

September/October 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH



**National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110 314•776•7574 gardenclub.org**

President's Postcard

GAY AUSTIN

Fall is just around the corner. It is hard to believe how fast we have ZOOMED past both spring and summer seasons. Our members are using COVID-conscious methods to continue our desire to promote gardening, floral design and educational opportunities for our members. Zoom classes of Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools are being offered, with accreditation, during this social isolation. As President, I've participated as a guest, and must admit that each one continues to improve as guidelines are developed to help this mode of education continue. NGC continues to search for ways to develop available educational opportunities for our members.

This particular publication of *Keeping in Touch* places emphasis on our YOUTH. What a delightful treat to read the accomplishments of our future garden club members! Our adult clubs continue to develop innovative ways to engage children in gardening activities. Using digital technology, our club members have enabled children to walk through gardens, assisted them in gardening activities and exposed them to environmental awareness issues. A premium example was the Virtual Summer Camp, sponsored by the Beverly Hills Garden Club in Alexandria, Virginia. Nine children, calling themselves the "Little Buds," enjoyed activities once a week for over eight weeks. The final meeting included a special digital certificate congratulating the attendees for outstanding participation in this first ever event.

The new NGC website was launched in early August. Congratulations to the NGC Website Development Committee and Headquarters Staff for time given to this most successful addition to our organization. Take time to review all that is available to you as NGC members, plus share with interested friends. The opportunity to help NGC grow is now right at our fingertips.

As time moves forward, we continue zoom, zoom, zooming along, sharing and growing together with new methods of communication and education.



ENGAGING YOUTH

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Growth After the Fires

National Poster Contest

PATRICIA SMITH

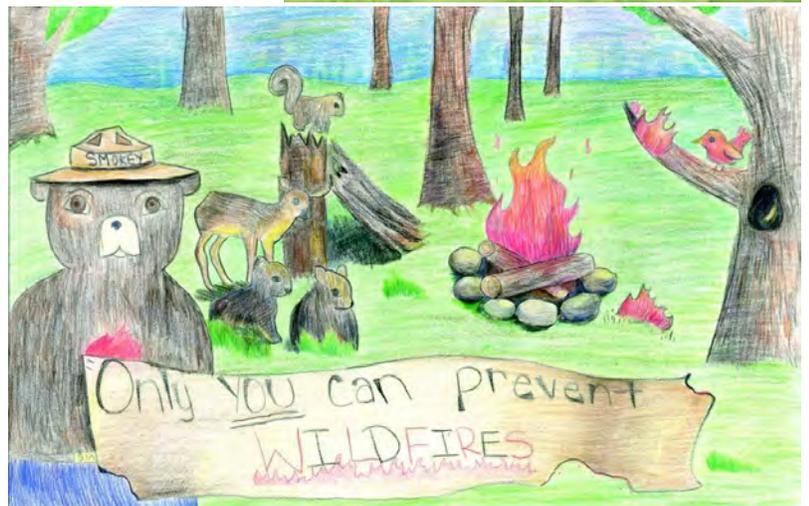
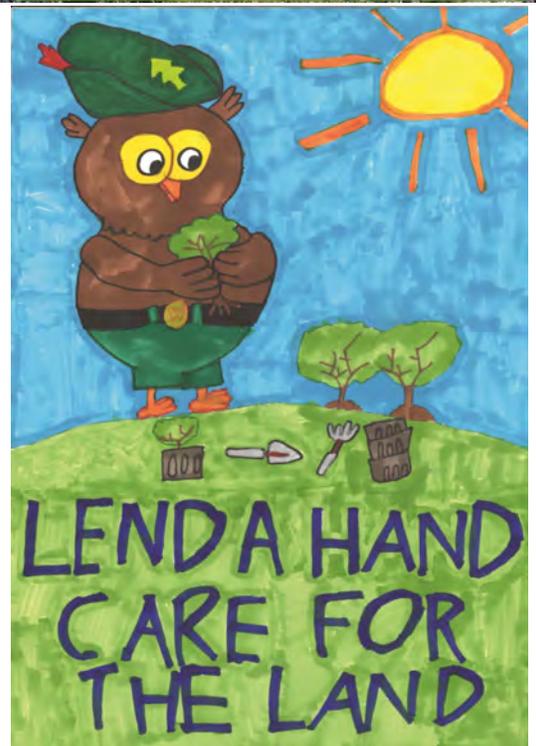
The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl National Poster Contest marks a collaboration of NGC and The United States Forest Service that has spanned over 50 years. It offers first through fifth grade budding artists an opportunity to express their talents and understanding of wildfire prevention and conservation principles.

Sponsored by the Germantown Garden Club, **June Crawford, a second grade student at Riverdale Elementary School in Germantown, TN, is the National Grand Prize Winner.** Thank you to all the garden clubs encouraging students to create posters. To see all of the winning entries, visit the NGC website under [Youth Contests](#).

