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.

Espoma Organic and National Garden Clubs Are Partnering To Help Communities

Plant America!

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

Espoma Organic
A natural in the garden since 1929.

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Espoma Organic
A natural in the garden since 1929.
Another season of change is happening for our gardeners. Trees and shrubs have blossomed. Nature is providing us with many tints of green and other natural colors. With spring season almost behind us, we welcome summer, along with the anticipation, enjoyment, beauty and bounty of the annual vegetable and flower seeds that were planted.

These past few months, we have been required to maintain social isolation, which is somewhat disheartening and challenging, but let’s not focus our energies on what is in the past. Let’s look to the future for new ways of sharing our garden club stories as we continue to strengthen our state, region and national organizations. Through this trying time, we have gained a few benefits from this world health crisis, beginning with the bonus time that we enjoy in the oasis that is our home garden. So often our hectic world of activities prevented us from simply slowing down and enjoying what is right in front of us. Our world is changing, but eventually, the traditional connections that we have with one another and our communities will return. Perhaps this experience will evolve into a far better perspective on what is important in our volunteer garden club experiences.

Susan Yoder, executive director of Seed Your Future, recently stated, “It’s about PHYSICAL distancing, not SOCIAL isolation.” Garden club members are creating ways for us to branch out into new methods of communication. NGC members may have had to postpone group activities, but they are determined to continue with meetings, programs and projects. They are taking advantage of audiovisual and digital methods to enjoy garden tours, meetings and other garden club activities. These efforts are encouraging us to accept new methods of volunteering and to THINK FORWARD. Like many of you, I receive emails and publications daily from across the nation and internationally, that present the many communication options available. From simple teleconferences to audio and video group meetings and garden tours, we are adapting to the challenges ahead of us. Some recent efforts include:

- NGC has an extremely active and talented Social Media Committee that is developing new ideas to share our stories. The NGC Facebook page is gaining remarkable momentum. It highlights projects that our audience enjoys and inspires us to create our own stories to share with our garden club friends. It is simple to submit creative suggestions and share stories of success. What about you? What story do you wish to share? What makes your project relevant to our organization? No one understands the interests of our organization and audience better than our NGC members. You are our best ambassadors. Your stories impact our social media communities in a heartfelt manner and inspire us to create beauty.
- The NGC Schools Committees are evaluating, through careful thought and purpose, our traditional methods of continuing educational opportunities. “Good Standing” deadlines have been extended, plus there are ongoing discussions of future methods of educational opportunities through the practice of audiovisual classrooms.
- Good news! The new NGC website is nearing completion, with an anticipated “going live” date in late June. The Website Development Committee has worked tirelessly to provide a user-friendly website that offers many new avenues of sharing and learning. Be sure to use our website as a useful tool when preparing projects for your garden club.
- NGC was proud to sponsor our first Virtual Flower Show in June. The “Perfect Vision 2020 Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show,” originally was created for our members to exhibit their designs at NGC’s 91st annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in May. Reluctantly, the difficult decision was made to not hold the NGC convention this year due to increased risks to public health – a responsibility shared by myriad organizations and companies who also canceled large events across the United States. Rather than walk away from a perfectly planned flower show event, it was decided to hold a national Virtual Flower Show, with some modifications to the original flower show schedule. Please check the NGC website at gardenclub.org for an overview of the event and judging criteria. Winners will be announced in July on the NGC website and social media. Stay tuned for information on the possibility of additional Virtual Flower Shows. Please encourage your members to participate. It can be an incredibly rewarding experience!

Sharing our knowledge and working together will assure a strong future for NGC. I look forward to traveling to visit with our members soon, and wish all of you a safe, healthy future.

Gay L. Austin
2019-2021 NGC President

President’s Message

It’s about PHYSICAL distancing, not SOCIAL isolation.™
The World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA), is a not for profit, non-partisan organization of international floral art societies. WAFA enhances the diversity of the floral art form by transcending international cultural barriers and bringing together fresh ideas, and encourages the art of flower arrangement through workshops, seminars and flower shows. Founded in 1981 by a group of flower-arranging societies, WAFA has members in 31 countries.

The Grand Floral Affair – a World Flower Show and International Seminar – is WAFA’s tri-annual event. The five-day flower fair, which was held this year in February, in Jaipur, India, offered an abundance of workshops, competitions, demonstrations and exhibitions.

The following insights into WAFA India 2020 are shared by attendee Roberta Saraceno DuBeshter, GCA WAFA Liaison, Floral Design Committee member and member of the Rochester Garden Club of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.

“Hello from the Grand Floral Affair, the 13th World Flower Show!”

The soft chanting of men in devotional Hindu Morning Prayer can be heard at dawn. The humming cadence changes pitch, then crescendos. At sunrise, peacocks descend from their sleeping perches high in leafy trees. Their golden wings reflect the sun and tail feathers of vivid blues and greens shimmer brilliantly as they float softly to the ground.

WAFA India 2020 was held at the Hotel Diggi Palace and Fort in Jaipur. Jaipur, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, is known as “The Pink City,” a historic nod to the edict to paint every building in the city pink as a gesture of welcome and hospitality to Great Britain’s Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales during their world tour in 1876.

Our group was fortunate to stay at this historic hotel, which dates back to the 19th century. We were humbled by the serenity of the expansive and beautifully landscaped grounds that span over 18 acres, which feature interconnecting center courtyards, winding staircases and art that denotes the traditional architecture of India.

As we strolled through the grounds of WAFA India 2020, we encountered magnificently decorated pathways illuminated by dazzling lights and an abundance of colors and artwork inspired by floral artistry. Everything in sight offers great significance, and we are embraced by the friendship of women we have met at multiple WAFA World Flower Shows, as well as other international shows. At every WAFA event, we are grateful to renew old friendships, cultivate new ones and share the love of flowers and design.

Exhibits, seminars and competition
Preordered plant material was collected on the afternoon prior to competition, and competitors were ushered into the halls promptly at 6 a.m. Each exhibitor was allowed six hours to create her or his design, with the majority of designs created on site. Stewards monitored classes to ensure designers were following WAFA rules. The day after judging, exhibitors met with the international judging panel for an
individual design critique. This experience was invaluable, as they provided comments based on the principles and elements of design. This interactive educational opportunity provided the opportunity to not only ask questions, but also offered the added benefit of listening to a critique on the majority of the designs in your class. With a ratio of 6-to-13 exhibitors per class, this was far less than the 20 entries per class at the 2014 WAFA Dublin World Show, but the critiques were most informative, with judges offering positive verbal feedback and educational critiques.

At the International Honorary Exhibits, Candace Morgenstern made us proud! Her design, "America the Beautiful," was inspired by the lyrics of the patriotic song and echoed the “purple mountain majesties” that are in abundance across the United States.

Each of the 25 countries in attendance provided one judge, with the host country supplying the remaining judges needed for panels. Peggy Moore, former WAFA liaison and GCA floral design judge, represented the United States. At the 2020 India WAFA seminar, she completed a workshop on international judging and also attended a six-hour judges’ seminar. The following day, Moore enjoyed meeting with the competitors in the three classes she judged and was very pleased to collaborate with the international judges during the show. In some countries, it takes many years of classes, study and testing beyond judging certification to become an international judge. In Italy, for example, the process takes 20 years!

At each WAFA World Flower Show, a General Assembly meeting takes place. Delegates and observers from member countries attend to vote on proposals and approve the minutes and financials of the prior WAFA World Show. WAFA is comprised of representatives from 31 countries and allows only one organization (per country) to represent that country. The Floral Design Study Group (FDSG) from GCA and the AFA from National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC) merged to form the United States Floral Design Society (USFDS). Attendees at this meeting included delegates Gay Austin, president, National Garden Clubs Inc., and myself. Observers included Kathy Powell, the incoming GCA WAFA Liaison, Ammy Taylor, NGC Board Member and guest Peggy Moore, former GCA WAFA Liaison.

