

November/December 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Cranberry Harvest - Warrens, WI



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

President's Postcard

GAY AUSTIN

Our time together is very much like the changing of nature's seasons. The spring caused us to pause for safety, and then summer approached with fast growing ways to meet, grow and strengthen together. As the autumn palette of color approaches, we are enticed outdoors to enjoy the cooler temperatures and the infinite shades of red and yellow. We are blessed with a beautiful world! This season is nature's way to prepare our landscapes for the cold winter months ahead. Reflections of this year remind us of joyful events and gatherings, maybe not as we had planned, yet very special in their own way. During these final few months of 2020, we will give thanks for our family and friends, reflect upon our accomplishments and prepare for the coming of a new year, knowing that experiences prepare us for future success.

As our journey continues through the 2019-2021 administration, let us create educational and enjoyable ways to ensure our service to our communities and world. It is an honor, as the NGC President, to speak with many garden club members and to learn that we are resourceful and innovative. Meetings are taking place in all forms, with both online and outside meeting spaces.

Sadly, the 2021 NGC Annual Convention in New Jersey has been canceled. With the continued health crisis, our organization had no other choice. As we move forward, NGC is evaluating various options to help us continue to meet, share and grow. As we begin to develop our strategy, information will be shared with our members. Enjoy and join the excitement about the new NGC website (www.gardenclub.org). We are still adjusting the site, but do not let this prevent you from searching through the many important areas. One thing you might enjoy is the new "BLOG" tab as it offers many useful gardening tips.



GOING VIRTUAL

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Virtual Environmental School

SHARON BENDER

Growth After the Fires

In September, the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut presented NGC Environmental School 3 - Air and Related Issues, in a virtual format. The course was originally scheduled to be held at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. In March, the team structuring the course had to pivot to bring professors and technical people together to deliver the course virtually. Sharon Bender, Environmental School Chair, along with committee members Ginger Casanova and Millie Legenhausen, organized a Zoom training program and Environmental School virtually, with tremendous help from Susan Quincy, Environmental Education Specialist, Kellogg Environmental Center, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Zoom training and Environmental School Course were well received by the five presenters from Connecticut and 43 attendees from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, Michigan and North Carolina. The two-day course featured eight one-hour modules on a variety of topics related to the natural environment and its effects on all living things. In addition, there was a 2-hour virtual field trip on Wildlife Migration Adaptations Due to Climate Change.

The program began with "Air - its composition, how it affects climate and how its quality affects our environment and our health." Other modules addressed environmental ethics and stewardship. Endangered plants and animals were addressed in several of the sections. The course ended with a presentation on how to bring environmental education into schools by collaborating with industry, business, environmental groups and garden clubs.

Very positive feedback was received from the attendees, who appreciated the quality of the presenters, topics and Zoom training. Five proctors volunteered from all over the country. A proctor was assigned to each student to provide assistance and support throughout the virtual school experience. Students working towards an Environmental Consultants Certificate took an exam at the end of each day. Exams and evaluations were all conducted on-line.

The mission of NGC Environmental School is "to teach environmental literacy; to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth." Environmental Schools are open to anyone interested. Environmental School 4 – Water and Related Issues, is scheduled for September 22-23, 2021, either via Zoom or in Connecticut, depending upon COVID safety precautions and NGC course protocols.

Soaring Through Lizzy Ilko, 9th, Paris GC, TN

With vibrant wings I soar pass
Rows of hued flowers and
fresh cut grass.

The wind whispers to the trees
Its story kept secret
on the breeze.

The brook gurgles and dances
along, Singing to travelers
a happy song.

This bountiful oasis is walled in
Hidden from its perished kin.

This garden is one of the last few
that stands

An island of life amid
desolate lands.

Long ago, they were green
But you drove on with
a metallic sheen

And so, I go soaring through
Leaving behind
a warning for you.

The Earth is a garden,
vast and bright
So please take care to
protect her light.

MARTES A LAS 15 Horas (Zona horaria de la Cd. De México)

VIDEO CONFERENCIAS A TRAVÉS DE ZOOM

ID 418 929 5430

Contraseña: MEXICO

International Online Activities

IDALIA AGUILAR

Disenadora Internacional

LA BEBIDA MEXICANA

Virtual Courses - Mexico

International garden clubs members or the IA as we refer to NGC affiliates, are geographically separated by thousands of miles yet, through the years they have managed to establish solid means of digital communications. Could their active internet-based communications be the reason why the health lockdown, affecting all countries, has not stopped the IA from keeping in touch? Instead, it has motivated them to add new means of communication.

