenge all of us to improve our observation of our diverse environments. Through our vision, we can inspire others to take action every day to protect our natural habitats. Let's develop projects that demonstrate our respect for natural resources, so that we can assure a healthy world for our future generations. When we urge others to join in our environmental efforts, educate them on challenges ahead of us, and encourage them to participate in areas of need, our entire world will benefit. Change can happen through partnerships with other groups with common interests who also will help to improve and beautify our community environments. Let us nurture our natural habitats, and watch

as nature takes care of the rest.

The world-wide downward decline of members in all volunteer organizations is a social issue, one we must acknowledge and accept. We should reach out to the generations ahead of us by adapting to their interests, changing times and formats of our meetings and not doing things in a certain way "just because it's always been done that way." During this two-year term of office, it is my intent for NGC to continue to focus on membership by reaching out to potential new individuals, as well as strengthening the commitment of existing members through our many educational opportunities. Well-informed members will energize those around them and encourage new memberships in our clubs.

By networking through the many areas of the digital and social media world, we can greatly enhance our public visibility as an organization by showing that we have something for everyone. We always have invited people to join us at meetings – let's initiate enthusiasm by reaching out to these potential members, rather than waiting for them to come to us. Active participation in NGC can come in all shapes, sizes and ages. Let us embrace diversity and inclusiveness. Challenging times force us to create opportunities for new ways of thinking. Let us be receptive to the simplification and streamlining of active membership. Through the proper management of our services, and promotion of the NGC mission statement, we will continue to effect positive change in our world.

Our International Affiliates have strengthened our organization, as they have embraced our mission statement and made tremendous progress in the digital world by providing online courses in countries where traveling is

limited. Through their involvement, NGC is reaching out to many international groups. Tonight there are many here in their countries' native attire, celebrating our future together. Thank you for your dedication.

I recently found a newspaper clipping from our local newspaper dated in 1967. It featured a 10-year-old girl, who was interviewed because of her artistic talent. When she was asked... "What do you like to do?" Her response was simple: "Paint, play with my brothers and sister and work with flowers." Why am I sharing this story? It's because this young girl now stands before you as the newly installed NGC President. So never doubt that any small activity that you share with a child will influence them as they mature into an adult. I challenge each one of us to reach out to children and young adults by creating outdoor activities that engage their imaginations, enhance appreciation of their surroundings, and educate them to become our stewards for tomorrow. Let us teach our children to observe the wonders of nature, and to care for our world.

For many years, the McComb Garden Club has sponsored three youth clubs: the Johnny Jump Ups, for students in kindergarten through second grade, the Busy Bees, for students in third through fifth grade, and the junior and high school Garden Girls. How does this benefit us? We have been very successful in growing our future, as these children grow up and return to our club as active members. In our community, we have young adults who are interested in joining our club, if for no other reason than their children have the opportunity to be involved in these youth clubs. My daughter, Sara, was once a Busy Bee, and now is grown with her own family. She devotes her volunteer time to the garden

club, even serving as club president a couple of years ago.

We each have a responsibility to help guide our youth to the outdoors. Let's create activities that excite and encourage them to cut off their electronic devices and reconnect with nature. Let's promote youth involvement, so we can "grow" our future garden club members. Take the hand of a child and create a garden memory for them. Let us grow our future leaders by inspiring our youth.

One of the most important duties that we, as leaders have is to mentor and guide those who will become leaders of tomorrow. Let us meet this challenge with renewed energies and enthusiasm as we embrace the opportunities before us. We are capable of developing new

skills, tackling new responsibilities and appreciating different points of view by working together to benefit our organization and our world. As we continue on our journey, let us communicate in a way that inspires positive behavior, so that others will follow. So, let's adjust our actions and reconnect with nature, our members and our future generations.

As our home gardens have grown, so should National Garden Clubs. If we all share our passion for our organization, it will become a way for us all to bloom and grow together.

Let's garden together.....thank you. ■



National Garden Clubs Inc. Welcomes New President

Gay L. Austin of McComb, Mississippi, has been installed as the 46th president of one of the nation's most-recognized nonprofits – National Garden Clubs Inc., the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.

The installation was held May 2 at NGC's 90th annual convention in Biloxi, Mississippi. As president, Austin will devote much of her two-year term traveling coast-to-coast to promote National Garden Clubs' causes and projects, seek new ideas geared to current needs and network with many of the organization's 165,000 members.

As she guides the national organization, Austin will work with NGC members to embrace a topic she is passionate about – fostering local gardening projects that conserve and preserve natural resources and encouraging young people in communities to assist in those efforts. "National Garden Clubs offers programs that promote learning opportunities in conservation and preservation. By encouraging member clubs to involve youth in these efforts, we are shaping future leaders who will be dedicated to conserving and preserving our outdoor world," she said. In addition, Austin will

support NGC's Plant America, an initiative that focuses on gardens and gardening with an emphasis on community service, as well as the Plant America Community Project Grants program, which provides funding to member clubs that implement gardening projects in their communities.

Austin, who hails from Liberty, Mississippi, previously served as first vice president of National Garden Clubs Inc. She has held various positions nationally, including chairman of the Organization Study Committee and the Award of Excellence initiative to recognize outstanding non-member individuals and organizations that advance NGC causes. Austin also served as recording secretary on the board of directors for National Garden Clubs Inc. She is an

accredited master flower show judge and horticulture instructor for numerous NGC flower show schools and symposiums.

On the district, state and local level, Austin has been a member of the board of directors of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc. since 1995, and was state president from 2009 to 2011. She also served as chairman of NGC's annual convention in Mississippi in 2003 and was editor of the state garden club magazine for four years. Austin has been a member of the McComb Garden Club for over 30 years and also is a member of the Flower Lovers Club in McComb and the Natchez Garden Club.

Austin, a certified Master Gardener, is past president of and an active member in the Pike County Master Gardeners

of the Mississippi State University Extension. She is on the executive committee of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, a national nonprofit that promotes community education, cleanup efforts and beautification and the Mississippi Heritage Trust, which works to preserve and restore endangered historic places in the state.

Austin holds an associate's degree in nursing from Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Mississippi. As a registered nurse, she served in the emergency room at Southwest Regional Medical Center and as office manager of Southwest Mississippi Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic and Austin Medical Consultants Inc. in

McComb.

In addition, Austin served as president and is an active member on the board of directors and a volunteer at PALS Rescue Inc., a no-kill animal shelter in Pike County, Mississippi. She also served as a board member and past president of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce, the McComb Junior Auxiliary and the Pike County Arts Council. Austin is an accomplished multimedia artist who studied at Newcomb College at Tulane University in New Orleans, and many of her works are in a number of private and corporate collections. Some of her works also have been donated toward fundraising efforts at community events. ■

MEET THE NGC 2019-2021 vice presidents



Mary Warshauer of Rumson, New Jersey, was installed as first vice president. In this position, she will serve as liaison to NGC state presidents and region directors.

Warshauer previously served as second vice president of NGC. She has held a variety of positions in NGC, including chairman of the Blue Star Memorial Marker program and Water Quality and Conservation Committee. As an NGC executive committee

member, Warshauer represented the organization's Central Atlantic Region, where she served as region director on the Scholarship Committee.

On the state and local level, Warshauer was president of The Garden Club of New Jersey Inc., from 2009 to 2011 and has been a member of the Garden Club of Fair Haven for over 30 years.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in education from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Brenda Moore of Oak Hill, West Virginia, was installed as second vice president. In this position, she will chair the NGC finance committee.

Moore previously served as third vice president of National Garden Clubs Inc. She is the author of "The Saved Seed," and co-author of "The Frightened Frog," two NGC children's books that serve as educational tools and resources for

garden clubs nationally in their youth programs.