Time flies and 2021 is Woodsy Owl's 50th Birthday, so all posters must feature only Woodsy Owl with his message, "Lend a Hand - Care for the Land." Entries are due to state chairs by January 2021 with each state's top five posters forwarded to the Regional Chair by February 2021. After judging on the national level, the US Forest Service chooses the winning entries. Lend a hand to encourage kids in your community to participate in caring for the land!

The 2020 National Poster Contest Finalists

- ★ First Grade - Milly Abdo, Holladay, UT
Sponsor - Neighborhood Garden Club
- ★ Third Grade - Braxton Socia, Woodworth, LA
Sponsor - Le Compte Garden Club
- ★ Fourth Grade - Lucy Adair, Holladay, UT
Sponsor - Neighborhood Garden Club
- ★ Fifth Grade - Yifei Ren, Germantown, TN



Top: June Crawford, Bottom: Yifei Ren

Youth Awards & Grants

TRICIA MITCHELL

Bumble Bee on Sunflower

Congratulations to all Youth Garden Clubs for the wonderful projects that were submitted this year. National Garden Clubs members are investing in the Youth because they are the future generation that will carry on the objectives of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

It was an honor for the Youth Award Committee to see the amazing projects of our youth. Education was an overall theme including hands-on projects involving pre-school, elementary, middle school and high school students. Overall Youth Award Winner, the Mason Sycamore Creek GC of Michigan sponsors the Sunflower Youth GC. Their programs included container and raised bed gardening, seed sorting, soil amending, worm renderings and composting to introduce the appreciation of nature.

The Garden Club of Rogers, Arkansas (Horticulture Achievement by a Youth Garden Club winner) worked with over 120 four and five-year old preschoolers who received eight horticulture programs. How exciting it must have been to have a worm-composting bin set up in the classroom.

The Youth Leadership Award winner, Emily Schnarr of Pennsylvania, brought knowledge and love to children by introducing them to the beauty of gardening and the importance of bees. Home schooled children were able to see the elements of design and cooking with items from the garden. Each Youth Club created and encouraged interest via their participation.

Environmental conservation, beautification, horticulture and design were incorporated by clubs along with wildlife gardening. *The Saved Seed* book was included in many of the activities. I encourage NGC garden club members to continue providing educational opportunities for the Youth in your communities by promoting the love of gardening.

YOUTH POLLINATOR GARDEN GRANTS

NGC provides a grant opportunity for garden club members, working with Youth Clubs/groups, who are planning and planting Pollinator Gardens. Grants, up to \$200, are available for projects that include educational materials on the vital role that pollinators play in nature. Youth learn the importance of providing appropriate food sources, nesting areas, shelter and sustainable gardening practices for pollinators by planning, planting and maintaining pollinator gardens. To apply for a grant, complete a [Youth Pollinator Grant Application](#), provide detailed information about the project and submit your request to the NGC Youth Committee Chairman for approval.



Digging in a Worm Bed

I am an Earthworm
William Lopez-Sanchez, 3rd Grade
Odum Garden Club, GA
 I am an earthworm
 Wiggling and jiggling
 In the soil
 In the fall season
 Breaking up the soil
 Hoping to stay in the garden and not
 Get caught in a hook!

Walk on the Wild Side

BARBARA RAO

Wildflower Garden

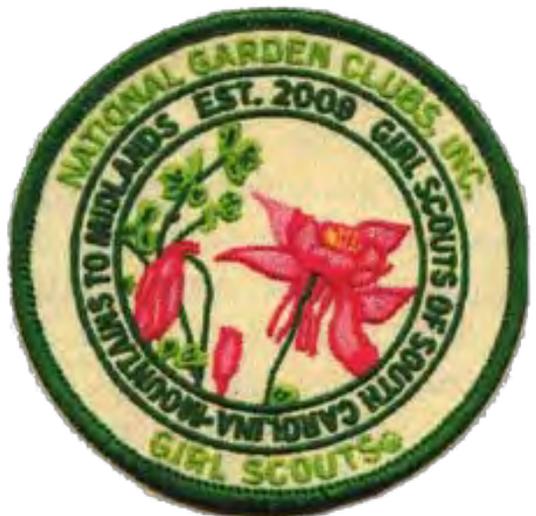
The Wildflower Patch for Girl Scouts encourages partnership between the State Garden Clubs and Girl Scouts. We are excited to offer a Wildflower Patch for the girls to learn more about wildflowers in their local area. Girl Scouts of all levels and all regions are encouraged to earn this patch. The purpose of the Wildflower Patch is for Girl Scouts and the National Garden Clubs to work in unison by:

- ⊗ Partnering with National Garden Clubs for expert advice and to promote a higher level of environmental stewardship
- ⊗ Allowing Girl Scouts to improve problem solving skills by being exposed to the outdoors
- ⊗ Engaging in regular outdoor activity so that the Girl Scouts will be more likely to pursue higher and more prestigious awards

Garden clubs can help Scouts earn the Wildflower Patch by attending an event and creating a relationship with a local troop. Club members can provide expert advice to help inspire an interest in wildflower plants, which greatly reduces the need to irrigate and fertilize while providing pollinator habitat.

