

KEEPING IN TOUCH



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

President's Postcard

GAY AUSTIN



Welcome to *Keeping in Touch*! Time has moved forward far too quickly, as this is the last *KIT* issue of the 2019-2021 administration. Special thanks to *KIT* Editor, Gerianne Holzman and Assistant Editor, Ann Fiel, who creatively made each publication entertaining, educational and inspiring for all. The success of this digital publication is also attributed to the many NGC Chairmen, who provided articles for each publication. Thanks to each of you for your part in making this mode of communication a success.

As this administration moves towards completion, we plan to provide, on our NGC website, many accomplishments of this 2019-2021 term of office. Despite the strict limitations that were required, we accomplished worthwhile projects. We will have our final NGC Board of Directors meeting (by Zoom) on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, beginning at 10:00am (CDT). The NGC Annual meeting will occur the following day, Thursday, May 20, 2021 beginning at 10:00 am (CDT). At the end of the meeting, the installation of the 2021-2023 Officers will occur. It has been a joy and pleasure to serve as your NGC president during the last two years. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Editor's Note: We offered the Chairs of NGC's Committee Sections the opportunity to look back over the last two years and share a few highlights of their tenure. Their reports, throughout *KIT*, emphasize that even during COVID-19, NGC stayed strong and active.



Narcissus 'PLANT AMERICA'

ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Inside This Issue

- Administration Highlights 2
- HS Essay Contest Winner 3
- Spring Planting 9
- Remembering Sandy 15
- Vermiculture 18
- National Garden Week 24
- Events 25
- Acknowledgements 26



NGC Virtual Meeting 2021

PAT WILSON

Attend the NGC Annual Meeting in Your Garden

The 2021 NGC Annual Meeting is going virtual due to COVID-19 concerns. Members can view special presentations on the Administration Highlights webpage of the NGC website. You can view videos and presentations related to the following topics.

- * **President Gay's Farewell Message**
- * **NGC Headquarter Tour**
- * **Awards of Excellence 2021 Recipients**
- * **NGC 2021 Award Recipients**
- * **Photography Contest Winners**
- * **International Affiliates**
- * **Espoma Grant Recipients**
- * **Ames Tools Recipients**
- * **2020 Perfect Vision Virtual Flower Show**
- * **PLANT AMERICA Grant Winners**

Greet old and new friends while attending the following LIVE, virtual events. Sit back, relax, grab a cup of coffee and enjoy. We look forward to seeing you. Please note:

- * Start times are Central Daylight Time
- * Links will be sent to attendees of "By Invitation" events
- * Watch the NGC Website for the link to the Annual Meeting and 2021 - 2023 Officer Installation



THANK YOU!

*Donna Rouch, NGC 3rd Vice President
 Gay Austin, NGC President
 Mary Warshauer, NGC President-elect
 Brenda Moore, NGC 2nd Vice President
 We have enjoyed PLANTING AMERICA with you.*

DID YOU KNOW? You do not need a password to view these presentations.

Events	Day	Date	Central Time	Leader	By Invitation	All Members WELCOME
2019 - 2021 Executive Committee	Tuesday	May 18	10:00am	Gay	*	
2019 - 2021 Board of Directors Meeting	Wednesday	May 19	10:00am	Gay	*	
Informal 2021 - 2023 Executive Committee	Wednesday	May 19	1:00pm	Mary	*	
2021 NGC Annual Business Meeting	Thursday	May 20	10:00am	Gay		*
Introduction of 2021 - 2023 Officers	Thursday	May 20	~12:00pm	Mary		*
2021 - 2023 State Presidents Meeting	Thursday	May 20	2:00pm	Brenda	*	
2021 - 2023 Board of Directors Meeting	Friday	May 21	12:00pm	Mary	*	



Taking Action to Protect Pollinator Habitat

LIAM JACK ELLIS

Early Bumble Bee Visits Pulmonaria

Habitat loss, the careless and excessive use of pesticides and weed killer and other factors are causing populations of pollinators such as bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects to dip drastically. U.S. National Agricultural Statistics show a honeybee decline from about 6 million hives in 1947 to 2.4 million hives in 2008, a 60 percent reduction. While we face declining numbers and increasing ecosystem loss, there are steps you can take to provide healthy habitats and improve pollinator conditions. These include choosing native pollinator-benefiting plants for your gardens, eliminating the use of chemical pesticides/herbicides and educating those who are unaware of the ways they can help address the environmental problems our world now faces.