In addition, Moore has held a variety of positions in NGC, including chairman of the national membership committee. She is a four star member of NGC, an accredited flower show judge, a landscape design consultant, an environment consultant and a gardening consultant.

On the state and local level, Moore was president of West Virginia Garden Club





▲ National Garden Clubs Inc. 2019-2021 Executive Committee Front row (left to right): Donna Rouch, third vice president; Brenda Moore, second vice president; President Gay Austin; and Mary Warshauer, first vice president. Center row (left to right): Donna Donnelly, recording secretary; Lynette Jeffres, treasurer; Bonnie Borne, corresponding secretary; Andrea Little, historian; Joan Corbisiero, parliamentarian; and Nancy Hargroves, PH&E director. Back row (left to right): Suzanne Bushnell, New England Region; Linda Lawson, South Central Region; Carolyn McCafferty, South Atlantic Region; Darla Anderson, Rocky Mountain Region; Robin Pokorski, Pacific Region; Lena Bateman, Deep South Region; Jodi Meyer, Central Region; and Gail Corle, Central Atlantic Region.

Inc. from 2011 to 2013 and continues to serve on WVGCC's board on the Past Presidents advisory committee and is assistant chairman of the WV Wildflower Pilgrimage held each May at Blackwater Falls State Park. She is a member of Woodland Oaks Garden Club in Oak Hill.

Moore holds a Bachelor of Science in family resources from West Virginia University in Morgantown. She previously worked for the Fayette County Board of Education and the Fayette County Public Libraries in Fayetteville, West Virginia.



Donna Rouch of Plattsmouth, Nebraska, was installed as third vice president. In this position, she will serve as chairman

of several NGC national programs including the Organization Study Committee and the Award of Excellence initiative to recognize outstanding non-member individuals and organizations that advance NGC causes.

On a national level, Rouch is chairman of the NGC Website Search Committee and served as chairman of the NGC Membership Committee and member of the Nominating Committee and Communications Non-Print Committee. An accredited NGC Flower Show judge, she currently serves on the Iowa Council of Flower Show Judges of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa Inc. She also is a consultant for NGC's Landscape Design and Gardening Schools.

On a district, state and local level, Rouch was awards chairman for the Rocky Mountain Region. She is past president of the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska and an active member of the Plattsmouth Garden Club. She also created and presented leading software-based educational and training presentations to garden clubs throughout

 Photo by Sandy Parish

—
“...they will support the organization's major objectives...”
 —

Nebraska and Missouri, as well as developed membership brochures and websites for garden clubs in Nebraska.

Rouch holds a doctorate of pharmacy from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

The author of professional publications, Rouch served as director of pharmacy at Nemaha County Hospital in Auburn, Nebraska, and pharmacy

manager at Option Care, the nation's largest independent provider of home and alternative treatment site infusion services, in Omaha. She also was an adjunct professor in pharmacology at Nebraska Methodist College in Omaha.

The three vice presidents will help guide the national organization and work to advance NGC's mission: promoting civic and environmental responsibility, as well as a love of gardening and floral design. In addition, they will support the organization's major objectives – to foster education and participation in NGC's many local, regional, national and international outreach programs. ■

 Photos courtesy of National Garden Clubs Inc.

Cultivate our Garden Community

WITH GARDENING TIPS, IDEAS AND PROJECTS

Members of National Garden Clubs are a wealth of knowledge and information on all things in the garden.

Do you, or your club, have gardening tips, tricks, ideas or project successes to share?



The National Gardener would like to tap into your skills and talents, as well as showcase your favorite projects.

PLEASE SEND:

- **A brief description** of your idea or how a unique project fostered success.
- **A photo or two** of your project is welcome. Photos must be high resolution 300 dpi with photo credit information provided.

SEND TO:

Patricia Binder, editor
The National Gardener
patricia.b.binder@gmail.com



Photo by Bob Effinger ▲

gathering ON THE gulf

NGC 2019 90TH annual convention

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

On April 29 through May 2, members and affiliates of National Garden Clubs Inc. attended the 90th Annual Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi. Attendees shared ideas and information, as well as explored common interests. Fun events included a Mardi Gras night, as well as interesting tours of the area's unique beauty, history and horticulture.

The City of Biloxi, settled in 1699, is one of the oldest communities in the United States. Located on the Mississippi Sound and the Gulf of Mexico, the city is celebrated for its historic French influence, Southern hospitality, mild subtropical climate, magnificent centuries-old live oak trees and sandy beaches. The Biloxi Lighthouse, built in 1848, is an official state landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. ■

 Convention photos courtesy of Charla Jordan



▲ NGC 2019-2021 President Gay Austin was installed by Barbara May, NGC 2007-2009 president. Photo by Sandy Parish.

For more convention
news and photos, visit
gardenclub.org



◀ NGC members and affiliates met at the Pinecote Pavilion at The Crosby Arboretum for a nature walk through the premier 700-acre native plant conservatory. Photo at left courtesy of the Crosby Arboretum. ▼



◀ A highlight of the convention was a member tour of Bellingrath Gardens, a 65-acre public garden and grand estate that features an award-winning rose garden with more than 2,000 plants representing 75 varieties. Photos courtesy of Bellingrath Gardens.

▶ "Blooms, Birds and Butterflies," a presentation by Norman Winter, noted horticulturist, author and speaker, focused on how to implement color and beauty into the garden with plants that attract pollinators.



▶ "Ordinary Plants, Extraordinary Stories," by Carol Reese, extension horticulture specialist at The University of Tennessee in Jackson, explored the value of plants through a historical perspective.



▶ James DelPrince delighted convention goers with a floral design presentation inspired by birds across the United States and South America.

▶ Margaret Gratz, popular author and illustrator, fielded questions from the audience during her "Going on Safari in the Garden" presentation.



▶ Members of the NGC Committee of International Affiliates Activities (COMAAI) wore traditional clothing native to their countries at the installation banquet. COMAAI represents the three international NGC regions of Mexico, Central America and South America, which have more than 3,300 international affiliate (IA) Spanish and Portuguese-speaking members.

▶ "Designing with Native Plants," and how they inspire beautiful landscapes, was presented by Bob Brzuszek, extension professor, Department of Landscape Architecture at Mississippi State University in Starkville.



▶ Gay Austin, NGC 2019-2021 president, was greeted by the king and queen of a local Mardi Gras Krewe at the festive Mardi Gras-themed Awards Banquet.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC. 2019 award of excellence

NGC's Award of Excellence recognizes exceptional individuals, organizations or institutions that have made significant contributions to their communities in such areas as environmental and civic responsibility, conservation or community beautification through gardening projects.

"The Award of Excellence is our organization's highest honor for non-members. By recognizing these deserving recipients from different parts of the nation, NGC hopes to educate and inspire others in communities coast-to-coast."

Gay Austin, 2019-2021 NGC President

Patrick McMillan is a noted naturalist, author, educator and Emmy award-winning host of a popular series on the natural world throughout North and South America on American Public Television.

Nominated by The Garden Club of South Carolina Inc., McMillan is a Hilliard Professor of Environmental Sustainability in the Department of Forestry

▶ Patrick McMillan (left), and Jim Gibbs, recipients of the NGC 2019 Award of Excellence.

and Environmental Conservation of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University in South Carolina, where he earned a doctorate in biological sciences and teaches plant taxonomy, forest biology, natural history, forestry and environmental conservation. In addition, McMillan serves as director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden on the campus of the university.