NGC has been always been aware of the IA online activities - their useful website comaai.org, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook publications where three Study Groups sponsor Horticulture, Design and Conservation. It has been proven that the IA garden clubs' members are continuously evolving. As an example, eight months ago, President Gay Austin called upon an IA committee to research and develop an international E-Study system platform. The result of this endeavor has been that by the end of September, NGC had approved and adopted a new interactive online teaching system. IA members are now allowed to offer E-Study Courses online for all of the four NGC Schools!

Activities promptly began, the IA Educational Schools sponsored a Tri-refresher in Mexico where consultants from eight countries attended. Online courses have been offered and are being organized in several countries. The IA Flower Show School will soon offer a complete eight-hour Procedures Course, a new required prerequisite for FSS students before continuing Horticulture and Design Courses online. The digital Procedures Course will be open to students, judges and to any club member interested in learning how to use the FSS HB.

Among the other new digital activities, one of the most outstanding is the COMAAI-Uruguay Tutorials, a weekly internet Zoom presentation, hosted by Uruguay since last June, where selected speakers have attracted up to 500 attendees per program. Other IA garden clubs in Argentina, Peru and Mexico have also sponsored garden club related online programs.

Another favorite online activity has been organizing Virtual Flower Shows. These have been offered in Colombia, Guatemala City and last month in Argentina, where their Anniversary Flower Show invited all affiliates and had 500 entries. Peru Floralties celebrated their first IA Club Anniversary Virtual Convention, offering online tutorials, a design program and inviting International Affiliates to exhibit and judge a Flower Show.

Undoubtedly, internet's instantaneous communications have made distances shorter, thus the world is now a smaller place and education has dramatically changed, but for many international members the new NGC online outreach will provide a special opportunity to study the four NGC Schools without leaving their home! Indeed, it could be said that we have now arrived to "the future," are you ready to be part of it?



Schools Updates

JUDY NEWMAN

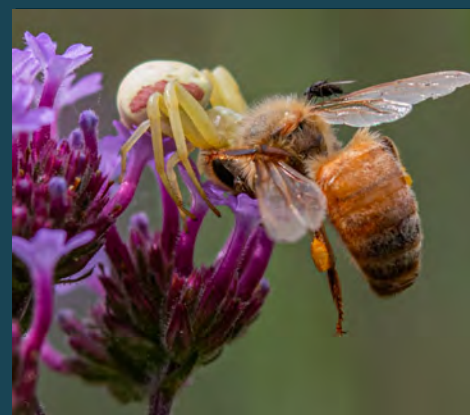
Autumn Leaves

The new NGC website is ready for you to explore. To find information on Schools, select [SCHOOLS](#), then the school of choice. To see more information on becoming a Consultant, click on "HERE" at the end of the first paragraph of each school's page. This takes you to the "Guide for Students and Consultants." Clicking on "Find a Course" takes you to a drop-down menu of courses listed by course number. On each school's page, you will find a link to reach the corresponding NGC School Chairman. New is the "[Schools Resources](#)" link where you find the revised Handbook, Schools Forms, Sample Spread Sheets for the State Chairmen, Directories of State Chairmen, etc. The Schools' Forms are also in the "[Forms Library](#)" found in the footer of each page. Please use only forms marked 2020; do NOT use any older forms.

Check out the [Multiple Refreshers](#) page. There is a Multiple Refresher Credit Chart to aid in determining possible refresher credits when registering for a Multiple Refresher. Information about the Four and Five Star Memberships is under the [Schools Overview](#).

The Zoom Guidelines for States seeking to conduct virtual courses were approved by the NGC Executive Committee. All of the Accrediting Chairmen have a copy of the Zoom Guidelines and the Zoom Tool Kit. State School Chairmen seeking to have a Zoom Course need to contact their ES, GS, or LDS Accrediting Chairmen or their NGC School Chairmen. One of the joys of attending the Zoom Courses is listening to the enthusiasm of the participants. If you have attended one of the Zoom Courses, consider posting your comments in a Blog. The online Blog submission form is at the bottom of the [Member Resources](#) page.

Editor's Note: Look for Flower Show School and Symposia updates in the special Design Issue of Keeping in Touch - January/February 2021.