Sights, scenes and incomparable experiences
A reunion of participants at the 2018 WAFA India seminar was held at the historic hotel, Taj Jai Mahal Palace, prior to the WAFA India 2020 show. Entertainment traditional to India was provided by musicians, dancers and performers. The show was most welcoming, the food delicious and the atmosphere full of laughter and camaraderie. What better way to start a world flower show than with those whom you have shared similar experiences?

The farewell gala was held at Taj Rambagh Palace, a grand hotel that was converted from the 19th century former residence of the last Maharaja of Jaipur, India. This historic property is owned by the Royal Family of India and offers magnificent vistas and exquisite gardens. During this celebratory finale, the torch was passed from the 2020 WAFA India committee to the 2023 New Zealand committee.

I hope insights into the 2020 WAFA India World Show have piqued your interest to exhibit and also become immersed in the hundreds of designs from countries participating in upcoming WAFA 2023 World Show at Floral Aotearoa in Auckland, New Zealand, March 20-26, 2023. For more information visit: wafanz.co.nz.

Roberta Saraceno DuBeshter
GCA WAFA Liaison, Floral Design Committee
USFDS Vice President
Rochester Garden Club
Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.

Exhibitors from the United States (USFDS):
Gay Austin, president, National Garden Clubs Inc., member of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc.

Roberta Saraceno DuBeshter, GCA WAFA Liaison, Floral Design Committee member and member of the Rochester Garden Club of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.

Shelley Galloway, Kenilworth Garden Club, Zone XI, awarded a Second Place and a Commendation.

Peggy Moore, USFDS Judge, Fairfield Garden Club, Zone II.

Candace Morgenstern, USA Honorary International Designer, Newport Garden Club Zone II and NGC member, awarded (with Marie Francoise DePrez - FASG International Workshop Designer) a Third Place and the Special Award ‘Best Staged Exhibit’ in an Imposed (Challenge Class).

Kathy Powell, Peachtree Garden Club, Zone VIII, awarded a Second Place.

Ammy Taylor, NGC Sponsorship Committee, Deep South Region Horticulture Chairman, member of Louisiana Garden Club Federation.

Liza Weihman, Greenwich Garden Club, Zone II, received a Highly Commended award.

Sarah Boynton, Cohasset Garden Club, Zone I, and NGC member, was unable to attend the show.

Photos by Roberta Saraceno DuBeshter
For more information visit wafaindia.com

Nearly 15 years ago, the World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA) contacted floral design groups in the United States, urging the various entities to join its worldwide floral group. WAFA, which consists of 31 different countries, allows only ONE member per country.

Rather than choose just one existing organization, National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Garden Clubs of America determined that it was in the best interests of both nonprofit organizations to create an umbrella group called United States Floral Design Society (USFDS). This group joined WAFA in 1996, with Renee Blaschke, 2009-2011 president of National Garden Clubs Inc. serving as the president. Since it was formed, NGC and GCA have continued a two-year rotation of officer positions, and have participated in each world flower show.

Since its inception, the United States Floral Design Society has participated in world competitive floral design, including serving as host to the WAFA Flower Show in Boston, Massachusetts, in 2011. Once every three years, WAFA sponsors a World Flower Show, with the 13th show being completed in Jaipur, India, in late February, 2020. This joint effort continues to allow garden club members to be engaged in floral design with a global perspective.

Gay Austin
2019-2021 President
National Garden Clubs Inc.
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC.
2020 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 2020 Award of Excellence recipients are slated to accept their awards at NGC’s 92nd Annual Convention in East Rutherford, New Jersey, May 17–20, 2021.

“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

William Radler is the creator of the Knock Out® family of roses, which revolutionized the rose-growing and gardening industries.

His successful journey began as a hobby involving the cultivation and hybridization of roses in the basement of his home in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Introduced in 2000, the Knock Out Rose’s self-pruning habits, generous blooms and disease-resistant qualities quickly became the industry standard. It is the most widely sold rose in the world, with more than 90 million and subsequent varieties sold at independent garden centers, big box stores and many online retailers throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and Japan.

As a growing testament to the many years devoted to research and testing, Radler created the Radler Rosarium on his two-acre property, which showcases a wide variety of roses in beautifully landscaped settings. In addition, he collaborates with the Greenfield Beautification Committee to provide scheduled public tours.

For 26 years, Radler was the director of Milwaukee County Parks, headquartered in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, while serving 13 of those years as director of Boerner Botanical Gardens, a popular destination and part of the parks system. Radler holds a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He also is the author of “Rose Growing Simplified,” and co-author of “Rose Gardening.”

The commercial success of the Knock Out Rose gave root to Radler’s philanthropic efforts locally and regionally. In 2002, he formed Rose Innovations LLC, which focuses on research, development, education and philanthropy. He also created a donor-advised fund for the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, with royalties received from the sales of Knock Out Roses in support of the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens. Donations to other organizations include the American Rose Society and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. In addition, he designed the Radler Terrace at the Greenfield Community Center and created a landscape design for a community park and children’s playground in his neighborhood.

Radler was nominated for the 2020 NGC Award of Excellence by the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

Jon Carloftis is an award-winning landscape designer, author and popular lecturer, whose career in creating beautiful gardens spans more than 30 years.

Photo courtesy of JonCarloftis.com.
Considered a pioneer in the industry for the design of rooftop and small-space gardens in New York City, Carloftis launched his career in the Big Apple in 1988, where his skills and talent for creating iconic gardens in small spaces captured the attention of noted celebrities, including Julianne Moore, Edward Norton and Mike Myers, as well as a number of renowned art collectors. In addition, Carloftis designed rooftop gardens for a number of corporate clients, including the New York City headquarters of Google® in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood.

He is owner of Jon Carloftis Fine Gardens, Rockcastle River Trading Company, joncarloftis.com, a unique retail shopping destination situated on 50 bucolic acres on the Carloftis family homestead in Lexington, Kentucky. The store offers luxury items and quality lines of products for the home, seasonal treasures and invites shoppers to explore the garden and landscaping vignettes that showcase garden tools, statuary, pottery, outdoor furniture and garden supplies.

A popular author in the garden industry, his books include “Beautiful Gardens of Kentucky,” an introspective of 21 public gardens throughout the Bluegrass State, “Beyond the Windowsill: Add Style to Your Home with the Beauty of Indoor Plants,” and “First a Garden,” which he co-authored with Susan Smith-Durisek.

In addition, Carloftis crafted garden designs for institutions throughout the Bluegrass State, including the Kentucky Governor’s mansion in Frankfort; Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond; University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg; Corbin Middle School in Corbin; and in 2016, the Baptist Health Lexington Cancer Center Garden, which was dedicated in memory of his mother, Lucille Bowling Carloftis. Ongoing commercial and residential projects in Kentucky include the Maker’s Mark Distillery in Loretto and the Castle Key Distillery in Frankfort, as well as rooftop gardens in Louisville and Lexington.

A longtime supporter of the mission of National Garden Clubs Inc., he designed a custom pink ceramic birdhouse as part of his collection for Louisville Stoneware in support of NGC’s Plant It Pink program, a national initiative that promotes breast cancer awareness. In 2019, he designed and implemented a plan for the refurbishment of the atrium garden at NGC headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

Carloftis holds a bachelor’s degree in communications from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he cites his classes in business communications as the impetus for his entrepreneurial spirit. In addition, to foster his love of horticulture, he completed intensive courses of study at the University of Kentucky’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Carloftis was nominated for the 2020 NGC Award of Excellence by The Garden Club of Kentucky Inc.