McMillan is co-creator, producer, host, writer, director and co-editor of the popular Emmy award-winning TV program "Expeditions with Patrick



▶ Expeditions with Patrick McMillan, photo courtesy of Clemson University



Photos courtesy of South Carolina Botanical Garden

and water and promotes balanced growth in upstate South Carolina, and is on the Heritage Trust Advisory Board of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

McMillan earned a bachelor's degree in biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he also worked as an environmental consultant and

field ecologist. He also held positions at Fairfield Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables, Florida, served as curator of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, North Carolina, and taught eighth-grade math and science.

Jim Gibbs is the creator of one of the nation's largest residential estate gardens open to the public.

Nominated by The Garden Club of Georgia Inc., Gibbs spent 30 years transforming pastures, hillsides and woodlands in Ball Ground, Georgia, into his award-winning Gibbs Gardens. Situated on 326 acres, Gibbs Gardens includes four feature gardens – the Japanese Gardens, Water Lily Gardens,

Manor House Gardens and Daffodil Gardens, where more than 20 million daffodils bloom on more than 50 acres between March 1 to April 15. In addition, Gibbs Gardens features 12 seasonal gardens.

Two spring-fed streams flow under 32 bridge crossings and feed 24 ponds and 19 waterfalls, as they meander through the Valley Gardens along miles of Fern Dell – one of the largest natural ferneries in the United States – and converge near a 334-acre lake. Majestic allées of red sunset maples, river birch and crepe myrtles – a signature element – sweep across the Valley Gardens from the entry drive to the expansive Rose Garden and hillsides featuring ribbons of day lilies. The Manor House Gardens, situated on one of the highest points in Cherokee County, feature a European-inspired three level home, summerhouse, gazebo, cabana and pool. Colorful perennial and annual gardens blend with older-growth

plantings and woodland gardens to frame dramatic views of the North Georgia Mountains.

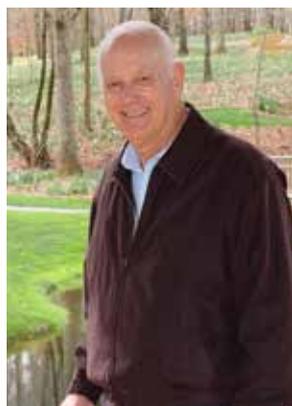
Gibbs served as president and founder for more than 40 years at the award-winning Gibbs Landscaping Co., a leading landscape firm in Atlanta. He earned a bachelor's degree in science, majoring in horticulture and minoring in landscape architecture, at the University of Georgia in Athens. He is the recipient of two national landscape awards presented at the White House in Washington D.C. He also is the author of "Gibbs Gardens: Reflections on a Gardening Life," which follows his 30-year-old journey to bring his vision to fruition.

In addition, Gibbs is a founding member of the Atlanta Botanical Garden and serves as a lifetime trustee. Throughout his professional career, he has been a member of numerous trade organizations, serving in a variety of principal roles. ■

McMillan," which airs on affiliates of American Public Television across the nation. The author of or contributing author on several books, his research has been featured in a number of local, regional and national publications, including "USA Today," "National Wildlife," and "The State." McMillan also is a popular lecturer in the Southeast and around the nation, giving more than 100 public presentations annually.

A professional naturalist, McMillan's range of work has concentrated on botany, where his research has taken him around the world in pursuit of new species of plants. In addition, he is also noted for his work in ichthyology, herpetology and mammalogy. He is an active member of the South Carolina Association of Naturalists, the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, the South Carolina Native Plant Society and South Carolina Entomological Society. In addition, he is a member of the board of trustees for Upstate Forever, a Greenville, South Carolina-based conservation nonprofit that protects land

Jim Gibbs Photos Courtesy of Gibbs Gardens



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC. 2019 scholarship recipients

The college scholarship program of National Garden Clubs Inc. offers financial aid to students majoring in fields of study related to horticulture and the environment.

NGC granted a total of 35 scholarships of \$4,000 each this year to students who are planning a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture. The names of the recipients were announced at the NGC 90th Annual Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi. Congratulations to each of our winners and best wishes for your future education!

Visit gardenclub.org/scholarships/ for more information.

State	Student Name	Named Scholarship
Arizona	Penelope Cottrell-Crawford	Violet Gose
Arkansas	Kelby Jade Biswell	June P. Wood
California	Benjamin Reed Brown	Ellamae Fehrer
California	Alyssa Snow	Mary B. Kittel
Connecticut	Lauren Hickey	Miriam Anderson Steel
Georgia	Lucas William Brock	Deen Day Sanders
Georgia	Wesley Peebles	Ellen Griffin
Idaho	Mary Alice Taylor	Lucile Mauntel
Indiana	Hunter VanSoest	Violet Herrich Dawson
Iowa	Justin John Wigdahl	Kitty Larkin
Kansas	Erica Stuhlsatz	Thelka Neuner
Maine	Signe Lynch	Tempie Dahlgren
Massachusetts	Rachel Newman	Barbara D. May
Massachusetts	Jacob Yankee	Mary Duff Walters
Michigan	Bryant J. Eddy	Osa Mae Barton
Minnesota	Matthew Becker	Jane Layman
Mississippi	Patrick Evan Seal	Geraldine Dean
Missouri	Matthew Wilson	Katherine Henby Hedley
Montana	Bailey Seyl Christofferson	June Johnsrud
New Jersey	Helena M. Lam	Cornelia V.W. Kellogg
New York	Paige Baisley	Helen S. Hull
North Carolina	Cari Lee Mitchell	Eleanor L. Yates
North Dakota	Jarrett Michael Lardy	Sandra H. Robinson
Ohio	Andrew Yates	Winifred Fink
Oklahoma	Andrew Fusco	Lorena Martin Spillers
Oregon	Andrew Chione	Linda G. Nelson Bentson
Pennsylvania	Isaac Marshall Leach	Lois Dupre Shuster
Rhode Island	Julia Rose Callahan	Jessie M. Conner
South Dakota	Jonathan Linke	Evelyn Mooney
Tennessee	Selena Ranney	Shirley S. Nicolai
Texas	Carlie Shea Witte	Renee D. Blaschke
Utah	Aaron Hoenig	Mary Louise Michie
Vermont	Jeniifer Mallinson Mull	Helen Hussey Champlin
Virginia	Leah Austin Kahler	Barbara Barnette
West Virginia	Legacy Skout Barger	Martha Smith

Nancy Voyles

2017-2019 Chairman, NGC Scholarships
 nvoyles62@aol.com



ESPOMA ORGANIC AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS
 ARE PARTNERING TO HELP COMMUNITIES

Plant America!

Your local garden projects and programs provide inspiring opportunities that bring neighbors, cultures and generations together to share the experience and joy of gardening. As recognition of the valuable resource that your club contributes to your community, up to 20 local garden clubs across America will be awarded grants. Recipients will earn up to \$250 of Espoma Organic Plant Foods & Potting Soils. So be inspired America! Join our effort to Plant America Together. Register your garden club today! Sign up at: www.espoma.com/garden-clubs.



Be a part of 'Plant America' and watch your community grow!



Your good work deserves to be recognized...



Visit us at www.espoma.com and join our gardening community





NGC 2019 smokey bear poster contest

Celebrating 75 years of Wildfire Prevention

In a celebration marking the 75th birthday of Smokey Bear of the U.S. Forest Service, elementary school students across the nation were invited to demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention through original drawings depicting the popular American icon in the NGC 2019 Smokey Bear poster contest.

'Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!'

Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for fire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. His message, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!" encourages personal responsibility for fire prevention. Smokey Bear provides education to children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, trash fires and matches.