Girl Scouts learn the benefits of planting wildflowers and using them to attract butterflies, bees and birds, for areas of natural beauty that will support the balance of nature. They may be active by creating a home butterfly garden with wildflowers, being involved in civic plantings, engaging in school programs to create wildflower gardens, spreading the word to sister Girl Scouts, friends and social media about what has been learned. Girl Scouts will forever enjoy the knowledge that was gained by learning about wildflowers.

The Girl Scout Mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. National Garden Clubs and Girl Scouts have initiated a state-by-state badge program so that scouts can create their own badge with specific state and region goals. For more information, contact [Barbara Rao](#), NGC Scout Patch Chair



*Top: Florida Wildflower Patch
Bottom: South Carolina Native Plant Patch*



Youth Garden Clubs

Jo SELLERS

Save Pollinators/Feed a Bee Seed Packets

Before COVID, members of the garden clubs of the National Capital Area worked with young members of the community to plant seeds and to create beautiful flower arrangements. The kids received packets of seeds titled *Save Pollinators/Feed a Bee*. Other students used garden flowers to become budding floral designers.



The Seed

**Natalie Pinkerton, 1st Grade
Pecan Grove Garden Club, AZ**

I just planted some flowers.
 But at night, in came the showers.
 It rained too soon, in the light of the moon.
 Just a little seedling wishing to sprout,
 Maybe he's happy it's not a drought.
 Then the next morning, I was happy to see,
 That there was a sprout where the rain used to be!
 All the other flowers, will soon work up
 A pretty little garden, to join my golden buttercup!



PLANT AMERICA

DEBBY WALTERS

Botany Belles & Beaus Plant Trees with Students

In January 2020, the Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club received a \$1,000 National Garden Clubs PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grant. Knowing how important trees are to the environment and for habitat, the proposal was to plant trees at Viking Middle School. Sixth grade students in media specialist's Jason Glampe's research class investigated native tree species and made recommendations to the Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club for the types of trees to purchase and plant. Just prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, club members met with a group of sixth graders to discuss their recommendations. Based on input from students and club members, it was decided to plant white oak, white cedar, sugar maple, elm (Dutch Elm disease resistant), blue beech, willow, and Black Hills spruce.

Many thanks to the Baldwin Greenhouse for obtaining the trees and keeping them healthy until students could be involved in planting them. The intent was to plant them in May with the 6th graders who made the original recommendations. Due to coronavirus related delays, nine family groups and garden club members met in August to put the trees in the ground. Each family unit was responsible for one of the trees. The white oak and white cedar were bare root stock and were planted in April. A total of 16 trees were planted, some along the sidewalk, some to eventually shade the ball diamonds, some along old County Rd B, some at the entrance to the parking lot, and the willow closer to the prairie area. The students and parents were enthusiastic and look forward to seeing the trees mature in the coming years.

Along with the Plant America grant and the club's own donations, a Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF) grant helped to purchase mulch. The WGCF's president's project is to involve young people in the planting of trees. *The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.* Chinese proverb

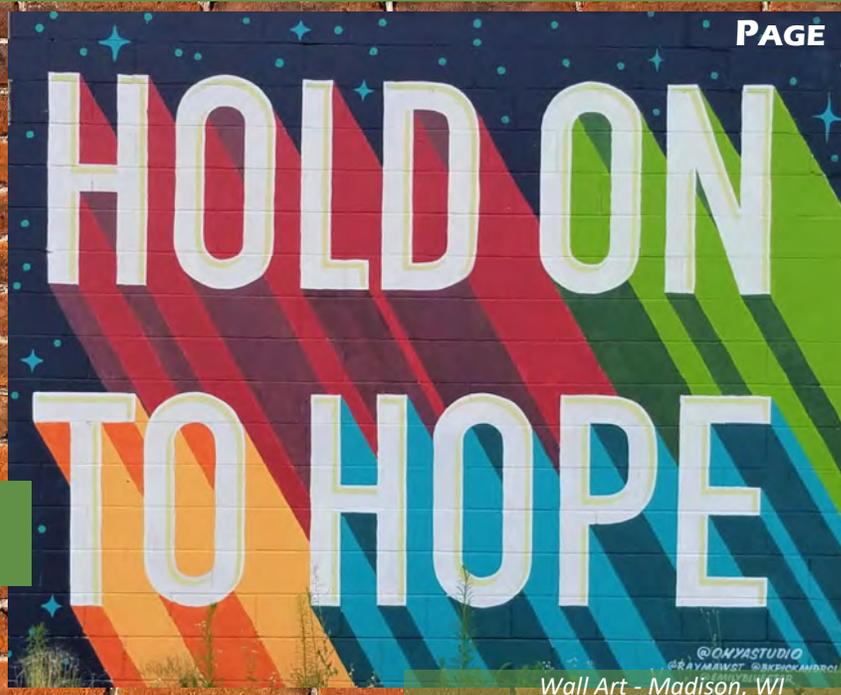
Editor's Note: Astute reader Ann Bassett, Jupiter-Tequesta GC in Florida, sent a correction to the oyster story in the July/August issue of KIT. Oysters can filter **50 gallons** of water per day as opposed to 15 gallons stated in the article.