In recent years, Jon Carloftis, a 10th generation Kentuckian, returned to his roots in Lexington to purchase and restore Botherum, one of the city’s most historically and architecturally unique residences. Built in 1851, the complex, two-year project included the restoration of the home’s interior and exterior, as well as landscaping and gardens. He and partner Dale Fisher were recognized for their work at Botherum with a 2014 Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Award, Kentucky’s most distinguished award for historic preservation excellence.

**John Forti**, an award-winning garden historian, ethnobotanist, garden writer and local foods advocate, is the executive director of Bedrock Gardens, a leading regional resource for horticultural education and agritourism, in Lee, New Hampshire. Under his leadership as founding director, Forti is guiding the transition of the 37-acre site from a historic farm and private garden to a public oasis of art, horticulture and inspiration.

Forti is a regional governor and biodiversity specialist for Slow Food USA, a national chapter of Slow Food®, a global organization and international grassroots movement that connects food producers and consumers to champion local agriculture, farmers’ markets and traditional, regional cuisine.

He previously served as director of horticulture for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the oldest horticultural society in the United States, where he transitioned the society’s grounds into a public garden, restored a beloved children’s garden and spearheaded a statewide school garden collaboration.

During his tenure as curator and director of historic landscapes at Strawbery Banke Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Forti created an ethnobotanical herb garden; an award-winning historic landscape app; a Victorian hothouse exhibit; a World War II victory garden restoration; and the first living history children’s garden in the nation at the historical site. Strawbery Banke Museum, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features 32 historic buildings, 12 original historic gardens ranging from the 17th to the 19th centuries and...
diverse educational and preservation programs. In addition, he served for 12 years as director of horticulture at Plimoth Plantation Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where he researched, designed and led on-site classes in the museum’s Native American and colonial gardens and developed a historic seeds program that garnered international attention for the preservation of the Pilgrim and Wampanoag heirloom crops.

A celebrated author and frequent contributor to gardening, lifestyle and food publications, Forti is a regular media guest and popular lecturer nationally and internationally. He also hosts “The Heirloom Gardener – John Forti,” a daily blog visited by more than 60,000 people around the world. His new book with Timber Press is due out in spring 2021.

Forti was nominated for the 2020 NGC Award of Excellence by the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

About Bedrock Gardens

A premier garden of New England, Bedrock Gardens bedrockgardens.org, is an emerging public garden in Lee, New Hampshire, that integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculpture into an inspiring landscape journey. Situated on 37 acres on land that once served as the site of a historic dairy farm, Bedrock Gardens offers beautiful vistas that guide visitors along paths through distinct garden areas, which include an acre of native grasses designed like a painting; an extensive espaliered Belgian fence; a serene Japanese teahouse garden; elegant lotus rill; rock garden; pinetum; apiary; wildlife ponds; pergolas; and two miles of garden and woodland trails, which visitors can explore and take inspiration from for their own home landscapes.

LONE STAR STATE GARDEN CLUB dedicates blue star memorial highway marker

Members of Colleyville Garden Club in Colleyville, Texas, hosted a ceremony on Veterans Day in 2019, to honor local veterans and rededicate a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker. The marker, originally dedicated on May 22, 1992, had been removed during road construction. The ceremony included local dignitaries, United States veterans, community residents and officials from local law enforcement agencies. For more information, visit ColleyvilleGardenClub.org

Founded in 1961, Colleyville Garden Club is a member of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

Photos courtesy of Colleyville Garden Club

Dedication of original Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in 1992.

NGC Calendar

National Conventions

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>East Rutherford, N.J.</td>
<td>May 17-20 (installation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Orlando, Fla.</td>
<td>Dates TBD</td>
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Fall Board Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Fargo, N.D.</td>
<td>Sept. 24-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>St. Louis, Mo.</td>
<td>Dates TBD</td>
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Tools to Transform Gardens and Communities

2020 Ames Tool Grant Program

AMES proudly sponsors the National Garden Clubs’ Tools Grant Program since 2014. Ames provides tools for grant winners to support local community gardening projects.

National Garden Club Inc. and The Ames Companies Inc., the largest manufacturer of garden tools in the United States, forged a collaboration in 2014. In 2020, The Ames Companies generously agreed to extend its in-kind grant program, and set aside a total of $4,500 (retail value) of garden tools for local community gardening projects performed or supported by NGC local member clubs. The tool selection was expanded in 2018, to include tools for children and a group of lighter weight and mid-sized tools, which are more conducive for use in school or garden therapy projects. Garden clubs are eligible to apply for tools with a total retail value of no more than $250.

2020 Ames Tool Grant Program

Twenty-six garden clubs in 22 U.S. states were recognized for a 2020 Ames Tool Grant, selected from over 100 applications across the nation. The tools received by garden club winners will be used to beautify communities; introduce youngsters to horticulture; work with those with disabilities; increase accessibility to fresh food; and other projects that enhance well-being and the environment.

Diane Dawson
Chairman
NGC Sponsorship Committee
DianeDawson@dawsonsales.com
Visit gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools

Alaska
Wildflower Garden Club

Arkansas
Lake and Plantation Garden Club

California
Eureka Sequoia Garden Club
Petaluma Garden Club

Colorado
Dig and Dream Garden Club

Connecticut
Stafford Garden Club

Missouri
Lake Bloomers Garden Club
The 25 Gardeners

New Jersey
Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford

New Mexico
Valley Gardeners Garden Club

New York
Ogdensburg Youth Garden Club

North Carolina
Two Green Thumbs Garden Club

Ohio
Highland Heights Garden Club

Oklahoma
Tulsa Garden Club

Pennsylvania
Upper Perkiomenville Garden Club

Tennessee
Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club

Virginia
Ayr Hill Garden Club

Vermont
Garden Club of Manchester

“WELLNESS GARDEN”
In collaboration with the James C. Kennedy Wellness Center.
The Charleston Magnolia Garden Club, Mississippi

“RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE GARDENS”
The Burlington Garden Club, Vermont

“GARDEN BEAUTY”
The Wedowee Garden Club, Alabama

“POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN”
The Ramblers Garden Club Louisville, Kentucky
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 but are not limited to:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- Youth gardening
- Habitat for Humanity landscaping
- Community Landscaping projects
- 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 previous PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants are NOT eligible to apply.

How to Apply:
- Application is limited to a TOTAL of two (2) pages.
  - ONE (1) PAGE - Application Form
  - ONE (1) PAGE - Budget
- Applications of more than two pages will NOT be considered. No photos or drawings!

For information on submission check the NGC website: www.gardenclubs.org

Application Deadline:
October 15, 2020
- Recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by January 31, 2021.
- Projects must be completed by February 28, 2022: final report forms due by April 1, 2022.

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 5

TOTAL 100

Funding Guidelines:
Grants will not be provided for:
- Projects in which club does not participate in some aspect
- Purchase of Blue and Gold Star Markers

Final Report:
- Competitive Flower Shows
- Scout projects
- Salaries or benefits of personnel
- Political action programs
- Capital drives and fund building
- Scholarships and endowments
- Private gardens
- Lawsuits and litigation
- Overhead costs

1. Deadline: within two months after the completion of the project or by April 1, 2022.
2. Email the following:
   - A short two-to-three pages 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, website and social media. A release form for adults and minors can be found on the NGC website: http://www.gardenclub.org/about-us/press-room/minor-image-release.aspx.

Plant America Community Project Grants

The Plant America Community Projects Grants program will continue for 2021. Clubs will find the necessary information and the 2021 Guidelines and Application Form on the NGC website at gardenclub.org

The deadline for receiving applications is October 15, 2020.

David Robson
Chairman
Plant America Community Project Grants
drobson@illinois.edu

Plant America
5”x5” Magnet
$5 each

Shop online today at NGC Member Services:
shopgardenclub.org/shop/
Call 1-800-550-6007
E-mail: headquarters@gardenclub.org
PERFECT VISION 2020
‘seeing is believing’
NGC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

As part of the NGC Perfect Vision 2020 Flower Show, the botanical arts section called for photography exhibits. The competition, “Seeing is Believing,” drew 143 entries from National Garden Club members in 27 states across the U.S., as well as from affiliate members in Peru, Venezuela and Mexico.