The poster contest is offered each year to elementary school students in first through fifth grade. It is the collaboration of National Garden Clubs Inc. and the United States Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture – a partnership that spans over 50

years. The contest encourages budding artists to create a colorful poster that showcases their talents, as well as an understanding of the critical messages from Smokey Bear on wildfire prevention, or Woodsy Owl, which promotes basic environmental conservation principles.

The 2019 Smokey Bear poster contest winners were announced in May at NGC's 90th Annual Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi. In summer, 2019, the national grand prize recipient will be honored with a recognition ceremony in Washington D.C.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Fourth Grade

Penny Atkinson

Sponsored by the Neighborhood Garden Club

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs Inc.



FINALISTS

First Grade

Ryan Woodbury

Sponsored by the Neighborhood Garden Club

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs Inc.

Second Grade

Eleanor Pratt

Sponsored by the Neighborhood Garden Club

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs Inc.

Third Grade

Annaliese Spradley

Sponsored by the Magnolia Garden Club
The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.

Fifth Grade

Amanda Avitia

Sponsored by the Garden Club of Dearborn
Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. ■

Jennifer Moreno

2017-2019 Chairman, Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
moreno_jen@aps.edu



PLANT AMERICA community project grants

Guidelines and Application

The PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Program is sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing club projects in their respective communities. Projects may be a joint venture with another organization/s. The scope of these projects may include:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Habitat for Humanity landscaping
- Blue Star Memorial landscaping
- Implementation of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public

Grant Amount: Up to \$1,000.00 is available to be used for direct expenses of projects.

Who May Apply:

- Individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs Inc.
- **NOTE:** Recipients of 2017-2019 PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants are NOT eligible to apply.

Application Deadline: October 15, 2019

- Recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by January 31, 2020.
- Projects must be completed by February 28, 2021; final report forms

due by April 1, 2021.

Judging Criteria:

In evaluating grant applications, judging is based on the following Scale of Points:

• Benefits and visibility in community	40
• Impact and scope of project	25
• Involvement & participation by club members	15
• Collaboration with other community groups	15
• Application form complete	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	100

Funding Guidelines:

Grants will not be provided for:

- Projects in which club does not participate in some aspect
- Purchase of Blue Star Memorial Markers
- Competitive Flower Shows
- Private gardens
- Eagle Scout projects
- Salaries or benefits of personnel
- Political action programs
- Capital drives and building funds
- Scholarships and endowments
- Lawsuits and litigation
- Overhead costs

Final Report:

1. **Deadline:** within two months after the completion of the project or by April 1, 2021.
2. **Send the following:**
 - A short one-page report describing the project including

- photos
- A copy of the final financial report including all income and expenses
- A copy of any publicity

NOTE: Please indicate if permission has been given for use of photos by NGC in print or on the website. A release form for adults and minors can be found on the NGC website: gardenclub.org/about-us/press-room/minor-image-release.aspx

How to Apply:

- Application is limited to ONE (1) PAGE application form plus one page for the budget for a TOTAL of two (2) pages. Application form of more than two pages will NOT be considered.
- Email or mail the completed one-page application form and budget to:
David Robson
PLANTAMERICAGRANTS@gmail.com
1515 W. Fayette Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704-2306

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

**To download the application visit:
gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-community-project-grants.aspx**

planting with a purpose

Maryland Garden Club Cultivates Partnerships in Planting for a Growing Collaboration at a Historical Site

Members of the Green-walled Garden Club, students at Silver Oak Academy and members of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, joined forces on a gardening project at a site of historical significance in Frederick County, Maryland.

Members of the groups built four raised garden beds behind a log cabin at Catoctin Furnace Village to accommodate a kitchen garden with historically accurate herbs, vegetables and flowers. All plants were selected according to the village's oral histories and ethnobotanical data gleaned from archaeological investigations. In addition, the students learned

planting techniques, how to care for and maintain a garden, as well as appropriate harvesting times and techniques. Many Silver Oak Academy students hail from

Tools received from an NGC AMES Companies grant are on display by members of the Green-walled Garden Club at the Catoctin Furnace project. Project team members included Chris Gardiner (back row, far left), president, Catoctin Furnace Historical Society and students and staff of Silver Oak Academy.



The National Gardener Schedule

SPRING

April, May, June
Articles and Advertising
due: February 1

SUMMER

July, August, September
Articles and Advertising
due: May 1

FALL

October, November,
December
Articles and Advertising
due: August 1

WINTER

January, February, March
Articles and Advertising
due: November 1

The Isabella stack and restored casting shed at Catoctin Furnace Village. Photo courtesy of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society.



The kitchen garden is situated behind the historic log cabin on the site. Silver Oak Academy students built the raised beds and white picket fence. Photos courtesy of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society.

urban settings. The project marked the first time in which some students tilled soil, watered a plant, watched plants grow, sampled and enjoyed consuming the results of their hard-earned efforts.

In addition to the Catoctin Furnace project, garden club members will continue the collaboration with students

at Silver Oak Academy, which offers education, vocational training, skill development and opportunities to young men within a normalized high school setting. Club members will assist the academy in gardening activities as part of the school's new curriculum, which will incorporate vegetables harvested from the garden into food prepared by students in the academy's culinary arts program. The food also is served at area living history events, such as "In Their Own Voices,"

an annual celebration during Black History Month each February by the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society.



“Club members will work with students to incorporate approximately 150 pollinator-friendly plants...”

In November 2018, the garden club was awarded a grant from The Monarch Alliance to incorporate a butterfly waystation at the Catoctin Furnace site. Club members will work with students to incorporate approximately 150 pollinator-friendly plants in the waystation. The garden will be a continuing project that educates students about the need to supplement what nature provides in food for insects and butterflies. In addition, the garden club



▲ Silver Oak Academy students plant rosemary in the kitchen garden as a symbol of friendship and remembrance.

is providing funding for a tree that will be planted near a building currently under restoration by Silver Oak Academy students.

The Green-walled Garden Club was a recipient of a 2018 National Garden Club Inc. grant sponsored by the AMES Companies Inc., and used the tools it received in the project. The club also plans to utilize the tools in ongoing maintenance activities at the historic site. In addition, the garden club garnered a Historic Preservation Award First Place and the Governor's Beautification Bowl Award for the kitchen garden project by The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland Inc.

About Catoctin Furnace

The Catoctin Furnace, constructed in 1774, was a historic iron forge, developed to produce pig iron from locally mined hematite ore. The Furnace provided ammunition, such as cannonballs, for the American Revolutionary War. The remains of the ironworks and a pre-Revolutionary industrial village are located at the base of the Catoctin Mountains in Cunningham Falls State Park, in Frederick County. It is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike to explore and experience the area's living history. The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. celebrates studies and preserves the rich history of this pre-

The entrance to the log cabin is enhanced with fall plantings by Silver Oak Academy students.



Silver Oak Academy students prepare the soil for the first planting season.



revolutionary industrial village, including the architecture, cultural landscapes, lifeways and foodways of the workers.

Visit catoctinfurnace.org

About Green-walled Garden Club

Established in 1956, the Green-walled Garden Club of The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland Inc., created its name from a line of the poem "Barbara Fritchie," by John Greenleaf Whittier. Club members participate in a multitude of civic beautification projects, including "Flowers Over Frederick," in which flower



◀ Nancy Sesler, Green-walled Garden Club and Catoctin Furnace Village project coordinator, enjoys a sample of apple butter made by students during fall activities.

baskets are hung on light posts in downtown Frederick; ongoing maintenance of public gardens; garden therapy projects for youth at a local school for students with disabilities; and landscaping at the city park, the local arts center, the assisted living facility and a nature center. In addition, the Green-walled Garden Club collaborates with another local nonprofit on civic projects that include an annual candlelight house tour during the holidays and served as co-sponsor of a spring tour of area private and public gardens. The club has 30 active members and nine associate members.