Planting a Tree - Family Style

Healing Gardens

CARCILLE BURCHETTE



Wall Art - Madison, WI

We are experiencing a pandemic none of us has ever seen. Because, we live here in the United States, a modern nation, it is difficult to accept that we have been “buckled down.” Great strides, at warp speed, have been met along with setbacks and a promise of vaccines possibly this fall and early next year.

This pandemic has shut down schools, businesses, government offices, nursing homes, commercial and personal travel - shutting down the nation’s economy. The isolation we have had to endure has had a negative impact not only on us economically and socially but emotionally as well.

Plans have had to be changed, some in major ways. Friends whose children were about to exchange wedding vows were postponed; others who could only see their new grandchild after being released from the hospital became the new reality. Perhaps worse was the prevention of the family members and friends who often visited loved ones in the nursing homes and hospitals, sometimes only days or hours within their passing.

These unprecedented times with an unknown virus have now been plagued with much social unrest and violence in our streets. We need healing and in a big way! This is a perfect time for garden clubs to plan for a Healing Garden in their community. These gardens do not have to be large, just peaceful. They should let the beauty of the flowers and foliage carry one away from the worries and fears of the present and unsure future while instilling hope. Expensive sculptures are not needed but a bench away from noise and a water feature, if possible, allows visitors to escape for a short time.

Much of the planning for a Healing Garden can be accomplished without coming together - social media abounds. I am betting that many club members have yet to pay their dues, wondering if any garden club activities will happen. This is a much-needed way to get back in touch with each other, sharing ideas on where and how to plan for the garden. I encourage each club to create a Healing Garden, no matter where, no matter the size. We need healing for others and ourselves. Wishing you good health!



Swallowtail Caterpillar & Butterfly on Fennel/Dill

Hunting Orchids

ARABELLA DANE

Cypripedium reginae - Showy Lady Slippers -

Here in a corner of our New Hampshire hillside, *Cypripedium acaule*, the Pink Lady Slipper grows in dappled light, out of the wind in the duff and acidic soil beneath the mixed hardwoods and white pines. Nearby, on an old wood's road near Squam Lake, a group of white *Cypripedium acaule* grows on the bank of the old roadbed. These WHITE Pink Lady Slippers have the same crease in their pouch as their pink siblings. The white color mutation of the flower does not currently merit a new species name, although some folks describe it as *Cypripedium acaule* f. *albiflora* in recognition of its color mutation. *Acaule* means stem less - unlike most plants, the leafless flowering stem of this orchid shoots out of the ground without any connecting leafy stems above its roots.

We enjoy heading over the mountains to Woodstock, VT, to see the *Cypripedium reginae*, Showy Lady Slippers coming into bloom in June. They appear to carpet acres of Eshqua Bog. The pouch on these orchids have no crease and vary in color from almost purple to nearly white. Inside the pouch, the patterns vary from stripes to spots to speckles. Most have a single bloom poised above each leafy stem, although some have two.

Tucked in among these Showy Lady Slippers are other kinds of orchids that require either fen or bog habitats. This year, we caught sight of a few *Platanthera huronensis*, Green Bog Orchid. It grows on a straight stem with little leaves and tiny bug-like flowers. A favorite discovery is the tiny pinky-white *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, the Rose Pogonia, found growing on the floating sphagnum island in a vast bog in Sandwich, NH.



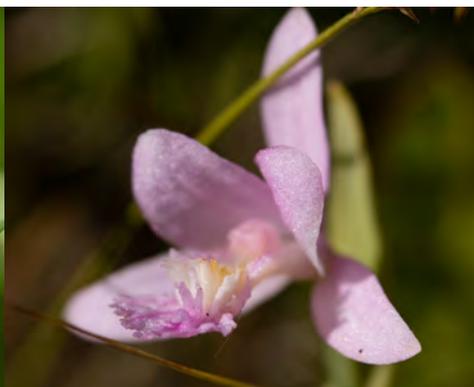
Cypripedium acaule - Pink Lady Slipper



Cypripedium acaule f. *albiflora*



Platanthera huronensis - Green Bog Orchid



Pogonia ophioglossoides - Rose Pogonia

A World View

CYNTHIA KOZAKEWICH

PANDEMIC is a word all of us wish had not become part of our vocabulary in 2020! Of all the important lessons we have learned living through COVID-19, perhaps none is more salient than how small our world is. A virus can originate 8,000 miles away and arrive in our cities by plane in a day. Even an ocean as vast as the Pacific does not insulate us.

So it is with the environment. A natural disaster anywhere in the world, be it typhoon, earthquake, fire or flood, can affect food and water supplies, habitat or air quality far from the area of origin. Our members recognize that what happens in any part of our world can have global consequences and that it is in our own interest, never mind our duty, to render assistance if we can. It is why NGC has supported a special fund dedicated to international disasters.