ENVIRO TIPS

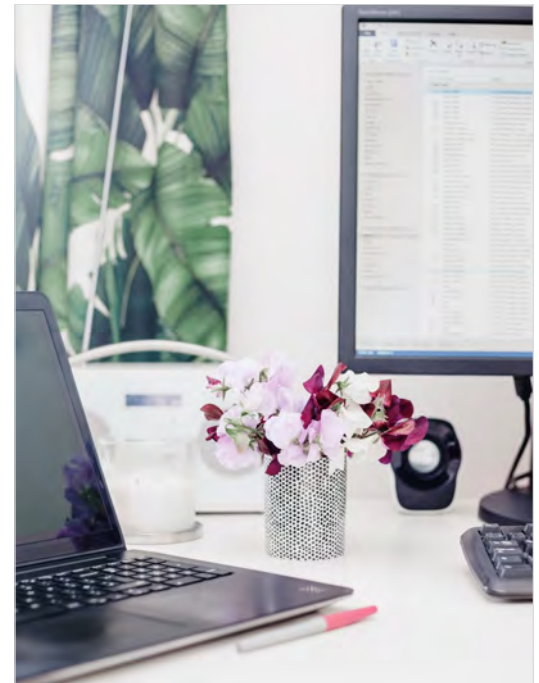
- ◆ Avoid chemical herbicides, which are toxic to the environment for years; use natural herbicides for specific plant species. Dab herbicide on freshly cut stem, do NOT spray.
- ◆ Create plantings of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers creating habitat for birds, butterflies, bees, etc.
- ◆ Plant fruit bearing trees and shrubs on your property - you'll reap the benefits with fresh fruit, if you protect them from birds and other animals, or you can enjoy the visitors they attract to your yard.

Virtual Meeting Guidelines

GERIANNE HOLZMAN

As COVID-19 continues its spread, we are finding new ways to stay connected with friends and family. Our garden clubs meet in-person with proper social distancing or virtually through online meeting platforms. People who never expected, or wanted, to learn how to meet virtually are now finding themselves immersed in the virtual world. They are attending meetings, courses, NGC Schools, conferences and tours – all from the comfort of their own home. Following are a few tips, gathered from several resources, to help make the most of your next online event. The MOST important tip: **do not do anything that you would not do during an in-person meeting!**

1. Leave the keyboard alone – do not multi-task. It is distracting to others in the event and takes your attention away from the speaker.
2. Dress appropriately – you may be tempted to stay in your jammies but others do not need or want to see this.
3. Be aware of your surroundings – what is behind you? Your wall décor may not be suitable for everyone. Who or what might be walking past an open door? Is there a lot of distracting clutter in the background?
4. Mute your microphone when you are not talking. This helps to avoid a feedback loop with your microphone and speakers. It also avoids any background noise interrupting the speaker.
5. Introduce yourself when you enter the event – wait for a break in the conversation. Be sure your name shows with your image – if using someone else's device, change the name to you.
6. Use good lighting – try to have it coming from the front of you so your face is illuminated and you are not in the shadows.
7. Use a laptop, desktop or tablet – this provides for a stable image and allows you to take notes.
8. Test your tech before the event. You will know what online platform will be used before your event. Go to the platform's webpage and look for a "test meeting." This allows you to be comfortable with controls before your event.
9. Raise your camera to eye level – do not look down on people. Put your laptop or tablet on a pile of books to raise it up. People want to see your beautiful face not your chin or your forehead. Check yourself on screen to make sure your face is in view. Try to talk to the camera not the screen when it is your turn to talk. People cannot see you through the screen even though you can see their faces.
10. Watch what you eat – only eat if this is something that would normally be happening at the event. For garden club meetings, you may always chat during a dessert. For online courses, there would be a break for meals.
11. Keep kids, pets and others out of the room – they all may be incredibly cute but are distracting to you and others participating in the event.
12. Turn off your phone - 'nuff said!





PLANT AMERICA

JAN BERLS

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Indiana GC

"It's a Wonderful Life in the garden!" This is the engraved message on the plaque in the Jimmy Stewart Island garden designed by the Indiana Garden Club, Indiana, PA. With the grant funds received through the National Garden Clubs' Plant America Project and generous local support, the Indiana Garden Club dramatically restored the garden to one of community interest and pride.

The garden, which is adjacent to the actor's boyhood home, is frequently visited by both local people and visitors to Indiana. Plant identification tags assist in our education objectives to create an interest in gardening. Stepping-stones, individually created by our members, encourage a walk through the garden to take a closer look. Wide varieties of plants were chosen for salt tolerance and deer resistance while also encouraging pollinators. Annuals will be planted for added color in the bed. The groundbreaking was made by an Indiana Borough backhoe with the removal of the old plantings. Club members were on site for plant removal, new topsoil, plant and mulch delivery. More club members joined in the soil and mulch spreading, planting and installation of other garden features. The dedication plaque was secured to a large stone to keep the aesthetics of nature in the garden.