Green-walled Garden Club members and Silver Oak Academy staff decide on what to harvest first from the kitchen garden.



A Silver Oak Academy student and Shelley Johnson, Green-walled Garden Club president, study the root system of a plant.



Lora Andrews (left) Silver Oak Academy workforce coordinator and culinary instructor, Nancy Sesler (center), project coordinator, Green-walled Garden Club and Shelley Johnson, president, Green-walled Garden Club, discuss the next steps in harvesting the garden.

Shelley S. Johnson
President
Green-walled Garden Club
sjohnsonart@gmail.com

Nancy Sesler
Catoctin Furnace Village Project Lead and Coordinator
Green-walled Garden Club
justnls@yahoo.com

 Photos courtesy of Green-walled Garden Club

Lora Andrews, Silver Oak Academy workforce coordinator and culinary instructor, plants squash in the kitchen garden.



Visit [facebook.com/greenwalledgarden/](https://www.facebook.com/greenwalledgarden/)

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You will enjoy **Agrigento** and the ancient Greek sites of **Temples Valley** and then the towns of **Selinunte** and **Sagesta**. We'll visit the Roman Villa at Casale (**Piazza Armerina**) and then move onto the cities of **Trapani** and **Marsala** with its famous salt ponds. Our tour ends in **Palermo**, Sicily's capital and largest city with its Arabo-Norman churches, baroque palaces and colorful markets

ITALIAN LAKES TO VENICE TOUR View the magnificent lakes of northern Italy; **Lake Maggiore, Lake Como** and **Lake Garda** and admire the extraordinary landscapes at the feet of the **Italian Alps**. Visit and explore the great cities of **Bergamo, Mantua, Verona, Padua, and Venice**. Enjoy and stroll the exclusive **gardens of Villa Taranto, Villa Carlotta, Sigurtà** and the **most ancient botanic garden in the world in Padua**. You will cherish your day on a boat the "**Burchiello**" where you will discover and visit the **17th and 18th century villas of the Venetian nobility including the treasures in their homes**. All the while you will delight enjoying classic Italian cuisine and the wonderful wines of Italy.



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PENNY PINES - a TREEmendous program

Since launching a partnership in 2004 with the United States Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Garden Clubs Inc. and its member affiliates across the nation have raised funds on



National Garden Clubs Inc. donated \$72,828 to U.S. state and national forests. This amount translates to 1,071 Penny Pines plantations. Each plantation consists of 200 seedlings, which means NGC members

the local and state levels for Penny Pines, a program dedicated to sustaining our national and urban forests.

What began in California in 1941 as a statewide conservation program, Penny Pines has expanded to all 50 states.

The conservation effort entails the planting of replacement seedlings that are indigenous (not only pine trees), to forested areas damaged by insects, fires or natural catastrophes. The plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

In the 2018 calendar year, members of

contributed to help supply 214,200 trees. Under the conservation agreement, the U.S. Forest Service does the planting using your donation together with federal funds, and the plantation is offered the same protection from fires, insects and disease provided to other forested areas.

“...members of National Garden Clubs Inc. donated \$72,828 to U.S. state and national forests.”

Donations came from 44 of our 50 U.S. states. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. led the way with the most Penny Pines plantation donations.

Be a part of the effort to keep our national

forests beautiful by donating \$68, or multiples of \$68, to NGC's Penny Pines

program. It's a simple, easy way for individuals and clubs to play an active role in restoring our forests!

Please keep up your TREEmendous support of the Penny Pines program. Download the donation form at gardenclub.org/projects/penny-pines ■

Janice Clem
2017-2019 Chairman, Penny Pines
Janiceclem10@gmail.com

Photos courtesy of United States Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest, Calif.



USFS Penny Pines youth plantation projects.



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gardening SCHOOLS

Isabella Elstein of Wellington High School in Wellington, Florida, is the national first-place recipient of the 2018-2019 Poetry Contest of National Garden Clubs Inc. Elstein was sponsored by the Wellington Garden Club of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

"Pop Goes the Seed," was the creative theme for the contest this year. The NGC Poetry Contest encourages youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry and embrace their creativity through the art of writing.

Students in general education, special education and English as a second language from kindergarten through ninth grade are eligible to enter the contest each year. All winning entries are compiled into a print booklet and each winner receives a copy.

Thank you to Jan Thomas, chairman, NGC Poetry Contest for coordinating the entries this year! ■

Barbara Hadsell
Chairman, Gardening Schools
barbarahadsell@cs.com

The Seedling

By Isabella Elstein

At the age of 7, I planted the small colorless seed in the pitch black dirt. Thrilled to see it start to bloom, the next day I ran outside to find nothing. Nothing except for the same pile of dirt covering the same small colorless seed.

I waited and waited to find nothing... My 10th birthday came around, I wanted nothing more than for my seed to bloom but still nothing.

Years came and past, Memories faded of the seedling, now covered by all the years of rain and sunshine.

Graduating from school and leaving the seedling behind

I was sure it would never bloom.

20 years later, now having a family,

I came to visit my old house

to find my seedling had finally turned into a tall beautiful orchid tree, sprouting over the crystal clear watered lake from below.

As I walked with salty tears dropping from my face, I peered over the water to see my reflection staring back at me

Seeing how much I have grown... how much I have grown with what was once a small seedling

now a big and beautiful orchid tree... Towering over above, blowing through the wind.

As I stand beside it, aged, wishing I had remembered my colorless seedling.



Please visit NGC Schools
Course Calendars at
www.gardenclub.org

landscape DESIGN SCHOOLS

Alexander Pope, the noted 18th century English poet, said "All gardening is landscape painting." National Garden Clubs offers Landscape Design Schools to get you excited about landscape.

Please note the following news and updates:

- New schools beginning on and after July 1 (that is the new school series beginning with Course 1), will utilize the new curriculum posted on the NGC website (and contained in the new Handbook). Schools in progress before July 1 will utilize existing curriculum (also available on the website). The old curriculum utilizes the text "Stewards of the Land," which readily is available at NGC Member Services at shopgardenclub.org/shop/. The new curriculum will not utilize a text, but will be based on instructors' expansion of the outline for each course. Courses for schools already in progress may wish to incorporate some of the new curriculum topics as a supplemental subject. Thanks to the Textbook for LDS Committee (Jane Bersch, Victoria Bergesen and Alexis Slafer) for developing the new curriculum.
- Many thanks to all of the state, local and NGC chairmen involved in offering courses and refreshers

“...gardening
is landscape
painting.”

during the 2017-2019 term, and to the state presidents who supported the provision of this education to

garden club members and the public.

- Please see our updated Landscape Design Schools Directory for 2019-2021, which is posted on the LDS page of the website gardenclub.org State

chairmen should especially note new NGC LDS accrediting assignments: Jane Bersch for Pacific and South Central Regions; Nancy Fulk for Central and South Atlantic Regions; Linda McLendon for Deep South and Rocky Mountain Regions; and Alexis Slafer for Central Atlantic and New England Regions.

Please consider Landscape Design Schools in your plans for the upcoming garden club year!

I recently was told that "Newscap," our biannual newsletter about LD Schools and Councils, is the best advertisement ever seen for Landscape Design Schools. Check it out and share it with others. Issues from 2011 to 2019 are available on our web page at gardenclub.org/schools/landscape-design. ■

Greg Pokorski
Chairman
Landscape Design Schools
GregPokorski@earthlink.net

environmental, gardening and landscape design SCHOOLS

Flower Show SCHOOLS

The new “Handbook for Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools,” was posted to the NGC website in April, and is available on each of the schools’ web pages. This handbook replaces the three separate handbooks for these three schools.