The competition was created to stimulate an interest in gardens and gardening, showcase photographic abilities and how these correlate to NGC goals, objectives and initiatives. The competition comprised the following categories:

- Class 1A, “Nearsighted,” Close-up and Macro
- Class 1B, “Nearsighted,” Close-up and Macro
- Class 2, “Farsighted,” Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes
- Class 3, “Asigmatic,” Depicting Motion
- Class 4, ‘Colorblind,’ Monochrome Image

As in years past, this year's NGC photo competition was widely popular, and the photo submissions were very high in quality. As a result of these competitions, we have identified a core audience of more than 500 NGC members who enjoy entering the annual NGC photo competition.

The judges for the competition this year included internationally renowned photography experts from the Photographic Society of America, Australia, Brazil; and the Garden Club of America. They offered constructive comments on the photos of each semi-finalist and noted some entries for special commendation.

Congratulations to each of the exhibitors, and thank you for sharing your extraordinary talents with the members and affiliates of National Garden Clubs Inc.

Arabella Dane
NGC Flower Show Committee
arabellasd@aol.com

David Robson
NGC Flower Show instructor
Chairman, NGC Plant America Community Project Grants
drobson@illinois.edu

Charlie Burke
President 2015-2017,
Photographic Society of America
Photography Competition Coordinators
visit gardenclub.org

NCG Botanical Arts Photography Award to the Highest-Scoring Blue Ribbon Winner
First Place, “Within a Water Drop” by Dianne Roberts, Garden Club of Madison, CT

LEFT: Second Place, “Elegance” by Rochelle Darby, Sulphur Garden Club, LA
RIGHT: Third Place, “Perfection” by Nancy Ann Binger, Dix Hills Garden Club, NY

TOP LEFT: “Pastel Peony” by Kathleen Sybert, Hanover Garden Club, PA
TOP RIGHT: “He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not” by Linsey Duffy, Dell Rapids Area Garden Club, SD.
BOTTOM LEFT: Fourth Place, “Morning Violet after the Evening Rain” by Nancy Reid, Reading Garden Club, MA

ABOVE: “Hydrangea” by Loan Tran, Catonsville Garden Club, MD
LEFT: “Sunflower Swirl” by Linda Taft, Anniversary Garden Club, Greensboro, NC
CLASS 1B

‘Nearsighted’

Runner-up to the Highest-Scoring Blue Ribbon Winner
First Place, “Sunbathing Hawaiian Anole” by Deborah Wyght, Oakley Garden Club, Cincinnati, OH

Third Place, “Hidden Future Butterfly” by Deana Dossey Schafer, Violet Crown and A&M Garden Club, Austin, TX

Second Place, “Peggy’s Cove Light House” by Richard Pelikan, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Westfield, NJ

First Place, “Butterfly below Buttonbush” by Janeen Grohsmeyer, Franklin Garden Club, KY

Commended for Most Creative/Artistic
“Presby Iris Garden, Montclair, NJ” by Richard Pelikan, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Westfield, NJ

“Bumbling About” by Page Steed, Angel Fire Garden Club, MN

“Framing a City” by Susanna Funk, Dix Hills Garden Club, Deer Park, NY

CLASS 2

‘Farsighted - Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes’

Second Place, “Peggy’s Cove Light House” by Richard Pelikan, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Westfield, NJ

First Place, “Silvermine River” by Penelope Ross, Fairfield Garden Club, New Canaan, CT

“Hemme Gardens Lily Pond” by Sharron Hemme, Petoskey Area Garden Club Inc., MI

Commended for Best Composition
“Butterfly and Orchid” by Sharon Bolingbroke, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI

“January Full Moon” by Christine Swanson, Mt. Airy Garden Club, MD

“Hemme Gardens Lily Pond” by Sharron Hemme, Petoskey Area Garden Club Inc., MI

“Through the Looking Glass” by Grant Kniedler, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI

“Harvest Moon” by Anne Green, Greenwich Garden Club, CT and Mt. Desert Garden Club, ME

LEFT: “Framing a City” by Susanna Funk, Dix Hills Garden Club, Deer Park, NY
MIDDLE: “Through the Looking Glass” by Grant Kniedler, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI
RIGHT: Fourth Place, “Peace and Solitude” by Margot Partridge, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Westfield, NJ
CLASS 3
‘Astigmatic’

First Place, “Hummingbird in Flight” by Loan Tran, Catonsville Garden Club, MD

Third Place, “Hello, Buddy” by Grant Kniedler, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI

“Rushing Water” by Kathleen Marty, Boothbay Region Garden Clubs, Trevett, ME

LEFT: “Waterfront Smokestacks” by Marie Mueller, Pleasant Hills Garden Club, Pittsburgh, PA

RIGHT: “Snowy Egret Fishing” by Deborah Wyght, Oakley Garden Club, Cincinnati, OH

Commended for Most Distinctive “Cranberry Waters” by Anne Green, Greenwich Garden Club, CT and Mt. Desert Garden Club, ME

Fourth Place, “Squawking in the Morning” by Pien Nagy, Washington Valley Garden Club, Branchburg, NJ

CLASS 4
‘Colorblind’

TOP LEFT: First Place, “Gerbera Daisy” by Dianne Roberts, Garden Club of Madison, CT

TOP RIGHT: Second Place, “Curve Appeal” by Rochelle Darby, Sulphur Garden Club, LA

Snow-covered Tree at Bradford Beach” by Ruby Kerr, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI

MIDDLE LEFT: Fourth Place, “All Ears” by Lori Lucas, Community Garden Club of Hunterdon County, Whitehouse Station, NJ

Commended for Technical Achievement “Night Birch” by Barbara Spellmeyer, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Plainfield, NJ

The NGC President’s Choice Award Third Place, “Allerton Garden, Kauai” by Penelope Ross, Fairfield Garden Club, New Canaan, CT

“Wild Geese Flying” by Mary Rogers, Berlin Heights Garden Club, Wakeman, OH

Second Place, “Taking Flight” by Kathleen Sybert, Hanover Garden Club, PA

“The NGC President’s Choice Award” by Penelope Ross, Fairfield Garden Club, New Canaan, CT

“Rushing Water” by Kathleen Marty, Boothbay Region Garden Clubs, Trevett, ME

LEFT: “Waterfront Smokestacks” by Marie Mueller, Pleasant Hills Garden Club, Pittsburgh, PA

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Fourth Place, “Squawking in the Morning” by Pien Nagy, Washington Valley Garden Club, Branchburg, NJ
‘show me state’
garden club garners

NGC 2020 PLANT AMERICA
COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT

The award was given to Clayton Garden Club in Clayton, Missouri, for its support of the Seven Generations Garden at EarthDance Organic Farm School, which operates on the site of the oldest-known organic farm west of the Mississippi River. Clayton Garden Club, marking its 80th anniversary this year, was recognized for the award for its ongoing participation in educational programming and gardening activities at EarthDance’s Seven Generations Garden, which provides education and hands-on training for budding gardeners, beginning farmers, youth, and “agricurious” community members.

The nonprofit EarthDance Organic Farm School, situated on 14 acres in the heart of Ferguson, Missouri in St. Louis County, teaches people of all ages where their food comes from, and how to grow it themselves. Through field trips, tours, volunteering, and a tuition-based Farm & Garden Apprenticeship program, the USDA-certified organic farm is committed to agricultural education.