Harmful pesticides and herbicides are not only used by big farms, but also by many people in their own yards. Weed killers and garden pest control chemicals have proven to be deadly to pollinators, particularly bees, who are harmed by the toxins as well as the loss of plants that are important food sources. Noxious chemicals aside, pesticides destroy biodiversity, and many plants considered weeds, such as clover and dandelions, are needed by bees to sustain themselves, particularly in spring and late summer when there is a dearth of pollen. Additionally, when these chemicals are applied, they do not simply disappear. They seep into the ground and water sources in the form of runoff. The best step we can take to help hamper the spread of these chemicals is to simply not use them. If homeowners could recognize that a lawn does not need to look like a spotless golf course to be socially acceptable, they would be helping to create a healthy habitat that is tremendously helpful to local pollination populations.

Another basic, yet highly beneficial way, that you can provide habitat is simply choosing the right plants for your garden based on their value as pollen sources, rather than on appearance alone. Most local garden supply centers are happy to help with choosing flowers that are most effective at drawing pollinators. Plants you choose should ideally be native to your area and drought resistant as to maximize the chances of them flourishing in your garden, reduce the need for watering and ensure attraction to pollinators. Simple changes in plant choice, such as milkweed, could have the potential to help sustain a large number of pollinators.

(Continued on page 23)



The NGC 2020-21 Essay Contest winner is Liam Jack Ellis. Liam is a Sophomore at Aquinas Academy of Pittsburgh in Sewickley, PA. His activities include:

- **National Aviary Teen Volunteer**
- **Beekeeper in training**
- **Aquinas Academy Pollinator Garden Project Leader**
- **Aquinas Academy Lacrosse Team**
- **Aquinas Academy Band**
- **Aquinas Academy Debate Team**
- **Acolyte , St. Stephen's Church, Sewickley**

He receives a \$1000 scholarship. The Ingamar Garden Club, PA sponsored Liam. CONGRATS!

Metamorphosis

GERIANNE HOLZMAN

Metamorphosis: a. change of physical form, structure, or substance b. a striking alteration in appearance or character (Merriam-Webster)

The National Gardener (TNG) and Keeping in Touch (KIT) are undergoing a metamorphosis beginning with their next issues. TNG, NGC's flagship magazine of over 90 years, becomes a completely digital publication. Members and others may subscribe to this free publication by visiting the NGC website, searching for [The National Gardener](#) and simply click on the subscribe button. Complete the five-question subscription form, submit and you are done! TNG will now arrive directly in your email every quarter. (Please note: NGC Life Members and current print subscribers, you must subscribe to continue to receive TNG. We need your request to send the magazine to your email.)

Why should you subscribe? You will get the latest information from National Garden Clubs from the national, regional, state and local levels. Do you love reading the personal articles currently published in *KIT*? These will now be found in *The National Gardener*. Read about our youth programs, PLANT AMERICA grant recipients, Blue and Gold Star Markers and more. Instead of the specific details related to our schools, you will be treated to **Environmental** stories, **Gardening** tips, **Flower Shows** (think floral designs) and **Landscaping** ideas. The NGC website contains the most up-to-date information on running a school, becoming a consultant or judge and attending a refresher, school or symposium. Please visit the NGC website to see the latest [schools information](#).

We welcome all members to submit articles to *TNG*. Visit *The National Gardener* webpage for more details on submissions and advertising in the new *TNG*. The metamorphosis of *TNG* completes with the transition to an all-volunteer staff: Editor Gerianne Holzman, Assistant Editor Dawn Mozgawa, Advertising/Marketing Manager Pat Wolanski, Copy Editors Joyce Bulington and Gerry St. Peters.

We thank Pat Binder for her many years of service as *The National Gardener* editor. She provided a splendid magazine filled with informative articles. We look forward to the metamorphosis of *TNG* into its new easy-to-read format packed with stunning images, remarkable information and YOUR stories.

What is happening with *Keeping in Touch*? See the following page to see that what is old is new all over again!



Butterfly Sculpture - NGC Headquarters



Transitions

GAY AUSTIN



For the last fourteen years, National Garden Clubs, Inc. along with our state, region and local clubs benefitted from Joan Corbisiero’s expertise in all things related to parliamentary procedures. Quick to answer a question, Joan’s vast knowledge helped seven NGC presidents through the maze that is Robert’s Rules of Order. She willingly assisted anyone struggling with procedural questions. We are truly lucky and privileged to have enjoyed Joan’s tenure as our parliamentarian. We wish her the absolute best with her future adventures as she enjoys time with her children and grandchildren. Thank you, Joan.