A separate forms unit is posted with each school web page to help make your use of forms easier. Please visit the NGC website at gardenclub.org to find these two postings. This is in effect for all three schools now.

- Please note that NO PRINT COPY OF THE HANDBOOK IS AVAILABLE. You may conveniently download the free handbook to your personal computer. You will be able to select the section that is of interest to you and print just the information you need. The information is easy to access online.
- State chairmen of the three NGC schools will begin using the forms now. Download and save the blank,

fillable forms on your personal computer. Then, fill them out as needed, renaming them for each separate course, save the form, and send it via e-mail to the appropriate NGC chairman (as listed on the forms and in the Handbook).

Listings of schools courses and refreshers that previously were included in this magazine, will now be available in “Keeping in Touch,” the bimonthly supplement to “The National Gardener,” at gardenclub.org/about-us/publications on the NGC website at gardenclub.org. ■

Judy Newman
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Landscape Design Schools
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www.gardenclub.org

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you as the newly appointed NGC Flower Show Schools (FSS) chairman. On behalf of the FSS Committee, we send our sincere appreciation to Dorothy Yard for her dedication and leadership these past six years.

I welcome judges, state FSS chairmen and club members to send questions and concerns to me or other members on the FSS Committee. We work as a team to solve Flower Show problems, misunderstandings and help with clarifications of the “Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017.”

Flower Show Schools is an established educational program with high standards of excellence. Flower Shows educate, promote NGC’s goals and objectives and enable us to cultivate new friendships. I encourage all of our club members to participate in these fun and rewarding endeavors.

The FSS Forms and Guidelines on the NGC website will be revised over the next few months as NGC’s new website is built.

The following information provides the approved changes to the Handbook for Flower Shows 2017 and is effective July 1, 2019.

NGC Flower Show Schools Committee Handbook for Flower Shows Changes 5/3/2019

Judging Credits Change #1

Handbook, page 116, prior to Section V (Becoming an Accredited Judge).

Additions:

NOTE: Judging Credit: for Accredited, Accredited Life and Accredited Master Judges is defined as judging six (6) classes in an NGC Flower Show.

- A. A Small Standard, Standard Flower Show
 1. Required to include at least one class of Horticulture and one class of Design.
 2. The other four classes may be in any of the five divisions.
 - a. Exception: Photography is not eligible for judging credit.
 - b. Includes classes of Artistic Crafts and Exploration in Botanical Arts Division.
- B. Specialty Flower Shows
 1. One class of either Horticulture or Design, according to the type of Specialty Flower Show.

NGC Calendar

National Conventions

2020	Milwaukee, Wis., May 11-14
2021	East Rutherford, N.J., May 17-20 (installation)
2022	Orlando, Fla. Dates TBD

Fall Board Meetings

2019	St. Louis, Mo., Sept 18-20
2020	Fargo, N.D., Sept. 24-26
2021	St. Louis, Mo., Dates TBD



Please visit NGC Schools
Course Calendars at
www.gardenclub.org

- Other five classes in any of the divisions: Horticulture, Design, Education, Youth, or Botanical Arts with the exception of photography. (For a Specialty Show it is either Horticulture or Design.)

This change to take effect July 1, 2019.

Exhibiting Credits Change #2

Handbook, Page 117, V, B.2.

Change wording on page 117, B. 2. To now read:

Earn three (3) additional exhibiting credits in any of the four (4) Divisions: Horticulture, Design, Education and Botanical Arts, with the exception of Photography.

This change to take effect July 1, 2019.

Change #3

Handbook, Page 119, VI, TABLE at bottom of page, (Accredited Life Judge to Accredited Master Judge Requirements) Statement 2. Rework:

Earn at least two (2) exhibiting credits, including at least one (1) ribbon in either Design

or Botanical Arts Design, including Artist Crafts section, and one (1) in either Horticulture or in Botanical Arts Horticulture in a Small Standard, Standard or Specialty Flower Show, for each year or part of a year, between refreshers. An alternate exhibiting credit may be earned by providing a judged/critiqued Horticulture or Design exhibit for a practice or a written point-scoring exam in an NGC Flower Show School or Symposium.

This change to take effect July 1, 2019.

Change #4

Handbook page 120, TABLE at top of page (Maintaining Accredited Master Judge Certification)

Statement 1. Rework:

Must earn one (1) ribbon in either Horticulture or Botanical Arts Horticulture and one (1) ribbon in either Design or Botanical Arts Design, including Artistic Crafts Section, in Small Standard, Standard or Specialty Flower Show for each Symposium attended for credit. An alternate exhibiting credit may be earned by providing a judged/critiqued Horticulture or Design exhibit for a practice or a written

point-scoring exam in an NGC Flower Show School or Symposium.

This change to take effect July 1, 2019. ■

Jan Warshauer

*Chairman, Flower Show Schools
jwarshauer@aol.com*

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GARDENERS IN FLORIDA exceed million pollinator garden challenge goal

Gardeners across the state of Florida can claim bragging rights on their pivotal role in saving pollinators – and the nation's food systems. The gardeners spearheaded pollinator projects in their communities, as well as in their own home gardens, as part of The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge of the National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife program.

- In a news release generated by the MPGC, gardeners in the state of Florida registered 55,000 gardens, which exceeded the established goal. That number joins the more than 8 million people who registered more than 1,040,000 pollinator gardens across the United States.
- The MPGC cites the Miami-Fort Lauderdale metro area contributed nearly 20,000 pollinator gardens and the Tampa-St. Petersburg area contributed nearly 5,000 gardens. These overwhelming efforts were in response to the expansive outreach by MPGC throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and globally.
- The million-plus gardens add up to a network of approximately 5 million acres of enhanced or new pollinator habitats.



'Butterfly on a Butterfly Weed' by Jane Allen ▲
NGC 2017 Annual Convention Photography Contest

The Million Pollinator Garden Challenge was launched in 2015 as part of a nationwide and global outreach to revive collapsing bee colonies and improve the health of birds, bats, butterflies and other pollinators. The challenge was to register 1 million new gardens through the National Pollinator Garden Network, which included garden clubs, schools and community gardens. ■

Becky Hassebroek

*2017-2019 Chairman, Wildlife Gardening
NGC Representative, National Wildlife Federation
and Million Pollinator Garden Challenge
beckyhass@aol.com*

Visit millionpollinatorgardens.org/ and orlandoweekly.com/Blogs/archives/2019/03/14/florida-exceeds-million-pollinator-garden-challenge-goal

THE *Happy* GARDENER'S *Guide*

- MY ARCHES ARE NOT GOLDEN -

My garden space consists of three arches – one each on the north, south and west. All are in some state of rust.

The southern arch gets the most use, as it is near our back patio. It came to my garden after an anniversary trek to the Black Hills in South Dakota. Our large SUV comes in handy for when such treasures are discovered far from home. Its brown frame is trimmed with small pineapples (symbols of hospitality), and it has stood firm through many a Midwestern wind and snow surge. In the beginning, it was to serve as a grape arbor, with a concord variety on one side, and a white table grape on the other. The foliage turned out to be more abundant than the fruit; but I still valued the archway for the spot of shade it provided. A severe winter ended the grape arbor stage and opened the door to other vining possibilities. The best outcome to date has been the “kiss me over the garden gate” experiment. Also known as *Polygonum orientale*, this cottage garden annual towers quickly and sturdily, but doesn’t mind being lightly tied to the uprights. Dainty sprays of deep pink/carmine arch near the top and attract pollinators (even monarchs near the end of summer). The plant’s canes remind me of bamboo, and the joints are etched with burgundy.