At the completion of the beautification project, our club held a well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony with the local supporters, state legislators, our District VI Directors, neighbors and garden club members enjoying the new design. Photo boards were on display to reveal the process of the renovation. Refreshments and seed packet distribution added to the festivities. National Garden Club flyers and Indiana Garden Club flyers were on display to encourage an interest in gardening and to support the objectives of our club. A local newspaper photographer documented the ceremony. We are most appreciative of National Garden Clubs and its Plant America project and look forward to continuing our civic beautification projects.



Zuzu: I'm not sleepy. I want to look at my flower.

George: I know-I know, but you just go to sleep, and then you can dream about it, and it'll be a whole garden.

Jimmy Stewart as George, *It's a Wonderful Life*, 1946

Dedication Plaque - Jimmy Stewart Island



NAMI Wall Art - Madison, WI

Keeping in Touch

REMEMBER JUST LIKE PERENNIAL PLANTS GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS KEEP COMING BACK EVEN STRONGER AND DEDICATED TO OUR WORLD. I WISH EACH OF YOU A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON. MAY GATHERINGS WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS BRING JOYFUL TIMES AND HAPPY MEMORIES.

GAY AUSTIN
NGC PRESIDENT

MAY THE BOUNTY, BEAUTY AND JOYS OF OUR EARTH AND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON BE WITH YOU THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

MARY WARSHAWER
PRESIDENT-ELECT

2020 HAS BEEN A YEAR THAT HAS TRIED US, BUT FROM HARD TIMES GOOD COMES TO GUIDE US. OFTEN TIMES, TRIALS WORK FOR OUR GOOD, WE LEARN FROM THEM AS WELL WE SHOULD. WE'LL ALL BE BETTER FOR IT IN 2021, SO LET'S JOYFULLY INTO OUR FUTURE RUN. HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON.

BRENDA MOORE
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

OSCAR WILDE ONCE SAID, "WHEN IT RAINS LOOK FOR RAINBOWS; WHEN IT'S DARK LOOK FOR STARS. I SAY, "WHEN WEARING A MASK, WE SEE SMILES IN YOUR EYES; WHEN STANDING SIX FEET AWAY, WE FEEL YOUR PRESENCE. REMEMBER: JUST WHEN THE CATERPILLAR THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS OVER IT BECAME A BUTTERFLY! IN ANTICIPATION OF A NEW YEAR, LET US HOPE 2021 IS A BUTTERFLY YEAR!

DONNA ROUCH
3RD VICE PRESIDENT

CHEERS TO THE NEW YEAR! WISHING ALL OF YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON FROM THE TEAM AT NGC HEADQUARTERS!
MICHELLE, BILL, KATIE, EMILY, CHRIS AND REBECCA

Wetland Pollinators

ARABELLA DANE

The curtain rises in the NH and VT wetlands when winter's ice begins to fragment, and spring's melt begins. The vernal pools, bogs and fens - edged by hardwood and evergreen forests – are endlessly fascinating. The plants in these habitats come into bloom sequentially throughout the season and diverse pollinators exploit their bounty.

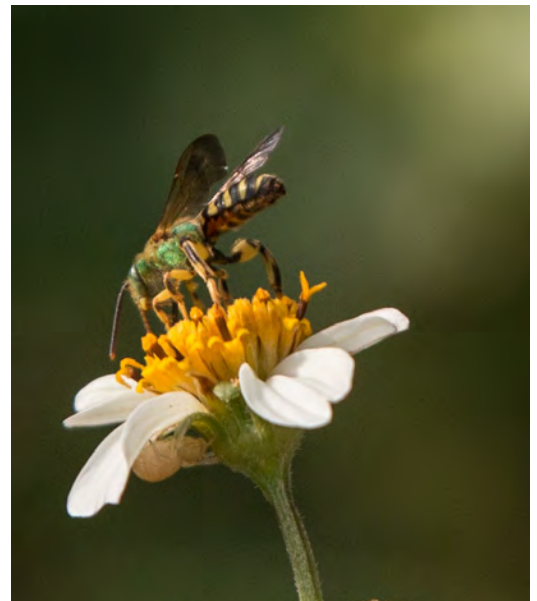
Most pollinators travel from plant to plant within a specific species either drinking its nectar, being coated with pollen or specifically eating/collecting pollen to feed their larval young, and/or to line their egg tunnels. Other pollinators eat pollen and accidentally transfer some of it from plant to plant.