Recently, with approval of the Board of Directors, the balance of \$25,802.62 in NGC's "International Disaster Fund" was transferred to the broader "Natural Disaster Fund." In part, the recommendation to transfer the fund read, "The balance can be used for any International Disasters NGC approves for the next five years. After five years, when the principal amount and time commitment is satisfied (either by time or by use) the remaining balance can be used for any natural disaster." (See Winter 2020 issue of *The National Gardener*)

As your World Gardening Chairman, I am exploring how we can responsibly disburse the designated funds, within the five-year window, to benefit our worldwide community. Fortunately, many excellent charitable organizations provide humanitarian aid in a disaster. This allows NGC to focus on providing assistance with reforestation, agricultural aid, garden restoration and other projects that help heal the natural environment after disaster.

Your input is welcome. Please email me if you have knowledge of a reputable charitable organization that does international outreach involving environmental work. Our NGC bylaws mandate we must work through an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The Nature Conservancy is an example of a qualified 501(c)(3) organization with an international presence. It will be a pleasure to give you an update in a future *Keeping in Touch!*



BE

By Gay Austin

A few "Be" ideas that can help us to continue to grow as NGC members.

- * **BE** appreciative of volunteers who share their time and talent to achieve worthwhile goals.
- * **BE** respectful to others' suggestions and open to differences of opinion.
- * **BE** willing to compromise and be diplomatic when speaking.
- * **BE** positive when experimenting with new ideas.
- * **BE** kind to all.

Garden club members are caring, curious and creative people who love their families, communities and gardens. Kindness opens up possibilities of connections to others so that our world benefits from our good deeds.



After the Flood

Natural Disaster Grants

JOHNNA-CLAIRE METZ

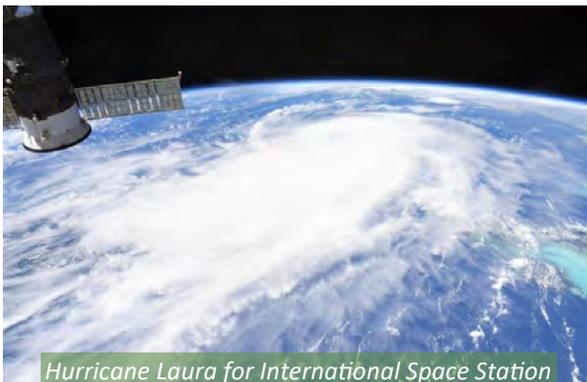
How apropos it is to be asked to create a Natural Disaster article while preparing to “batten down the hatches” for Hurricane Isaias. Seamen started naming storms after their wives or girlfriends, then during WWII the military alphabet was used, “able, baker, Charlie, dog,” etc. Alphabetizing storms began in 1979 with alternating male and female names. Since then, eighty names have been retired.

Each storm tends to have its own personality, whether it is Irma, Andrew, Maria, Harvey, Katrina or Sandy - all leave devastation in their tracks! A Natural Disaster is a major adverse event resulting from natural processes of the Earth. They cause loss of life, property damage and typically economic damage; the severity of which depends on the affected population’s resilience. That is where we come into play; National Garden Clubs is definitely comprised of a resilient group of individuals. Always wanting to lend a hand, find a solution, get down and dirty and fixing the disasters of the devastated!

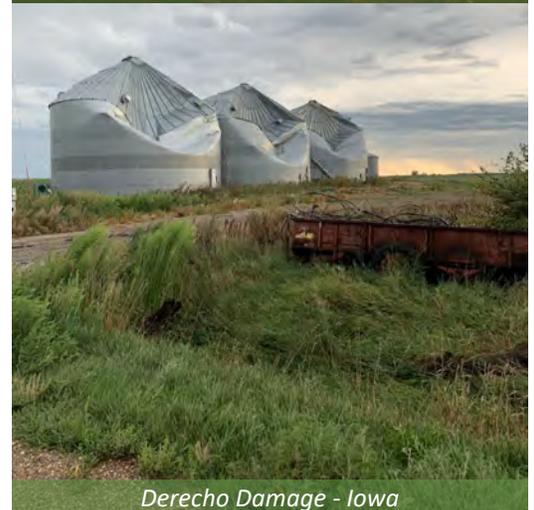
Whether it is a cyclone, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, super storm, tropical storm, twister, wildfire, flood, landslide, avalanche, sinkhole or volcanic eruption, each community touched needs assistance. If affected by a disaster, consider applying for a [Natural Disaster Grant](#)! If able to help, please send donations to NGC to defray horticulture & reforestation expenses - essential to all of us as garden club members and stewards of our beautiful country. Donate today to the [NGC National Disasters USA Fund](#).



Wild Fires - Western USA



Hurricane Laura for International Space Station



Derecho Damage - Iowa



Judges Celebrate 75!