Its generous re-seeding habit calls for editing the following spring. The romantic in me adores the common moniker, and my husband is happy to put the plant name into practice under the arch that was, after all, an anniversary present.

The path from the southern arch does lead to the northern one, but its story differs. On the windiest, wettest, coldest April day, I accompanied my husband to a farm auction that included old car stuff (his favorite kind). The auctioneer’s tent provided a respite from the elements and was the best place to be. In the end, we came home with some treasures: old car parts for him, including a Ford Model-T coupe body and steel wheels for an antique tractor, and for me, an



◀ The southern arch in the cottage garden features *Polygonum orientale*.



◀ **RIGHT:** The northern arch is covered with velvety clematis and new dawn roses. **LEFT:** Annabelle hydrangeas and dramatic heavenly blue morning glory grace the western arch.

archway with a built-in seat on both sides. My prize had lots of curlicues to give it a graceful appeal. Since this arch would be located in a site in full sun, I opted for a climbing rose on both sides. My choice was the new dawn climber, introduced in 1930, and the first rose in the United States to receive a patent. This double-flowered blush pink rose is a repeater and was inducted in 1997 into the Rose Hall of Fame by the World Federation of Rose Societies.

Though I thought my site was well-suited and well amended for the new dawn roses to spiral 15 feet on both sides, it seems the roses had other plans. They both behaved like a tall tea rose with no ambition to climb my archway. So, I too,

had to change my plan: I added rouge cardinal clematis to each side. The large velvety crimson blooms curled over and through the roses at the base and surpassed them on the archway. A bower of frothy pink roses still lingers on the back burner of my garden desires, but I accept what currently is possible.

Last, but not least, is the western arch. It was discovered at one of my favorite greenhouse stops in the spring. I like its backstory: a couple that worked at the nursery borrowed it for their wedding and said their vows beneath it. Once covered with white paint, the arch now sports my preferred mottled white and rust theme. Since a tall Chinese elm is nearby, I decided on Annabelle hydrangeas to shadow

the base of the arch. And, what better color to offset the cream and rust theme, than the heavenly blue morning glory! Though I must be content with the heart-shaped foliage for two-thirds of the summer, my patience is amply rewarded toward the final third when gorgeous blue trumpets yield their glory in the summer mornings that remain.

The arches in my garden are “come this way” structures that funnel guests into my horticultural world. And they are reminders to kiss under the garden gate, wait patiently for something blue and be content with what works now! ■

Charlotte A. Swanson
Consultant, Gardening Schools
swanson@daltontel.net

Landscape

DESIGN

INSIGHTS into LANDSCAPE DESIGN EXHIBITS

BY SUSAN K. LAURSEN, SUE KELLEY AND CAROL KING-PLATT

In February, members of the Connecticut Landscape Design Council (LDC), of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Inc., served as judges for landscape design exhibits at the 38th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show. The show, one of the largest and most prestigious flower shows in all of New England, covered nearly three acres of space at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Highlights of the show included The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut's 2019 Standard Flower Show, which encompassed more than 12,000 square feet of a design, horticulture and photography competition with more than 250 judged entries.

Early on a snowy morning before the show, the team of 13 LDC consultant judges and four provisional consultants were able to enjoy the exhibits before the crowds arrived.

The Connecticut LDC comprises

landscape design consultants who have completed all four of the landscape courses and provisional consultants, who have completed two-to-three courses.

The landscape consultants evaluate and vote on the landscapes, and the

provisional consultants practice their evaluating skills. Judging the landscape exhibits at the flower show was a great opportunity to use the many skills we learned in Landscape Design School.

The purpose of the Connecticut LDS is to

provide continuing education for its members and promote the use of good design principles in our own landscapes and in the community beyond. We practice our skills, beginning each year with the flower show, and continue throughout the year with private and public landscapes. We are so happy to see each other each February! Even though the landscapes are constructed inside, it is a wonderful opportunity to practice evaluating how landscapes

“The show... covered nearly three acres of space...”



A focal point of the formal garden landscape included a stone patio, fountain and benches that achieved a balance of both scale and intimacy.



exhibitors who have a limited amount of time to construct their exhibits. Needless to say, the purpose of these landscapes is to demonstrate and sell their talent, expertise and products.

Given the

challenges, we were amazed and delighted by the scale, craftsmanship and creativity of the landscapes.

We quickly divided into teams and narrowed a field of more than 20 exhibits down to the top four, before selecting the Excellence in Design winner:

A Formal Garden Landscape

The first of these landscapes was a formal garden of boxwoods, shrubs and spring flowers. A pale stone patio pleasantly lightened the space in the center of the garden. The patio was surrounded on three sides by formal benches, and a fountain in the center provided a wonderful focal point. Entryway trees and front plantings created a cheerful and intimate feeling of walking into a garden room. While our

incorporate the elements and principles of design.

Creating exhibit landscapes in the context of the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show presents several unique challenges that include creating exhibits on a flat convention room floor, overcoming the effect of tall black backdrops, creating a sense of a ceiling and holding the exhibit's edges. There also is the problem of disguising root balls – whether they are in small plastic pots holding forced bulbs, or huge root balls of tall trees – not to mention producing blooming leafed-out plant material in frigid conditions. In addition, there is the budget, which is a huge outlay for a company that may or may not recoup its expenses. This particular venue provides mulch and sod only; everything else is brought in by the



▲ The charming deer topiaries were a crowd favorite.

judges would have appreciated a taller element such as a tree with good branch structure in front of the backdrop, and/ or arranging the lovely deer topiaries against a pale feature instead of under the weeping cherry trees, the overall layout and abundance of spring flowers with repeating swatches of color created a wonderful balance between scale and intimacy.



Asian-Themed Landscape

An Asian theme influenced the second landscape. The ambitious installation featured numerous oriental features, water elements and specimen plants. However, rather than creating a single theme around one or two of these elements, the intent of this landscape was to highlight many structural and stylistic possibilities in the hopes viewers would find something they would want to recreate in their landscape.

The judges noted that a few tweaks to the placement of plant material would have improved the overall effect. For example, placing multiple viburnums near the Atlas cedar would add strength. Some plants and structures did not lend themselves to a cohesive theme, such as the colorful bird houses on a sculptural tree. However, each feature was outstanding in its own right; from the



Influenced by Japanese and Eastern landscape design, this exhibit incorporated many Asian-inspired elements.



beautiful large gong, to the huge pagoda to the pergola. Likewise, the specimen plants were magnificent, especially a standout pale red witch hazel.

'Neighboring Yards' Landscape

The third landscape incorporated the clever use of "neighboring yards," to highlight a shared rain garden. The installation was anchored by two pale beige cottages situated on top of a slope.



▲ An element such as a rain garden was used to demonstrate how neighbors might successfully benefit from one landscape design.

Matching fences created a wonderful contrast against the black backdrop. The judges liked the rhythm that was created by the stone wall and cottage sidings, as well as the overall naturalistic feel of the exhibit. The judges noted that the theme of the landscape, featuring two adjoining yards, could have been enhanced if the style of the cottages had been more varied. Vivid turquoise drain pipes were used to illustrate the shared rain garden. This landscape successfully illustrated the point that a common rain garden does not detract from the landscaping of either yard. Overall, this landscape demonstrated a great use of space.