So, who are these pollinators? Some are tiny flies – others are flies that mimic bees – and some are midges and mosquitos. Even house flies are pollinators. Various native bees are everywhere and bumblebees and colorful sweat-bees abound. Moths and butterflies drink nectar and move pollen between their chosen species. Various beetles munch on pollen and drink nectar too. Quite a few beneficial wasps are both pollinators and predators. Some live solitary lives and others live communally. Some ants eat pollen and others take pollen home to feed their larvae. Other ants drink nectar, picking up and dispersing pollen in the process. Hummingbirds zoom long distances to collect nectar from their chosen species thus transferring the pollen, trapped in their feathers, from plant to plant in the process. Honeybees (non-native) are present in the marshes but do not appear to be dominant pollinators.

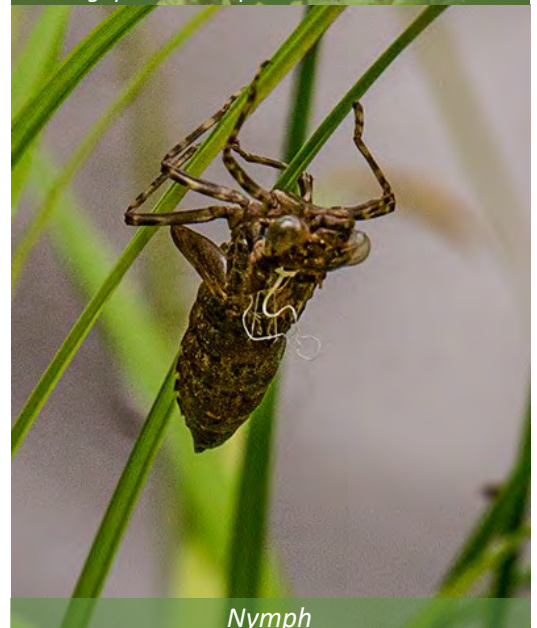
Throughout the season, many of these creatures have different phases in their life cycle and may play different roles within these life changes. Hoverflies begin life as aphid-eating grubs and ants tend and farm aphids for their honey. Moths and butterflies begin life as voracious plant-eating caterpillars. Frogs and tadpoles eat insects - including the nymphs of dragonflies. Dragonfly and damsel fly nymphs, spend as much as a year underwater, eating tadpoles, tiny fish and any other creatures. They emerge from the deep, to crawl up and attach to a stem to shed their skins and transform into airborne hunters. Ants collect seeds with special coatings. They carry these seeds to their nests to feed this coating to their larvae. Then, as tidy housekeepers, they discard the seeds with their waste in their trash piles that then become plant nurseries.

(Continued on page 12)

Ammophila procera - Thread-waisted Wasp



Agapostemon splendens - Sweat Bee



Nymph

Natural Disaster Grants - USA

JOHNNA-CLAIRE METZ

Storm Devastation

The United States is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. In fact, every state is susceptible to one or more of a host of hazards: earthquakes, droughts, floods, hurricanes, landslides, tornadoes, tsunamis, volcanoes and wildfires. Rather than just an extreme natural event such as a flood, tornado or hurricane, a natural disaster's character is a great deal of damage and/or the loss of life.

While mourning the loss of life and habitat, National Garden Clubs is honored to help three garden clubs, with projects receiving a Natural Disaster Grant! Communities benefit from the design, creativity and restoration of the lost horticulture while upholding the goals of NGC.

- ★ Howard County Garden Club, Ellicott City, MD - Laura O'Donnell, applicant
Their project is to plant a new garden around their Blue Star Marker destroyed during a flash flood - grant of \$2,000.
- ★ Park Place Garden Club, Laurel, MS - Mary Anne Sumrall, applicant
Their project is to replace native arboretum trees in Gardiner Park decimated by an EF3 tornado - grant of \$5,000.
- ★ Tallahassee Garden Club, Tallahassee, FL - H. Purvis & J. Walling, applicants
This project is to replant shrubs and arboretum trees in the Alfred Maclay Gardens, hit twice, by Hurricanes Hermine and Michael - grant of \$5,000.

NGC is comprised of a resilient group of individuals - always willing to lend a hand, find a solution, get down and dirty to help fix the disasters of the devastated! To enable us to continue to provide much needed assistance to clubs restoring devastated garden-related areas, please donate to [The Natural Disaster USA Fund](#). Donations are welcome on the NGC website [donations page](#) or by mail. (NGC, 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492) All donations are tax deductible and are gratefully acknowledged. **Thank you!**



Blue Star Marker - Howard County GC



Replanting - Tallahassee GC

The Flower Needs
Aubrea Sims, 1st Grade
Dogwood Garden Club, GA

A Flower needs stems. A Flower needs water. A Flower needs to have roots to stay. A Flower needs seeds to start, but can't without soil. Do you know what else plants need? Yes, you! Plants can grow better if you give love. Love makes every living thing grow better.