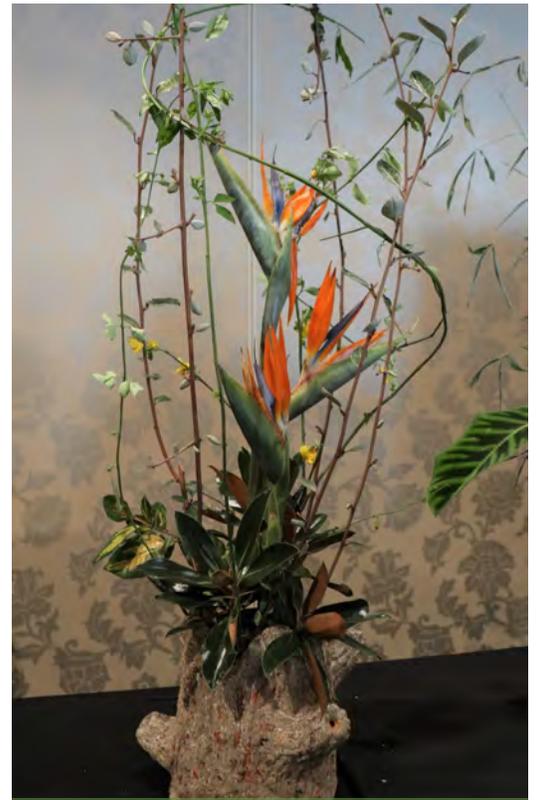
JAN MYRICK

Dallas FS Judges Founders Group & President Gay

In February, Dallas Flower Show Judges Founders Group celebrated 75 years as the first Flower Show Judges Council in the nation. They were joined by NGC President Gay Austin, Texas Garden Club President Peggy Moreland and other distinguished guests.

In 1945, 32 charter members lead a flower club movement that was sweeping the nation. Members helped establish the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, hosted radio talk shows, wrote articles for gardening publications and authored books all while holding numerous state and National Garden Clubs positions. Contributing to the beautification of Dallas and the surrounding area, they planned and planted parks, conducted floral design classes, horticulture courses and workshops in the United States, Mexico and Brazil. Dallas judges continue to support flower show schools, symposiums, educational programs and encourage student judges.

President Austin inspired everyone with her design presentation that exemplified her design evolution from her first flower show to the culmination of her diamond anniversary design honoring 75 years of Dallas Flower Show Judges. Let us continue to celebrate our legacy and cultivate our future generation's interest in growing, showing, judging and learning together.



Birds in a Cage



Diamond Anniversary Design





Virtual Perfect Vision 2020

DAVID ROBSON

With the cancellation of the NGC Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, it also forced cancellation of the concurrent Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, *Perfect Vision 2020*. President Gay Austin proposed a “virtual” flower show as an alternative to keep NGC members engaged. A revised and enhanced schedule dealing with horticulture, design and botanical arts divisions was quickly written, allowing broad horticulture sections to be subdivided by classification chairmen. There were five specific design types, botanical arts design and botanical arts - artistic crafts classes. Many of the titles from the original Petite Horticulture Specialty Show were used for the classes.

The schedule was published May 1. Entries were accepted between June 1 and June 15. Judging commenced once the entries were checked for conformance. Sixteen panels of National and International Affiliate Judges evaluated the entries submitted as photos.

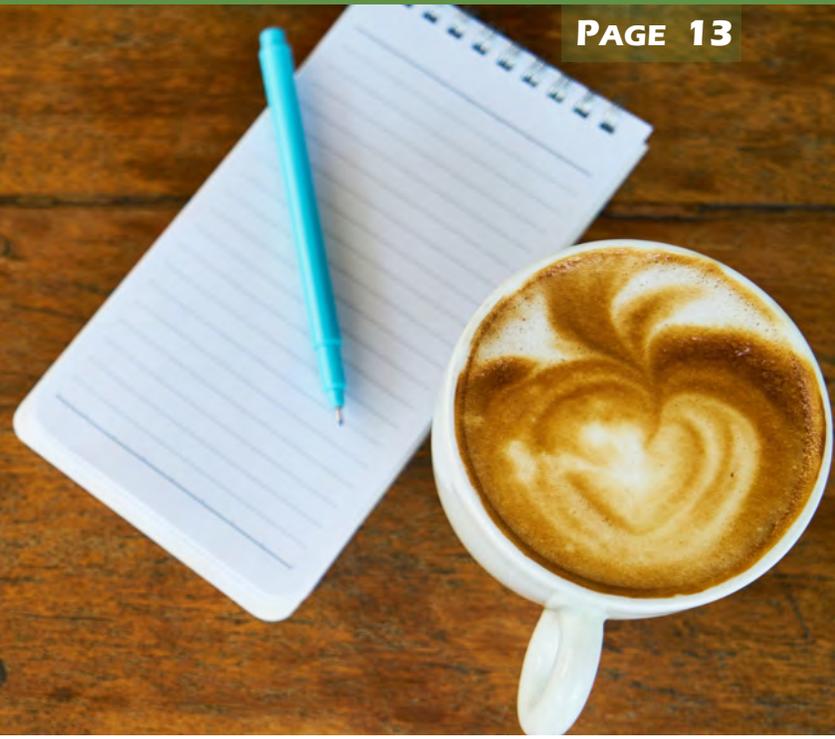
The Perfect Vision 2020 Virtual Flower Show involved members from more than 35 states and most of the Central and South American affiliates. More than 500 horticulture entries were received; design entries numbered 114 and the botanical arts entries totaled 67. Only blue ribbons and 90+ designations were award to the deserving exhibits.