A Garden for Seven Generations
The small-scale Seven Generations Garden, which adjoins the commercial-scale organic farm, offers service learning and garden-based lessons to school groups, children in summer camps and homeschool students. The garden is a showcase for home-scale growing techniques and introduces young people to the science and wonder of natural systems, as well as

About EarthDance
A Permaculture Paradise in the Midwest

EarthDance Organic Farm School earthdancefarms.org is a teaching farm that shares the craft and science of organic farming, cultivates food leaders through hands-on education and provides a community model for sustainable food production. Founded in 2008 and situated on 14 acres, the farm operates on the site of the oldest-known organic farm west of the Mississippi River. Located in Ferguson, Missouri, the site has been a source of organic food production since 1883.

The mission of EarthDance is to grow abundant fresh produce through the sharing of hard work and instilling an appreciation of the land. Funding is provided through crop sales, apprenticeship tuition, private tours and classes, grants, fundraisers and individual and corporate donations.

- The farm site is designed with permaculture principles at its core. In 2019, EarthDance focused production on one acre under intensive no-till management.
- The ecosystem at the EarthDance farmscape attracts pollinators, beneficial insects and nesting songbirds, amidst fields of certified organic vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers.
- EarthDance grows vegetables year-round in two high tunnels that extend the growing season, as well as produces seedlings in a greenhouse.
- The organization’s 250-tree mixed orchard features varieties of pears, apples, cherries, pawpaws and more, planted on water-harvesting berms and swales.
- While apprentices pay a tuition fee, they are “students” at the EarthDance Organic Farm School. In this role, they learn the valuable skills of organic agriculture from experienced farmers and gardeners through hands-on education in the fields. Apprentices are eligible to earn college credit through the University of Missouri-St. Louis. They also receive a share of the harvest each week.
In addition, members
instruction and learning.
educational signage for
and the addition of
gardening tools for
students, youth-sized
for visitors and
clearly marked paths
with areas designating
raised garden beds,
of lumber to construct
used in the purchase
Project Grant will be
by the NGC Plant
Funding provided
benefit those in the future.
“kitchen garden,” is a nod to the ancient
The Iroquois concept of stewardship, which
urges the current generation to “think
seven generations ahead,” about how
decisions made today will impact and
benefit those in the future.

Funding provided
by the NGC Plant
America Community
Project Grant will be
used in the purchase
of lumber to construct
raised garden beds,
with areas designating
clearly marked paths
for visitors and
students, youth-sized
gardening tools for
garden-based lessons and
the addition of
educational signage for
instruction and learning.
In addition, members
of Clayton Garden Club will provide
ongoing support for the continuation of
programming at the Seven Generations
Garden, resulting in more local food
being available for the next seven
generations – and beyond.

Growing Green – Gardening for
Sustainability
Home gardening, agricultural
education and access to fresh produce
are as vital today as they were centuries
ago. More recently, access to food
has been hampered by COVID-19.
EarthDance uses the land, farm school
and other resources to provide fresh
food to area families and donates
produce to other nonprofit organizations
that feed the vulnerable. On many
Saturday mornings, EarthDance offers
a pay-in-advance, “pay what you can,”
drive-through farm stand to support
families with limited access to fresh food.

About Clayton Garden Club
Clayton Garden Club in Clayton,
Missouri, is one of the oldest continuous
garden clubs in the nation.
It promotes civic improvement, with
members actively maintaining sensory
gardens at a local city park and an
early childhood center. Each year, club members
plant native perennials to
attract pollinators at public
gardens on the grounds of the National Museum of
Transportation in St. Louis
County.

In addition, Clayton
Garden Club recognizes
businesses and
organizations in the city
that demonstrate the art
of beautiful landscaping. The City of Clayton is
an economic hub for
government, serving as the
county seat of St. Louis
County. Its downtown
business district features
fine restaurants, cafes
with outdoor seating, art
galleries and boutiques.
The city annually hosts
major cultural events
such as the St. Louis Art
Fair and Taste of Clayton
food festival.

Clayton Garden Club
is a member of The
Federated Garden Clubs
of Missouri Inc.

Diane Denney Rogers
Vice President
Clayton Garden Club
ddr931@aol.com

What's Growing?
Dozens of varieties of
fruits & vegetables are
grown and harvested at
EarthDance Organic Farm
School, including red kitten
spinach, Korean giant
Asian pears and Cherokee
purple tomatoes. To view
a list of the extensive
array of produce
grown at the farm, visit
earthdancefarms.org/
food/what-we-grow.

The farm encourages
area residents to schedule
a visit to see what's
available in season.
Produce also is sold at
two of the area's large,
outdoor farmers markets,
as well as to local chefs
and grocers that promote
locally sourced food.

The Ferguson-Florissant
School District, a public
school district that serves
11 municipalities in the
Greater St. Louis area,
regularly purchases
vegetables from
EarthDance to use in fresh
produce “taste-tests,” at its
elementary schools and
for use in summer food
preservation programs.

In addition, EarthDance
donates produce to
Operation Food Search
Inc., a nonprofit that feeds
200,000 people each
month and distributes
food and necessities to
330 community partners
in 31 Missouri and Illinois
counties and the City of
St. Louis, as well as to
other area community
organizations that help
meet food insecurities.
environmental, gardening and landscape design

SCHOOLS

In accordance with local, regional and national efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, National Garden Clubs Inc., temporarily postponed or canceled courses for NGC Environmental Schools, Gardening Schools, Landscape Design Schools and/or Refreshers. NGC’s ES, GS and LDS chairmen offer the following updates and look forward to resuming activities when emergency restrictions to protect public health are curtailed.

Extensions for Students and Consultants

Students who planned to attend an ES, GS or LD School to complete their fourth course to comply with the seven-year time restriction, or consultants (with a good standing date of December 31, 2020), who planned to attend an ES, GS or LD School or Refresher to comply with the seven-year time restriction may apply for an extension with their state school chairman. Please use Extension Form 9-2019, which is available on the NGC website at gardenclub.org. Schools, Forms/zip download.

• The appropriate state school’s chairman will sign and forward to the appropriate NGC accrediting chairman, and/or to the NGC ES, GS, or LD School chairman, who can then approve the one-year extension request.

• The NGC School chairman will notify the appropriate state school chairmen and Rebecka Flowers, NGC schools secretary.

• The state school chairman will notify the student or consultant of the granted extension and maintain a record of the extension. For more information, please see page 17 in the NGC “Schools Handbook.”

• Students and consultants unsure of their good standing date in a given NGC school should contact the appropriate state school chairman. It is disappointing that many of the courses and/or refreshers for NGC’s Environmental Schools, Gardening Schools and Landscape Design Schools have been postponed or canceled. We hope to reschedule these important events in the near future.

• As a “Plan B,” California Garden Clubs Inc. has successfully held two virtual gardening courses. It should be noted that virtual ES, GS and LDS courses/refreshers are considered to be an optional Plan B. They DO NOT replace courses held in classroom settings.

• Guidelines for virtual courses to meet accreditation standards will be available soon.

• There is a virtual Tri-Refresher scheduled for June 4 and 5, 2020, sponsored by Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. For more information and to register, visit the Michigan Garden Clubs website at michigangardenclubs.org

• Please check the NGC website for corrections to the NGC “Schools Handbook” and forms.

In addition, it is recommended students and consultants review the pertinent information in the “Guide for Students and Consultants,” on the NGC website, Schools page.

Judy Newman
Chairman, Environmental Schools
Newman9641@aol.com

Barbara Hadsell
Chairman, Gardening Schools
BarbaraHadsell@cs.com

Greg Pokorski
Chairman, Landscape Design Schools
GregPokorski@earthlink.net

flower show

SCHOOLS

As many NGC FS Schools, Flower Shows, Symposia and the April FSS Handbook Exam have been canceled due to COVID-19, the following policies have been implemented:

• Any FSS series that is currently in progress may reduce the number of months required between courses from four to three months until December 31, 2021.