Helping Hands

JOE DA ROLD

Mobile Meals Design Team

Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ is celebrating 50 years of support of its local Mobile Meals program. Members of the Community Projects Committee create tray-size mini floral arrangements to accompany the meals. The club provides this service twice a year, in the spring and fall. This September, the club delivered 50 arrangements.

Previously, garden club members gathered at the mobile meal preparation site to create their mini-arrangements. With concerns about COVID-19, each of the members now works at home using a kit of pre-assembled materials plus plant material from their own garden. Each kit includes a plastic detergent bottle-top to use as a container, floral foam, directions for size of the arrangement and the delivery deadline. The committee then places each design in a plastic bag for Mobile Meals staff to deliver. Especially during the pandemic, this is a wonderful way of bringing the outside world to those who are isolated.

Rake and Hoe is proud of its years of community service. One of the recipients sent a thank-you letter last year: *"I can't begin to express how much your beautiful plant brightened up my day. It made me smile and gave me a feeling of spring. I have your plant on my kitchen windowsill, so I see it every day, and every day it brings happiness into my life. It made me realize that I am not alone and others think of me and care! That means a lot! I thank you so much!"*



Designs Ready for Mobile Meals



Design Containers - Bottle Caps!

Mustard Seed Camp

MAGGI BURNS

Camping Safely During COVID-19

For over 18 years, the Norwood Garden Club of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (TFGC) sponsors the Mustard Seed Camp, an environmental one-day youth camp. The camp, held annually in July or August, takes place at the TFGC Headquarters/Racheff House & Gardens Community Garden in Knoxville. The objectives of the camp are to educate and encourage youth to be participants in their community as well as be good stewards of the earth. They learn, through hands-on activities, to enjoy the value and fun of gardening activities and other topics; thus introducing them to environmental issues. Camp themes vary every year to align with the NGC and TFGC themes. The camp provides educational activities for up to 26 campers (kindergarten age to 13 years) on a first-come, first-served basis. Other garden club members, local businesses and organizations in the Knoxville area volunteer to support the camp each year by creating attendance certificates, goodie bags, plants, refreshments, equipment, seeds, tools and materials. This enables Norwood Garden Club to offer the camp free of charge to the campers. Kathy Pearson is the Norwood Garden Club Junior Garden Club Chair and has served in this position for the past 18 years. Another garden club member volunteers as the on-site registered nurse for the safety of the campers.

The day begins with allowing each child to choose from a variety of flowers, seeds or bulbs, donated by garden club members or businesses and planting them in the Children's Garden area. The campers divide into three age-appropriate groups for activities that include 35-minute rotational instructional presentations on environmental topics, gardening, wildlife habitats and hands-on activities. Professional speakers from the surrounding East Tennessee area share their knowledge and field expertise. The campers bring a sack lunch and learn about recycling when they see how much trash they have generated and how they can develop good recycling habits.

The TFGC Headquarters/Racheff House & Gardens is a public garden. Camp participants often make return visits throughout the year to plant other flowers or plants. Some campers return, when older, to obtain needed community service points for their school projects or clubs. Boy and Girl Scout Troops have also taken on projects in the garden.



Camp Speaker Discusses Cherokee Customs



Craft Time

NGC Golden Circle

JEAN OHLMANN

What is the Golden Circle Committee? Who are the members? The Golden Circle Committee is an elite group of NGC members that have served on the National Board for at least twenty-five years. There are no other requirements. It was recommended and approved to honor these members at the Winter Executive Meeting in 1996, during the administration of Mary Louise Michie. Twelve people were awarded the first Golden Circle Certificate and named to the Committee in May 1996.

All board member records are maintained at our Headquarters in St. Louis. At the proper time, Katie Roth, our Administrative Assistant, checks the records and submits the names to the Golden Circle Chairman, so that they may be recognized and receive their certificates at the National Meeting except when COVID-19 interferes. Congratulations to our most recent members - Arabella Dane, Judy Grotts, Marge McGoff and Pat Westgard. For the most part, this is an honorary committee. However, they have planted a tree at our National Headquarters as well as spearheaded a video/montage of our Headquarters.