A Dramatic Landscape

The fourth landscape, titled "Stairway to Heaven," featured a nine-foot tall tumbling waterfall. The placement of large conifers at the top of the waterfall further created a dramatic sense of height. The incredible workmanship and attention to detail in this landscape awed the judges. The grand and naturalistic use of stone – to the little details like the moss softening the edges of the

pond – appealed to the judges. The contrasting color and texture of the plant material was further enhanced by the superb placement, which drew the eye through the landscape. The green lawn provided a place to rest the eye, and tied all of the elements together, creating a sense of rhythm throughout the

landscape. The result was a rich, but uncluttered, landscape. This superb landscape demonstrated an expert use of design principles and elements. The "Excellence in Design" Award went to this landscape by Aqua Scapes of CT LLC, in Portland, Connecticut, due to its creative use of space, principles and elements,



▲ The green lawn provided a restful backdrop to the many landscape elements.

The winning landscape incorporated many design principles in an eye-catching exhibit.



The landscape design was rich in color and texture.

implementation and our overall impressions.

The opportunity to look at many types of landscapes in one setting illustrated the importance of methodical evaluations to our judges. We are very fortunate to have a couple of very experienced successful professional landscape designers on the council. Their commentary at the end of each assessment helped the newer landscape design consultant judges interpret the pros and cons of each landscape. Many of our judges found the experience at the flower show to be a very effective way to turn theory into practice.

We hope everyone will consider taking the Landscape Design Program. For us, it

has been a life-enhancing learning experience. In addition, it has been helpful to the community and a great way to meet others who care about good landscape design. Through the school and council, we will continue to have camaraderie and fabulous adventures together!

Susan K. Laursen is chairman for the Landscape Design Council in Connecticut. She is a member of the Wallingford Garden Club in Connecticut. Laursen can be reached at sklaursen@aol.com

Sue Kelley is publicity chairman for the Connecticut Landscape

Design Council. She is a first-year Connecticut Flower & Garden Landscape Design judge, having completed LDS Section 4 in March, 2018; horticulture chairman of the Garden Club of Madison, and member of the Arbor Club of Clinton. In 2017, Kelley completed the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program, University of Connecticut, and has taken workshops toward the Advanced Master Gardener level.

Carol King-Platt is a former garden columnist and served as an associate editor at *House & Garden* magazine. She was chairman of the Landscape Design Council for six years, and is a member of the Wallingford Garden Club in Connecticut.



Photos courtesy of Connecticut Landscape Design Council

NGC 2019 INTERNATIONAL photography competition

Featuring the Natural Environments of the Americas

'In Wildness is the Preservation of the World'

- HENRY DAVID THOREAU

The NGC 2019 International Photography Competition drew 225 entries from National Garden Clubs members and affiliates from across the United States, Central and South America.

The competition comprised six categories:

- "Plant America," a showcase for images of native plants;
- "Scenic America," images incorporated landscape and/or seascape;
- "Small World," close-up or macro images of native animals, insects and/or plants;
- "Web of Life," monochrome images featured patterns in nature;
- "Weather Forecast," images featured weather;
- "Climate Change," images of altered reality that utilized creative in-camera techniques and/or post processing.

Photos of the finalists were on display at the 90th NGC Annual Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi. NGC members and affiliates had the opportunity to purchase prints of the photos, and proceeds from the sales support NGC's Plant America program. In addition, the



▲ **The NGC President's Award**
"Poplar Tree Farm in the Fall," by Suzy Ramm, Chehalem Garden Club, Ore.

photos are featured on the NGC website at gardenclub.org and in a PowerPoint on YouTube (view at: <https://bit.ly/2MaWYu1>)

Thank you to all for sharing your extraordinary images! ■

Arabella Dane
2019-2021 Photography Chairman
arabellasd@aol.com

The Creativity Award
"High Noon," by Anita Peters, member-at-large, The Garden Club Federation of Maine Inc.





PLANT AMERICA

TOP LEFT: "Coneflower," by Theresa Goodrum, Glendale Garden Club, Ga.

TOP RIGHT: "Mission Blue Butterfly Enjoys Checkerbloom," by Cathie Moog, Discovery Bay Garden Club, Calif.

BOTTOM LEFT: "Morning Walk in the Park," by Rose Romboski, Southern Butler County Garden Club, Pa.

BOTTOM RIGHT: "Thumb's Up," by Ingela Helgesson, Leetes Island Garden Club, Conn.



The Nature Award
"Explosion," by Vicki Saltonstall, Chestnut Hill Garden Club, Mass.



Best in Show
"Skywalkers," by Eleanor Labrozzi, The Garden Club of Shelter Island, N.Y.

Scenic America
TOP: "Glacial Retreat, Glacier Bay, Alaska," by Jeannette Michelson, The Garden Club of Long Beach Island, N.J. **BOTTOM LEFT:** "A Kaleidoscope of Color," Margaret Melancon, Azalea Garden Club, La. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** "Peaceful Patience," by Annie Hibbs, Designers with Flair, Texas



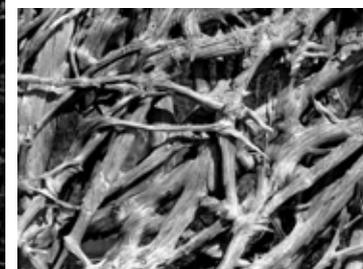
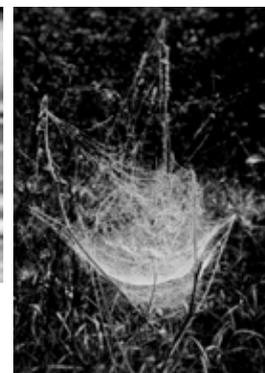
Web of Life
"Fog at Silver Springs," by Jamie Pipher, Arcadia Garden Club District IX, Fla.



Small World
TOP: "Goldfinch Eats Sunflower Seeds," by Pien Nagy, Washington Valley Garden Club, N.J. **MIDDLE:** "Comfortable Feeling of a Chipmunk," by Pien Nagy, Washington Valley Garden Club, N.J. **BOTTOM:** "Flowers for Lunch," by JD McFarlan, Shenandoah Rose Garden Club, Ga.



LEFT: "Datura Sputnik," by Tamara Horne, The Dirt Dauber Garden Club, Mich. **MIDDLE:** "September Morning Dew on Web," by Jerry Bayer, Williamston Red Cedar Garden Club, Mich.



Life after Life," by Barbara Spellmeyer, The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, N.J.



Weather Forecast

TOP LEFT: "Arch in the Iceberg," by Peggy Ropelle, Nancy Weber Garden Club, Mo. **BOTTOM LEFT:** "Double Rainbow," by Steve Hucks, Stone Mill Flowers Garden Club, Ga. **RIGHT:** "Magical Lenticular Clouds," by Susan Schultz, Angel Fire Garden Club, N.M.



Climate Change

LEFT: "Tornado," by Theresa Azoti, The Garden Club of Orange, Conn. **TOP RIGHT:** "Hurricane Daze," by Jayne Rogers, The Landings Garden Club, Ga. Chehalem Garden Club, Ore. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** "Nightmare of Climate Change," by Melissa Stearns, Dig and Dream Garden Club, Colo.



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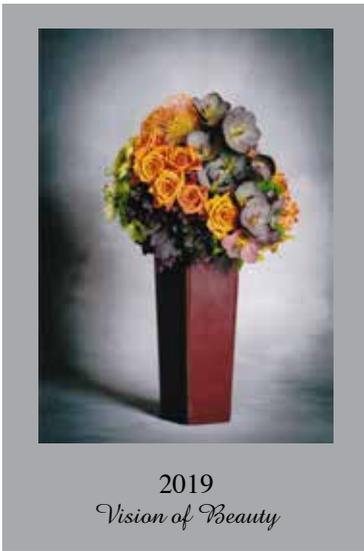
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