• FSS students, Student Judges and all Accredited Judges who have been unable to further their education or accrue the required...
Chapter 1

III. D. 2. B. ii. Subdividing HB page 3

There must be three (3) or more exhibits, botanically identical (variety, cultivar, series or trade-marked names), or similar in form, color, size or description to justify forming a subclass with the exception of petite horticulture specimen(s) that are never in competition with standardized specimens but are subdivided into their own class or subclass. (Additional reference HB page 61)

Chapter 12

III. Becoming a Student Judge HB pages 113 and 114

A. Successful completion of three (3) Flower Show School courses. NGC recommends that a course series be taken in sequential order, but this is not required.

B. Pass all Written Flower Show Procedure, Horticulture and Design exams with a minimum score of 70 for any three (3) courses.

C. Note: After successful completion of any two (2) courses the student is eligible to count exhibiting credits...

IV. Becoming an Accredited Judge HB page 114-115

A. 2. Classroom Requirements ... minimum score of 70.

D. 4. Schedule Writing ... minimum score of 70

E. 1. Handbook Examination... minimum score of 70

V. Becoming an Accredited Life Judge HB page 116-119

D. ... minimum score of 70

VI. Becoming an Accredited Master Judge HB page 119-120

A. Judging Requirements for each Refresher HB pages 116-120

ADD: 3. d. Serving on the evaluating panel of an NGC Flower Show.

For clarification, all references to passing exams listed in the “Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017,” must state a minimum score of 70.

V. A. Judging Requirements for each Refresher HB pages 116-120

ADD: 3. d. Serving on the evaluating panel of an NGC Flower Show.

For clarification, this now includes all Accredited, Accredited Life and Accredited Master Judges. ■

Jan Warshauer
Chairman, Flower Show Schools
jwarshauer@aol.com

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

For additional information, visit gardencub.org/scholarships

National Garden Clubs Inc. 2020 scholarship recipients

National Garden Clubs Inc. is proud of its college scholarship program, which offers financial aid to students majoring in the fields of study related to horticulture and the environment.

NGC granted a total of 43 scholarships of $4,000 each to the following students who are planning careers related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture. Congratulations to our winners and best wishes for your future education!

Lisa Robinson
2019-2021 Chairman, NGC Scholarships
gardenlisava@gmail.com

For additional information, visit gardencub.org/scholarships

State | Applicant Name | Named Scholarship
--- | --- | ---
Arizona | Paige Anthony | Barbara Barnett
Arkansas | Thomas McKeown | Mary B. Kittel
California | Borah Lim | Ellamae Feher
California | Natalie Rachel Fulton | Mary Louise Michie
Colorado | Alexandra Leigh VanTill | Helen S. Hull
Connecticut | Anastasia N Salisbury | Helen Hussey Champlin
Florida | Blaire Mallory Kleinman | Jessie M Conner
Georgia | Alana Scott Edwards | Deen Day Sanders
Georgia | Zia Valerie Williamson | Ellen Griffin
Idaho | Katherine Grace Woodhouse | Hubert Bond Owens
Illinois | Nora Grace Hardy | Violet Herich Dawson
Indiana | Tanner Jordan Prewitt | Thekla Neuner
Iowa | Caryn Lyn Dawson | Katherine Henby Hedley
Kansas | Karen Schnecke | Junne Johnsrud
Kentucky | Rebecca Caldebeck | Sandra H. Robinson
Louisiana | Abbie Judice | Phyllis J. Wood
Maine | Jordan Thomas Daigle | Robert H Rucker
Maryland | Mia Quinto | Shirley Nicolai
Massachusetts | Emma Katherine Burke | Barbara D. May
Massachusetts | Angela B Luckey | Jean T. Ladson
Michigan | Haley Suzanne Kuhnle | Osa Mae Barton
Minnesota | Brett Stolpestad | Kitty Larkin
Mississippi | Dane Christensen | Geraldine Dean
Missouri | Danielle Evislizar | Lucile Mauntel
Montana | Chris Prange | Evelyn Mooney
Nevada | Cameron Nicole Yetta | Renee D Blaschke
New Jersey | Daniel Ilkow | May Duff Walters
New Mexico | Jonathan R Lewis | June P Wood
New York | Sarah Kirkpatrick | Eleanor R Crosby
North Carolina | Brian Schulker | Eleanor L Yates
North Dakota | Grace Dragseth | Miriam Anderson Steel
Ohio | Andrew Yates | Winifred Fink
Oklahoma | Phoebe Witten Austerman | Lorena Martin Spillers
Oregon | Kimberly May Ortiz | Linda G. Nelson Benton
Pennsylvania | Kimberly Ferrara | Lois Dupre Shuster
Rhode Island | Sydnei Pezza-Luther | Tempie Dalgren
South Dakota | Mary Jo Nold | Cornelia H Kellogg
Tennessee | Anna Katherine Armour | Cordelia Brumby/Hazel Dillingham
Utah | Kali Jo Clarke | Jane Layman
Vermont | Jennifer Mallinson Mull | Hazel L. Knapp
Virginia | Amber Edwards | Nancy L Hargroves
Washington | Stephanie Roh | Violet Gose
West Virginia | Russell Husted Ward IV | Martha Smith

32 | The National Gardener

Summer 2020 | 33
One of my earliest floral memories is that of a clump of beautiful purple irises in my grandmother’s yard. As a six-year-old, little did I know that farther down the road my own garden as an adult would become a rainbow of irises. There are so many color combinations to choose from, that one can hardly resist collecting more than a few. And, in my case, living not too far from a huge iris farm, the temptation to add a few more never goes away.

My first visit to this nearby iris farm happened in early June, when the place was ablaze with dazzling color. What a sight – acres of gorgeous irises in every color (except red). I was smitten, and picked out a dozen or so of my favorites. Every year for the next 10 years, I returned to the farm and came away with new treasures.

Eventually, I discovered that irises have but one fault: they multiply. They soon become like the proverbial litter of kittens, for which you need to find new homes. After a while, your friends begin to refuse any more iris “kittens.” So, you begin to think about other ways to part with your iris collection. Options may include the farmer’s market in the heat of July, or a local store or church may allow a box of giveaways to be set in a designated space. Although it isn’t a deadly sin to toss the irises on a rubbish heap, my gardener’s conscience is reluctant to take that route.

Where does my penchant for irises come from? Looking back, I was heavily influenced by noted garden writer Henry Mitchell, in his praise for irises in “One Man’s Garden.” He planted at least 500 varieties of irises at his suburban home. While this is an amazing feat, he also made it a point to step away from his professional duties for two weeks each year when the irises were in bloom to enjoy strolling through the beds, soaking up the beauty.

Alas, I pretty much do the same! When my irises are in bloom, I saunter among them every day and burn their beauty onto my retina. I breathe in the sweet aromas of some varieties of irises – some offer a distinct grape fragrance, like a popular flavored drink mix, while others evoke a citrus blend. At least one variety – notably graceful in cream with burgundy frills – should carry a warning, as it bears a repugnant scent when brought indoors and arranged in a vase. This was brought to my attention by my husband as he entered the kitchen one summer morning and stated “have our cats had an accident in here?” As we sniffed about, the culprit turned out to be the strikingly beautiful bouquet of irises on the kitchen table!

Iris, I must warn, are beautiful, affordable, collectible, growable charmers that will capture your heart, and provide many adorable “kittens” in the years to come!

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

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

Charlotte A. Swanson
Consultant, Gardening Schools
swannson@daltontel.net
cultivating success

INDIANA GARDEN CLUB TAPS INTO CREATIVITY, RESOURCES IN RESPONSE TO NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

National Garden Clubs Inc. members across the nation are discovering new ways to navigate and conduct ongoing club business and fundraising events due to COVID-19.