Highlights of Joan’s illustrious career:

- President, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS (FGCNYS) 1991 - 1993
- National Garden Clubs Master Judge
- National Garden Clubs Environmental Consultant
- FGCNYS Horticulture Judge
- Instructor, FGCNYS Horticulture Schools
- Past President of the Long Island Horticultural Society, the Long Island Chrysanthemum Society and the Douglaston Garden Club
- NGC Parliamentarian 2007 - 2021 (14 years, served 7 Presidents - Barbara May, Renee Blaschke, Shirley Nicolai, Linda Nelson, Sandra Robinson, Nancy Hargroves and Gay Austin)
- NGC Bylaws Revised - 2007
- Registered Parliamentarian - 2007
- Professional Registered Parliamentarian - 2009
- Serves or has served as Parliamentarian for National Garden Clubs, Inc., National Plant Society, Municipal Union, large Church Organization, Municipal Planning Council, Blue Star Mothers, NYS Nurses Association, National Kennel Club.
- President, Parliamentarians of Greater NY (PGNY) 2019 - Present



Keeping in Touch Brenda Moore

The late NGC President Mary Louise Michie created *Keeping in Touch (KIT)* in 1995 as a means of communicating with club presidents. At that time, club presidents received a print copy, twice yearly, in their home mailboxes. When it became an email only newsletter the publication expanded with Phyllis White serving as the editor. During the past two years, *KIT* became an every other month publication sent to the entire Board of Directors and local club presidents.

With the NGC flagship publication, *The National Gardener*, going to a digital-only format, *KIT* returns to its roots as a newsletter providing timely information to State Presidents, Region Directors, club presidents and club members. The editor is the NGC First Vice President who also serves as the liaison to the State Presidents and Region Directors.





Let Every Day be Arbor Day

VICTORIA BERGESEN

Some of us are heading into searing temperatures that are not best for planting trees. Others are anticipating planting season. Whether you can plant or not, you can always research and plan. Impulse buys are fine for houseplants or small herbaceous plants, but not for a tree. Trees are expensive, they require careful planting and may eventually radically change the light and even temperature conditions in your garden. The wrong tree in the wrong place may cause cracks in pavement or even in a home foundation.

Most of us really enjoy research and planning: leafing through plant catalogues, poring over reference works and surfing the internet. Ideally, you can use all of these resources. If you do, you may find discrepancies among them. For established facts search state extension sites attached to land-grant universities. These sites will have an “.edu” suffix. Government agencies and botanical gardens often have useful sites. Use these sites to back up claims by commercial sites.

- ◆ The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew’s website is the one now recommended by NGC for the most up-to-date taxonomy. Knowing the correct botanical name for a plant makes research and purchasing easier: www.PlantsoftheWorldonline.org
- ◆ The Missouri Botanical Garden’s Plant finder website has very useful horticultural information on many species. <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>
- ◆ The USDA Plants Database includes all plants native or naturalized in the US: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/plants>
- ◆ A sapling can easily be destroyed by deer. You might want to check out Rutgers University’s Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/deer-resistant-plants/?search=arum&submit=Search>
- ◆ For general information Wikipedia is usually reliable.

Researching and dreaming about the garden to come doesn’t need to be confined to the winter months. Plan now for the trees that you will plant in the months to come.



What did they do?

COMMUNICATIONS PRINT COMMITTEE
Gerry St. Peters

The Communications Print Committee had been meeting in conjunction with the Non-Print Committee at the Annual Convention and Fall Board Meeting. We felt the combined meetings were beneficial to both committees.

Although our committee has not met in person this past year due to COVID-19, we have continued our work reviewing materials prior to publication to ensure spelling, punctuation and capitalization are correct and consistent, and that they adhere to NGC’s quality of excellence.

In addition to our usual review of *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch*, this year we also edited several blogs before they were displayed on the [NGC Website](#).

Environmental Concerns

JACQUELINE CONNELL

The NGC 2019-2021 Environmental Concerns Committee focused on investigating “Innovations in Conservation.” With the enormous challenges presently facing our planet, it is easy to be overwhelmed. We can choose to concentrate our efforts on identifying problems and seeking positive solutions that our members can apply at home in their gardens and in their greater communities.