The Virtual Flower Show Committee thanks all the participants and congratulates the winners. It was a learning process, and not everything went off without a hitch, and it still was a success.

Editor’s Note: future issues of Keeping in Touch will feature more entries especially our special design issue coming in January 2021. See the [NGC Facebook page](#) for all of the top entries.



*Botanical Arts - Artistic Crafts, clockwise from top left:
 90+ = Myriah Graciela Jaen Banchemo (URUGUAY), Mariela Pacheco Madrano, (PERU),
 Rebecca Linney (MAINE), Susana Olmeta de Alcalá (VENEZUELA),
 Silvia Patricia Yanez Rueda (PERU)
 Blue Ribbon Winner = Vinita Jones (FLORIDA)*



Tips and Tricks

IDEAS FROM AROUND NGC

TIPS FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS

Rita Crawley

Following are suggestions for those considering hosting a virtual event.

- ✓ Include information regarding refund deadline and if PayPal fees are to be deducted from any refunds.
- ✓ Keep speakers informed about how many people are attending, their locations and their expectations.
- ✓ Continue to emphasize the mandatory technical requirements of the event.
- ✓ Assure connectivity - the large number of people on Zoom for the Michigan Virtual Tri-Refresher, seemed to have a negative affect bandwidth, clarity of presentation, video and audio.
- ✓ Try to prepare for unforeseen circumstances. For example, two speakers were replaced because of last minute emergencies and connections may be affected by storms or natural disasters in and out of the area.
- ✓ Assure speakers' equipment and presentations work with the chosen virtual platform.
- ✓ Set up the virtual event to allow two hosts to conduct the administration portion. This will allow more than one person with the hosting group to have access and utilization of the technical requirements.

Note: Guidelines for virtual schools are currently being written by members of the Schools Policy Committee. Watch the NGC website for updates.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

Environmental School Accrediting Committee

- 🌍 Get rid of standing water which allows mosquito larvae to grow.
- 🌍 Provide a source of fresh running water and make it shallow with rocks for birds and butterflies.
- 🌍 When watering plants, allow water to soak into ground, once or twice a week; water early in morning or in the evening avoiding midday heat.
- 🌍 Use mulch of grass clippings, wood chips, newspaper, etc. to retain soil moisture and cool the soil.
- 🌍 Avoid clearing beds of dead (healthy) plants in the fall; they are a source of food and habitat for bees, butterflies and other overwintering insects.



American Daffodil Society

Presents

Visionary Venture

Virtual Fall Forum

September 12 - November 8, 2020

Enjoy online auctions, seminars, photo contests and more. For more information and to register:

<https://daffodilusa.org/events-show-calendar/fall-symposiums/2020-fall-forum-fall-board-meeting/>

Help Your Community Blossom!

At National Garden Clubs, we do more than just green your thumb. We connect you with people, plants, and programs that provide inspiration, information, and valuable resources.

LEARN MORE

www.gardenclub.org

NGC Website Homepage

The new [NGC website](#) is up and running. The website team appreciates members' patience while working through a few bugs. Please report any issues or concerns to the [NGC webmaster](#), Poss Tarpley. Much gratitude and thanks to the Website Committee led by Phyllis White and members Jane Waugh, Donna Rouch, Gerianne Holzman, Poss Tarpley and staff Emily Kiske, Bill Trapp and Michelle Smith. This team spent hundreds of hours putting together a website for our members and the public. The new site coordinates the interests and activities of garden club members, increases awareness of NGC and its beliefs while being attractive, inviting to members/potential members and informative regarding schools and programs. NGC is a voice in the gardening world that needs to be shared. The website, social media and especially our members create that voice.

Where is the member login? At this time, there is no member-only section of the website. [Member Resources](#) (including *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch*) are available to all. When ordering through the online store, shoppers create their own unique username and password when checking out or they may check out as a guest.

NGC Board members each create a unique login to access the board member resources page. This includes financial reports, meeting minutes and administrative forms. Committee chairs submit requests for changes via the "Update Request Form" found in the board member section.

Featured blogs are updated frequently on the website and all articles are available for browsing on the [blog page](#). Any article can be shared or printed with a simple click on the accompanying icon. All members are welcome to write blog

articles for the website. Please complete the online "Blog Article Submission Form" in [Member Resources](#) to submit an article. Blog articles are submitted, as a word document attachment, along with the form. High-resolution photos may also be attached and are encouraged. When submitting photos where people are identifiable, be sure to ask them to complete the "Publication Release Form" found in the [Forms Library](#) of the website. Blog articles should be 300 – 1500 words in length. Guidelines for authors are available in the member resources page of the website. Topics are wide open with restrictions on politics, religion, etc. as indicated on the guidelines. Blog questions can be directed to the [blog coordinator](#), Gerianne Holzman.