Members of Hobart Garden Club in Hobart, Indiana, located southeast of Chicago, Illinois, held a curbside two-day plant sale in April. In keeping with proper social-distancing guidelines, gardening enthusiasts in more than 1,100 vehicles visited the large, open-air event to purchase plants on display. In addition, the club made it possible for people to order a variety of other plants for sale through an online photo gallery. Orders were available for pickup at the outdoor parking lot of the nearby Chamber of Commerce, and garden club members – fortified with protective gloves and masks – loaded the plants into waiting vehicles. The plant sale also included a guest appearance by the Easter Bunny, and families were excited to have the opportunity to capture a photo of their children standing at a safe distance from the iconic holiday visitor.

Proceeds from the plant sale were allocated toward the club’s scholarship program, as well as for the planting of native trees in the state through NGC’s partnership with Penny Pines, a program in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the spirit of giving, the garden club also collected donations for the American Red Cross disaster education program at the event.

In another project, and in conjunction with its ongoing work at the award-winning rooftop garden therapy program at a local military veteran’s center, Hobart Garden Club members made individual vegetable container gardens for the veterans. Veterans were able to pick up and take the container gardens home, nurture the plants, and use the vegetables in nutritious meals.

During the new coronavirus pandemic, people are learning to adapt to the guidelines and constraints placed upon them. Members of Hobart Garden Club offer the following ideas for garden clubs:

• Hold a free web video conferencing meeting. Popular apps include Zoom, GoToMeeting, Pexip, TeamViewer, Cisco Webex, Skype, FaceTime, or schedule a group teleconference call.

• Social media is a critical tool to keep in touch with members. Encourage members to post gardening ideas, a garden joke of the day, or share photos of their gardens or latest projects, on your club’s Facebook page.

• Offer to read “The Saved Seed” or “The Frightened Frog,” NGC children’s books, on a local library’s scheduled virtual story-time hour.

• Hold a “garden of the month” contest, with club members, maintaining social distancing, may walk or drive through neighborhoods to name awards for best front yard landscaping, best commercial or business landscaping, etc. Or, in a similar vein, start a contest via social media for area homeowners or businesses that demonstrate through flowers and plantings support for medical professionals, first responders and essential employees. Consult the NGC Flower Show Handbook for criteria on judging gardens or create your own categories on a score sheet. Share winners on social media.

In 2018, Hobart Garden Club was the recipient of an Ames Companies Tool Grant, in which the garden club received a new wheelbarrow, rake, hoe and shovel, and used the tools in five local projects. In addition, Hobart Garden Club members shared the items with other area garden clubs, which used the tools in 30 additional community projects. The projects allow people an opportunity to grow fresh flowers and produce – activities that are particularly critical as communities navigate local, regional and national restrictions during COVID-19. Visit ames.com or gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools
to attend classes online. Visit gardenclub.org to download gardening studies, horticulture lessons and lesson plans on basic floral design.

- Partner with leadership at local schools to explore ideas on how to promote your club’s youth projects and contests virtually. Thank you to all NGC members who volunteer tirelessly to teach the next generations the love of gardening. Take care, and remember, “gardeners always know the best dirt.”

James Pavelka
Hobart Garden Club
jamespavelka@comcast.net

Photos courtesy Hobart Garden Club

Editor's note: As profiled in the fall 2017 issue of “The National Gardener,” Hobart Garden Club was the first garden club in the nation to be awarded an NGC Plant America Project Grant from the Espoma Company for its rooftop garden therapy project for military veterans. Espoma is a leader in providing natural and organic products for the lawn and garden industry. Visit www.espoma.com or gardenclub.org/projects/espoma

———

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB BOLSTERS LOCAL TREE-PLANTING EFFORTS WITH PLANT AMERICA WITH TREES: each one, plant one

For more than 45 years, TreePeople has been changing urban environments through the simple act of planting trees. The nonprofit environmental organization works in city parks, schools, streets, urban forests and the Santa Monica Mountains of the Greater Los Angeles area to promote and facilitate the planting of trees. In addition, the organization selects trees that likely will thrive in each planting site, as well as provides care for the trees for five years to ensure good growth and survival.

In conjunction with TreePeople’s mission and NGC’s Plant America with Trees: Each One Plant One initiative, Southern California Garden Club made a donation in recognition of its 134 members to the tree dedication program of TreePeople. As a gesture of appreciation, TreePeople volunteers plan to plant a grove of 134 trees to honor Southern California Garden Club members. Located at the 45-acre Coldwater Canyon Park in the heart of Los Angeles, TreePeople offers a wide range of environmental education programs to empower communities and policymakers to implement initiatives on healthy soil, clean water, the adoption of sustainable solutions and in the protection and support of the planting of trees.

Throughout the years, our garden club has helped to plant trees to offset the loss caused by natural disasters and intentional deforestation. These actions contribute to NGC’s commitment to preserve natural areas in our communities and world. We challenge all NGC clubs to participate in Plant America with Trees: Each One Plant One.

What a difference we can make if we all participate!

Greg Pokorski
President
Southern California Garden Club
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Visit treepeople.org

———

Grow our world and green our communities
Will YOU plant a tree this year?

The Plant America with Trees: Each ONE Plant ONE initiative encourages members of garden clubs across the nation to collaborate with members and organizations in their communities to foster and facilitate the planting of at least one native tree, as well as coordinate a plan for the tree’s ongoing care and maintenance.

With 50 state clubs, a National Capital area club, 5,000 member garden clubs, 330 international affiliated organizations around the globe and nearly 165,000 members, NGC is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.

If each ONE of our members plants just ONE tree, this translates to 165,000 trees planted each year!
The National Gardener

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

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

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

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

The new OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA of Greater Indianapolis is the first full-service public personal fitness facility of its kind in the nation to offer specialized programming and services tailored to U.S. military service members, veterans and their families. Services at the new OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA include a VA medical clinic on site that offers traditional clinical healthcare to more than 120,000 veterans locally as part of a full menu of YMCA programs.

The two story, 56,000-square-foot facility, located on the northwest side of Indianapolis, Indiana, in Pike Township, opened to the public in December, 2018. Funding for the construction of the $10 million facility was in part provided by the OrthoIndy Foundation, which was established in 2012 to improve mobility and function for residents of Central Indiana – with a particular emphasis on veterans and senior citizens to increase self-sufficiency, promote wellness and improve quality of life, especially for those impacted by orthopedic issues. The facility features an indoor pool, track, gymnasium, demonstration kitchen, playing fields and other amenities.

In 2017, at the beginning of construction on the new YMCA facility, members of Sages Garden Club in Indianapolis approached the organization with the idea of installing a pollinator garden near the front entrance to welcome YMCA members, visitors and veterans. In addition to benefiting the environment, the garden’s strategic location is located along the path to the Salute Sculpture, a towering memorial and place of peace and beauty for veterans and their families. Funding for the pollinator garden was received in the form of two grants – a 2017-2019 Pollinator Garden grant from The Garden Club of Indiana Inc. totaling $250 and a $1,000 2019 NGC Plant America Community Project Grant. The club also held several fundraisers to assist with any additional, unforeseen expenses. The scope of the project entailed:

- A 30-by-30-foot space initially filled with heavy, clay soil. After soil testing, a total of 8 cubic yards of compost was recommended to amend the soil before members could begin to plant.
- The space was tilled, which included the removal of large rocks by the YMCA staff. Several wheelbarrows of compost were added by garden club members and the facility’s staff.
- In mid-May, 11 garden club members planted nearly 90 native, perennial plants in a one-hour period. Club members also added mulch and established a weekly watering schedule to maintain and care for the garden over the next five months, a span that included Indiana’s typical 90-degree days of summer.

- A garden dedication took place in September. Attendees included garden club members, YMCA board members and staff, local dignitaries, members planted nearly 90 native, perennial plants in a one-hour period. Club members also added mulch and established a weekly watering schedule to maintain and care for the garden over the next five months, a span that included Indiana’s typical 90-degree days of summer.