Our Committee chairs fielded questions, provided virtual presentations to clubs and submitted articles to *KIT* and *The National Gardener*. We were gratified that even through a pandemic, conservation work carried on as clubs sponsored in-person and virtual speakers for meetings and schools with subjects on pollinators/native plants as well as air, land and water protection.

Trees took center stage. Climate Change Chair Victoria Bergesen helped to launch “PLANT AMERICA with Trees—Each One Plant One” to encourage our members to plant trees to cool the planet, purify the air, provide wildlife habitat, soil stabilization and so much more. In an allied project, Penny Pines Chair Heather White renegotiated our partnership with the National Park Service to plant trees in our National Forests. She encouraged participation with new initiatives such as contests and pins for donors.

Recycling Chairs Gail and Hank Vanderhorst shared creative ways to repurpose everyday items. Air Quality Chair Flora Vance cited various indoor plants that “Scrub the Air.” Chairman Julia Gilmore worked for Wildlife Conservation and provided hints of how gardeners can help; as well as reporting on the innovation of returning oyster shells to rebuild coastal reefs. Invasive Species Chair Phyllis Besch treated us all to a helpful and charming article on how goats munch invasive plants in Buffalo. Jacqueline Connell was concerned with helping members save water in their gardens and reported on commercial urban farmers that are saving enormous amounts of water by growing hydroponically in recycled shipping containers. Lastly, Victoria Bergesen, incoming coordinator, encourages all our members to meet sustainably by holding “Zero Waste Meetings.” We thank all NGC clubs for their environmental work and hope our members will continue to share innovative ways we can all help Mother Earth.



What did they do?

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Barbara Campbell

The Nominating Committee was able to complete its work via Zoom this past year. There were 18 members from 18 states and we were able to come together, see one another and prepare a slate of officers for the 2021-2023 term.

All members participated with Vice Chairman Valerie Tipps taking minutes and Pacific Region representative Carol Norquist (Alaska) setting up all the meetings, guiding each of us on how to use Zoom and connecting to one another. We met numerous times first to set up guidelines, questions to ask and protocols to follow. Then we interviewed all candidates, met to deliberate and vote privately. I send a great big thank you to all the members who worked diligently to complete our mission. As an aside, setting up Zoom over four time zones is a challenge.



PLANT AMERICA

PAT MCPHERSON

Sutton Dam Native Plant Garden, West Virginia

NGC honored Judy’s Garden Club (JGC) in the Appalachian District of the West Virginia Garden Clubs with a PLANT AMERICA Grant to enhance our native plant garden. This project is collaboration between JGC and the Sutton U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It began in February 2020 with site selection near the Sutton Dam. While following COVID-19 mandates, JGC members worked with the Corps staff to prepare the garden and plant over twenty-five varieties of native West Virginia plants.

The NGC grant award will provide for plant identification markers, additional pollinator plants and educational materials for JGC members to utilize when speaking with the public. An impressive sign, prepared and presented by the US Army Corps of Engineers, reminds the public of the power of native plants and acknowledges the efforts of Judy’s Garden Club. This ongoing collaborative effort will provide JGC with educational opportunities to address public groups while increasing visitor interest for the Army Corps of Engineers.



AWARDS PRESENTATION

PAT YOUNG

NGC Garden Clubs, across the world, faced new and daunting challenges during this administration. Clubs met and overcame those challenges. The NGC Awards committee received approximately 650 applications in January of 2020 - just before the pandemic shutdown began. We were delighted to receive over 550 applications in 2021, even when clubs could not meet in their usual way. With innovation and determination, clubs continued their projects and even started new ones, while still abiding by COVID-19 restrictions.

The Awards Committee also was innovative in bestowing awards. We mailed all certificates, ribbons and monetary awards to State Presidents. We urge them to distribute the awards to clubs soon so clubs receiving monetary awards can cash their checks within this NGC fiscal year ending May 31.

The list of award winners will be posted on the NGC website in May and remain there throughout the year. Beginning May 5, a presentation will feature awards recipients. We commend each club recognized in the awards presentation and all clubs sending in applications.