Wetland Pollinators *(Continued from page 8)*

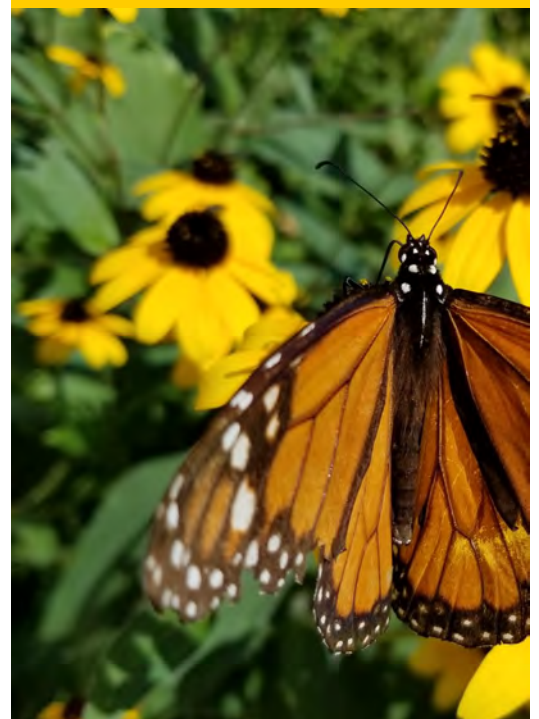
Seed eating birds and mammals defecate undigested seeds; moving plants from place to place in the process. Seed eating and nectar drinking birds feed their young with thousands of protein rich insects. Pollinating predatory wasps and bumblebees fill their larders with paralyzed or killed insects for their young. Mosquitos and midges feed on the blood of mammals and birds. Fish, tadpoles and the nymphs of dragonflies and damselflies eat mosquito eggs and larvae. The airborne dragonflies and damselflies eat thousands of mosquitos every day. It is a rough world out there in the wetlands. Our diverse pollinators play a vital part in these fascinating, dynamic and complex - yet fragile - habitats. Please protect them.

Editor's Note: Have you wondered what happens to bees, in winter, in our colder climates? Check out this fascinating article from the Wisconsin Pollinators.

["Where Do Native Bees Go in Winter?"](#)

The Tiniest Butterfly **Abigail Davis, K-5, Fulton GC, MO**

Once I was walking by a berry bush.
I saw the smallest, most beautiful
Butterfly. It started to fly up to a
Blossom tree. I started to walk inside.
Once I looked behind me, I saw the
Butterfly, I started to run back outside
But then...I saw a whole pack of them!
They lifted me up and flew me up to the
Tree! I could see the whole garden.
It was beautiful!





Books of Support

BETTY ROUND

Rainbow Fish Decorate the Spring Tree

Since the first year of its founding in 1952, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ has been committed to supporting students with cerebral palsy. Throughout each year, members visit the county's Jardine Academy to tend the flowerbeds, pot up plants and sow seeds with the students.

A unique aspect to the club's program is that each spring and fall, members select an appropriate children's book and make 100 ornaments inspired by a character in the book. Club members take the ornaments to the Academy, read the story to the students and decorate a tree with the ornaments. The tree stands in the school foyer for all to enjoy. Members donate a copy of the book to the school library.

Books recently selected include Kristen Mayer's *Go Big or Go Gnome*, a funny story about friendship and self-acceptance and Moore and Ohlmann's *The Frightened Frog* about the challenges of being a frog. The book includes fun facts about frogs and tells how children can help protect, preserve and support frog and amphibian habitats in their own backyards. This Year's Spring Tree was decorated with ornaments inspired by Marcus Pfister's *The Rainbow Fish*, an inspiring story about generosity and friendship. Community service is an integral part of Rake and Hoe's mission, and we are proud to continue our unique partnership with Jardine Academy.



Reading Time with Irene Goldstein



Planting Seeds at Jardine Academy

What is your club doing in your community? Spread the word with a featured article in a future issue of Keeping In Touch. See the following page for submission guidelines.

January/February's theme is "Design" - send us photos from your flower shows, design programs plus design tips and tricks.

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 THROUGH JANUARY 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Nov 6	CR 4	Sally Flanagan	FL
Nov 19	CR 1	Luanne Betz	FL-Virtual
Jan 15	CR 2	Sarah McReynolds	TX
Jan 21	CR 2	Luanne Betz	FL

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Nov 18	CR 4	Connie Wallace	TN
Jan 25	CR 3	Regena Williamson	TX

GARDENING SCHOOL

Dec 2	CR 4	Carol Bullard	MS
Jan 12	CR 4	Linda Haas	WA-Virtual
Jan 26	CR 4	Barbara Hadsell	FL-Virtual

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

None scheduled through January 2021.

MULTIPLE REFRESHERS

None scheduled through January 2021.

SYMPOSIUMS

None scheduled through January 2021.

See the [NGC website](#) for more information on schools, refreshers and symposia along with course updates. Due to the every changing COVID-19 situation, all dates are subject to change.

2021 CONVENTION Due to the continued world-wide COVID-19 threat and after several weeks of difficult, but necessary decisions for NGC, Inc., the NGC Executive Committee voted 9/18/2020 to cancel the 2021 NGC Annual Convention. We are grateful to all garden club members who worked tirelessly, generous with both their time and talent to organize this convention. A very special thank you to the New Jersey garden club members who organized this convention.