Members of Sages Garden Club in Indianapolis, Indiana, installed a pollinator garden at the new OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA. The garden club was awarded a 2018-2019 NGC Plant America Grant and a pollinator garden grant from The Garden Club of Indiana for the project.
The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

THOMAS PAINE

I decided to deviate from my usual article on plants and write something which I hope is both timely and inspirational for the subscribers to our local publications. As in war, we are in the midst of a major battle for our survival. Victory Gardens were born out of the fear and uncertainty of World War I and continued during World War II. Our Republic encouraged citizens to become more self-sufficient for their produce. The gardens provided our soldiers of the soil with a reliably good source of healthy food. They also contributed to a unified national optimism that withstood and defeated the perils of fascist totalitarianism and maintained our American way of life. As I write this article, we are being told by health professionals to limit our grocery shopping trips and practice social distancing, a new terminology for most Americans. What better way to ensure a secure, uninterrupted supply of plant foods than having a Victory Vegetable Garden? You will enjoy a continuous supply of fresh vegetables; if you have an excess, why not preserve them or share them with family and friends.

There is no magic to having a vegetable garden. You will only need a supply of either seeds or a rooted plant, the choice is yours; however, planting with seeds is less expensive. If you don’t already have a reservoir of seed packets or seedlings, make a quick visit to see Peter and Tonya at The Rock Garden in Proberta. The seed varieties are practically limitless. What follows are some suggestions for you.

Beans are an excellent source of vitamins and protein. Bush varieties will lessen your workload since there would be no need for poles to train the beans onto. Some types that might be of some interest are Kentucky Wonder Bush, Romano Bush, Cherokee Wax Bush, Kentucky Blue Pole and Blue Lake Pole. Tomatoes are everyone’s favorite.

Native perennial plants were selected to entice pollinators. Area gardeners and media. Club information and educational materials about native plant and pollinator gardening were available at the event.

• In November, to complete work on the garden for the calendar year, garden club members planted over 150 spring-flowering bulbs, including daffodils and tulips, and performed a garden cleanup to prepare it for winter.

• The garden will serve as an ongoing community project for Sages Garden Club members, with additional plants and bulbs to be added in 2020.

The mission of Sages Garden Club, a member of The Garden Club of Indiana Inc., is to promote an interest in gardening and design, promote landscape improvements in the home and community and provide therapy through gardening. The project is an example of how an idea can become a reality. This vision brought beauty to the landscape and created a welcoming, peaceful space to greet visitors and veterans to the new OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA. Other benefits are immeasurable – the garden enhances the property, promotes community pride, helps to improve the environment and provides a food source and habitat for many pollinators.

Cindy Martin
President
Sages Garden Club
Cmartin233@comcast.net

Photos by Cindy Martin
Visit indymca.org/orthoindy-foundation

THE VIRAL VEGETABLE VICTORY GARDEN

BY: JOHN GARAVENTA
I harken back to a different lifetime when, as a teenager, I grew and sold tomatoes, and other vegetables to help fund my education. I had over 300 tomato plants that generated fruit throughout the summer and well into the fall. In the latter part of the season, I picked them green, wrapped them in newspaper and stored them in a cool area where they could later ripen. Tomatoes can be grown with or without cages and either in-ground or in containers. The quick and easy way is to plant right in Mother Earth without poles or baskets. Of course, cages and poles will make your plants more stable, prolific and overall better looking. Some popular varieties are: Celebrity, Beef Steak, Cherokee Purple, Better Boy, Early Girl, Yellow Pear Cherry Tomato, Cherries Jubilee Cherry Tomato and Honeybunch Cherry Tomato.

Peppers are not only good complements to salsa, salads and entrees, they are colorful, high in Vitamin C and make a great garden border. They can be sweet or hot. Some pepper considerations are California Bell, Jalapeño, Sweet Banana, Pepperoncini and Habanero.

Onions, garlic, lettuce and Swiss chard can easily be added to your vegetable roster. Potatoes can also be grown but you need cuttings. If you have some “mature” potatoes in your pantry, use them for planting. Just cut them into pieces with at least one “eye” in each cutting. Plant them in friable, well-draining soil.

Squash is a fantastic vegetable but you must have the space to accommodate its long tentacles. Here are a few squash varieties: Zucchini, Yellow, Acorn, Butternut, Pink Banana and Spaghetti.

Herbs are a good addition to your Victory Garden. Sweet basil, sage, thyme, rosemary and mint are a few varieties. They will add flavor to your culinary cuisine. Basil is a kitchen garden or vegetable garden can be beautiful, as well as practical. Some insights include:

• Borrow design strategies from ornamental gardening.
• Mix colorful, attractive plants with edibles to create an overall eye-catching effect, which has roots in the design of French potager gardens (Development of Landscape Design — another LDS topic).
• Consider the importance of the vegetable garden at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, dating back two centuries. The kitchen garden at George Washington’s Mount Vernon is even older. The garden has been cultivated continuously for the component in a personal landscape design. In addition, an added benefit is the enjoyment of an edible bounty, and fewer trips standing in line to get into the local grocery store.

Many NGC Schools courses have been postponed due to the coronavirus restrictions. As these courses are rescheduled, perhaps they will foster ideas in which to look at vegetable gardens in a new way – particularly in landscaping.

Greg Pokorski
Chairman
Landscape Design Schools
GregPokorski@earthlink.net
mulch around your vegetables. This will reduce weeds, preserve moisture and supply nutrients for your plants. Some sage advice, if weeds do crop up, it is easier to remove them while your plants are young. Then sit back, relax, water regularly, occasionally cultivate, let Mother Nature take over, and await the fruits of your labor.

While your garden can provide you with visual and fragrant enjoyment, it can also give you sustenance and help alleviate stress and anxiety during these trying times.

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John Garaventa is an avid, self-taught gardener and active member of the Red Bluff Garden Club in Red Bluff, California. The Red Bluff Garden Club is a member of Cascade District Garden Clubs, California Garden Clubs, Pacific Region Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc. californiaardenclubs.com/Cascade

He is a contributing writer of “Every Blooming Thing,” an ongoing column on gardening in “The Appeal-Democrat/Corning Observer.” In addition, Garaventa and other members of the Red Bluff Garden Club contribute a weekly gardening column in the “Red Bluff Daily News.”

Garaventa holds a Juris Doctor from John F. Kennedy University-School of Law in Pleasant Hill, California, and a bachelor’s degree from California State University in San Francisco.

Dedicating his professional life to the legal field, he served as Superior Court Judge from 1998 to 2016 in Tehama County, California; a President Judge of the Tehama County Superior Court, from 2013 to 2015; a Municipal Court Judge in Tehama County, California, in 1998; Deputy County Counsel for Tehama County, California, from 1992 to 1998; and practiced law at the Law Offices of John J. Garaventa, Civil Litigation, Concord, California, from 1978 to 1992. In 2016, Garaventa retired after serving nearly 19 years on the bench. He and wife Kathryn have been married for 40 years and reside in Red Bluff. They have four sons.

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the key ingredient for pesto. All of us are probably eating more pasta than ever. Mangia!

Seed trays can be used to germinate the seeds. If you have some potting soil around, sprinkle some into the small individual containers. Make sure to follow the instructions for sowing each type of vegetable. Place the trays in an elevated, well sunlit area, and away from curious pets. It is important to water the seeds daily in order to have a good germination rate. Make the germination process a family activity, especially with your children and grandchildren. Make a game out of when the first plant will sprout. Guess when you will see the first tomatoes or peppers. It’s a great lesson of life’s wonders and its cyclical nature. After the plants reach viability, they can be thinned out and transplanted directly into the ground or containers. Adding a small measure of potting soil to your native soil can improve growth and productivity. If you can, apply

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John Garaventa. Photo by Dante Garaventa.
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