Judy’s GC Members: Catherine Hoover, Christi Boggs, MaryRedman, Pat McPherson, Marian Agostino and Melissa Dennison

Spring Planting

MELINDA MEYERS

Check for Underground Lines

Spring is a time of renewal that often includes rejuvenating existing landscapes with minor or major changes. It is also the time you may be inundated with questions from those planning to do their own renovations. Help them be successful, spend wisely and stay safe with a bit of planning before visiting the garden center.

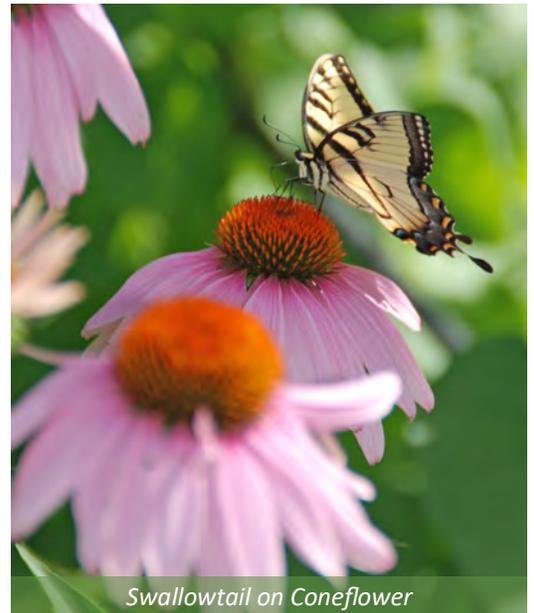
Start with a plan. Make a sketch of the existing landscape including planting beds, permanent plants and structures. A plan helps save you time and money and avoid costly mistakes. Moreover, it is much easier to move plants and structures drawn on paper than digging or disassembling them once placed in the landscape. Gather ideas and get the whole family involved in the process. Identify spaces for the improvements and plantings you would like to make. Consider functional features as well as aesthetic improvements. Locate spaces for managing yard waste, play, entertaining, and storage. Mark these in your landscape sketch. Once you are happy with the placement of these and permanent features like patios, fire pits, and garden beds, look for areas that need added color at various times of the year.

Make your landscape shine throughout the year with the help of plants suited to the growing conditions. Select plants that provide several seasons of beauty with flowers, fruit, fall color or form. Consider those that attract birds and butterflies for additional color and motion in your gardens. Do not forget about winter. Include ornamental grasses with attractive seed heads that sway in the wind, perennials with seeds for the birds, also trees and shrubs with colorful bark for winter interest.

Always call Diggers Hotline at 811 or file a request online at DiggersHotline.com at least three business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. Diggers Hotline will contact all the appropriate companies who will mark the location of their underground utilities in the designated work area. It is a free service and reduces the risk and inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable or other utilities while creating a beautiful landscape. This important step is often overlooked. A 2020 survey conducted by a third-party research firm for Common Ground Alliance (CGA) found only 50 percent of those planning a project involving digging were aware of this service. We need your help increasing awareness and use of Diggers Hotline now and throughout the landscaping season. Look up to check for overhead utilities. Avoid plants that can eventually grow into the wires or structures that may interfere with utilities and power transmission, creating a real hazard. Adjust designs to avoid conflict with both overhead and underground utilities.

Make this a fun, productive, and safe start to the gardening season for you and those gardeners you advise. Starting with a plan and contacting Diggers Hotline before installing any landscape project, large or small, are the first steps to success.

(Melinda Myers offers free gardening webinars throughout the season: melindamyers.com)