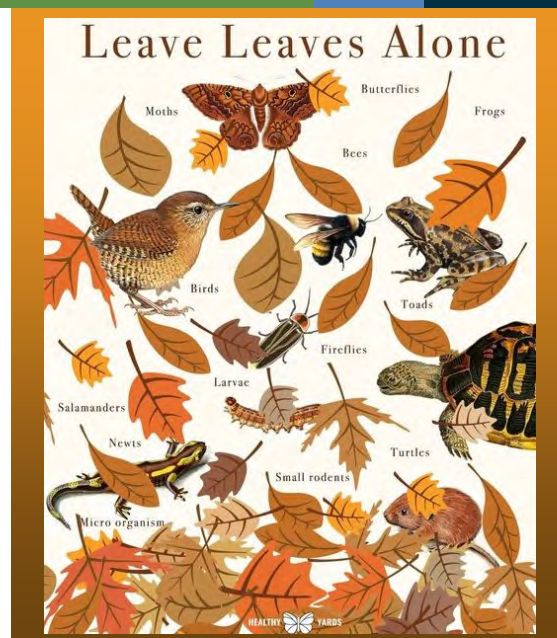
...from NGC announcement, Gay Austin 9/24/2020

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. 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 January/February: DESIGN! Get the latest information on Flower Show Schools, see more designs from the NGC Virtual Flower Show and more. **SHARE WITH OTHERS HOW YOU ARE HOSTING FLOWERS SHOWS DURING THE PANDEMIC. SEND YOUR DESIGN TIPS AND TRICKS!**

The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2020. Please send to geriannewgcf@gmail.com THANK YOU!



Acknowledgements

Starry Night...and to All a Good Night

CONTRIBUTORS

Idalia Aguilar, IA Consultant
 Gay Austin, NGC President
 Sharon Bender, Connecticut ES Chair
 Jan Berls, Indiana GC Project Chair
 Maggi Burns, TN Federation of GC, President
 Joe Da Rold, Rake & Hoe GC
 Arabella Dane, Photography Chair
 Abigail Davis, Student
 Gerianne Holzman, KIT Editor
 Lizzy Ilko, Student
 Johnna-Claire Metz, Natural Disasters Chair
 Brenda Moore, NGC 2nd Vice President
 Judy Newman, Schools Chair
 Jean Ohlmann, Golden Circle Chair
 Donna Rouch, NGC 3rd Vice President
 Betty Round, Rake & Hoe GC
 Aubrea Sims, Student
 Michelle Smith, NGC Executive Director
 Mary Warshauer, NGC President-elect

STAFF

[Gerianne Holzman](#), Editor
[Ann Fiel](#), Assistant Editor
 Gerry St. Peters, Joyce Bulington & Jan Sillik, Editorial Review

Sitting on the Porch

GERIANNE HOLZMAN

Sitting on the porch, I am enjoying the last vestiges of autumn before the cold winter winds and snow come to Wisconsin. The garden art and large containers are put away, spring bulbs are planted and the 300 houseplants are back inside after their summer vacation in the garden. Looking back at the growing season, I realize I once again spent too much time on the keyboard and not enough time digging in the soil. However, there are fruits of the labor of working with documents, forms and emails during all the screen time spent helping with the new NGC website. It is always good at the end of the year to be able to step back and admire a job well done. Congratulations to the entire website team!

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1. Gerianne Holzman, Gay Austin
2. Chris Montgomery (Unsplash=U), G. Holzman
3. Idalia Aguilar
4. G. Holzman, Arabella Dane
5. Gerd Altman (Pixabay=PB), Georgia de Lotz (U)
6. Jan Berls
7. G. Holzman, StockSnap (PB)
8. A. Dane
9. David Mark (PB), Johnna-Claire Metz
10. Joe Da Rold
11. Maggi Burns
12. Free-Photos (PB), G. Holzman
13. Betty Round
14. William Iven (PB), leaveleavesalone.org
15. Free-Photos (PB), G. Holzman



2020 is a year that we all hope we will NEVER have to repeat. Filled with fear, sadness, isolation and trauma, these past months have caused all of us to reassess ourselves. We have met great challenges with courage and resiliency. Just as we know that spring will follow winter, we know there will be brighter days ahead. On behalf of the staff of *Keeping in Touch*, we wish all of you the best as we say good-bye to 2020 and welcome a new year! As always, please Keep in Touch.

***The future belongs to those who believe
 in the beauty of their dreams.***

Eleanor Roosevelt