Most NGC programs are featured on their own page on the website with some combined into like sections. For more information on a specific program, visit its webpage and click on the name of the chairman to send an email.

Websites are always a work in progress and that is what keeps them fresh. The website committee appreciates your feedback and comments, just click on the "[contact us](#)" link on the bottom of every page of the website.



Calendar of Events

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PRESIDENT GAY?

No in-person events are scheduled for the remainder of 2020. During these challenging times, President Gay's schedule is subject to change without notice. Thank you for understanding.

COURSES → FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Sep 9	CR 4	Linda Harris	MD
Sep 14	CR 2	Karen Allen	SC
Sep 22	CR 3	Sharon Bender	Virtual
Sep 28	CR 3	Melanie Spence	OK
Sep 28	CR 4	Melanie Spence	OK
Nov 19	CR 1	Luanne Betz	Virtual

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Sep 16	CR 4	Carol English	NJ
Sep 20	CR 4	Poss Tarpley	MD
Sep 28	CR 3	Susie Middleton	MD

GARDENING SCHOOL

Dec 2	CR 4	Carol Bullard	MS
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LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Sep 9	CR 1	Joyce Hendricks	MT
Oct 5	CR 3	Doris Campbell	MI
Oct 13	CR 1	Linda Harris	MD
Oct 23	CR 4	Vicki Williamson	Virtual
Oct 31	CR 3	Judy Tolbert	Virtual

MULTIPLE REFRESHERS

None scheduled at this time

SYMPOSIUMS

Oct 2	Kitty Larkin	WI
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See [NGC website](#) for more information on schools, refreshers and symposia. Due to the every changing COVID-19 situation, all of these dates are subject to change.

Keeping in Touch Guidelines for Publication

We welcome all NGC members to submit articles for *Keeping in Touch*. Please keep the length of articles to 200 - 250 words and submit as a word document. We appreciate high resolution jpg files as attachments to your article. Please do not imbed within the document. Remember to obtain permission to use a person's likeness if she/he is identifiable in the image. (A standard permission form is on the NGC website.) Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee a specific publication date. Articles may be modified at the discretion of the editor.

Coming in November/December: Going Virtual! What is your club doing during the pandemic? Submit your ideas, plans and tips and let others know how you are coping. International Affiliates share information on their online classes. Do you have tips for getting your garden ready for winter? Submit and share them with our members.

The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2020. Please send articles, tips and images to geriannewgcf@gmail.com THANK YOU!

Adventures in the Garden Addison Taylor, 2nd Grade Magnolia GC, Georgia

Sun is shining
Seeds are growing
Plants are blooming
Birds are in the trees
Squirrels eating
Bees buzzing
Always an adventure
In the garden





Gourd Harvest

Acknowledgements

CONTRIBUTORS

- Gay Austin, NGC President
- Carcille Burchette, Healing Gardens for Hope/Awareness
- Rita Crawley, Michigan GC 3rd Vice President
- Arabella Dane, Photography
- Cynthia Kozakewich, International Disasters/World Gardening
- William Lopez, Student
- Johnna-Claire Metz, Natural Disasters
- Tricia Mitchell, Youth Awards
- Jan Myrick, Dallas Flower Show Judges Founders Group
- Natalie Pinkerton, Student
- Barbara Rao, Scout Badges
- David Robson, *Perfect Vision 2020* Flower Show Chair
- Jo Sellers, Youth Service Awards/Essay Contest
- Patricia Smith, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters
- Addison Taylor, Student
- Debby Walters, Botany Belles & Beaus Garden Club
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Sitting on the Porch

GERIANNE HOLZMAN

As I sit on my porch and ponder this issue of *Keeping in Touch*, Hurricane Laura is bearing down on the Gulf Coast, peaceful protests are being overshadowed by violence in my own home state following yet another shooting, fires are raging out west and of course the pandemic continues unabated. Articles in this issue related to disasters and isolation seem to increase feelings of sadness. We need to look for brightness within the darkness. Garden club members ARE eternal optimists and do bring hope into our lives. Seeing each other, even if just on a screen, helps to maintain the important connection with others. Maintaining projects, even if by oneself, reminds us of our connections to our communities. Reaching

**Send us your COVID-19 stories!
Share with others how you and your club are coping, maintaining projects and going virtual. The deadline for next issue is October 1, 2020. Thank you!**

out for help after a disaster reminds us that NGC cares and has resources to help. These stressful times WILL pass even though sometimes it may not seem soon enough. Spending a bit of time outside to just watch the birds as they begin to change into their winter plumage and see the squirrels gathering black walnuts reminds me that time does go by and our world still holds us close. We will get through this, we are strong and resilient! As always, please Keep in Touch.

***I can be changed by what happens to me
but I refuse to be reduced by it.***

Maya Angelou