Swallowtail on Coneflower

DREAM BIG
&
MAKE IT HAPPEN

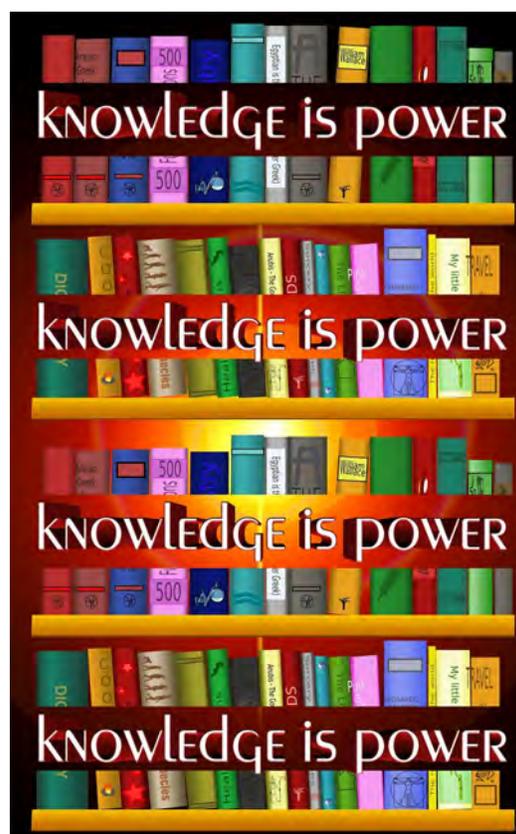
Scholarships

LISA ROBINSON

The 2019-2021 NGC Scholarship Committee utilized electronic means, where possible, for applications and evaluation, allowing a more efficient process. We also spearheaded a recommendation to increase the number of application submissions for larger states.

The pandemic provided great challenges for college students across our nation. These challenges were evident in the touching essays received in 2021 NGC Scholarship applications. They described the struggles of maintaining their GPA while managing housing issues, lost jobs, internships and socialization plus unemployment and health concerns suffered by their family - all in an ever-changing "classroom." Applying for scholarships became more difficult as many college staff and administrators were physically unavailable to offer guidance and documentation. Thanks to extra efforts by the NGC Scholarship Committee and State Scholarship Chairs to bring awareness of scholarships available while assisting students in procuring the necessary documents. We are proud of the number of applications received.

In 2020, NGC awarded 43 scholarships and in 2021, NGC plans to provide scholarships to 42 remarkable and inspiring students! Your NGC Scholarship Committee and State Scholarship Chairmen have proven their dedication to our mission and goals through assistance to the future stewards of our environment, food production plus maintenance and beautification of our lands. We congratulate future educators of horticulture and the environment.



ELECTRONIC LEARNING **IDALIA AGUILAR**

President Gay Austin authorized COMAAI to develop an E-Learning system combining the Asynchronous and Synchronous methods for International Affiliates NGC Schools online.

- ◆ Asynchronous method (self-study system) - Instructor emails links to students, including the class outline, internet articles, videos and a self-evaluation test, part of the final grade. This method allows students to study three weeks before attending an online class.
- ◆ Synchronous method (online classroom) - Zoom is used as an interactive classroom that allows communications between instructors and students. The platform offers teaching activities, questionnaires, recorded or live videos and "study rooms" where students can share information.

In less than a year, COMAAI efficiently tested and applied E-Learning to the four International NGC Schools. IA Educational Courses began in May 2020, and by January 2021, the IA FSS offered an online Procedure Course, as a pre-requisite to take before IA Horticulture or Design online courses. COMAAI has diligently provided training for instructors to use Zoom as a teaching tool and will soon instruct members, as technicians, to offer digital support during online classes.



Spring Garden

Landscape Design School

GREG POKORSKI

Despite a year of pandemic challenges, members of the Landscape Design School (LDS) Committee were unusually busy during the 2019-2021 term. New curriculum was initiated with schools that began after July 1, 2019. Issues identified with this implementation required additional minor changes to the curriculum in August 2020. Some schools are still being completed using the old curriculum and the textbook *Stewards of the Land*.

Four issues of our colorful newsletter, *Newscape*, were published. With the new website, these were moved from the LDS page to Member Resources, alongside *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch*, where they may find a larger audience. Articles regarding Environmental and Gardening Schools and Councils were added as of the Spring 2021 issue.

Great flexibility was demanded of committee members as they adjusted to use of a common Environmental/Gardening/Landscape Design Schools Handbook and forms implemented in April 2019. They participated in ongoing review and revision of the Handbook and forms. They also had to adapt to a new website that required review and some correction. Committee members are now engaged in the transition of the Instructors Chairman duties (the position is being eliminated) to the Accrediting Chairmen.

Initiation of Zoom courses saw committee members participating in Beta courses, attending Zoom courses for refresher credit and/or auditing courses as part of accreditation activities. Chairs are struggling with the complexities of administering Zoom courses, which have generated new sets of guidelines and additional revisions to the Handbook and forms. We hope LD Schools continue to attract many attendees and that students use the information provided in their clubs and communities.

What did they do?

ORGANIZATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Donna Rouch

The Organization Study Committee includes members representing many areas of the country plus the NGC President and Vice Presidents, Parliamentarian and Executive Director. This committee accepts Bylaws, Standing Rules, Manuals and Guidelines recommendations for changes.

The COVID-19 Pandemic caused the cancellation of the 2020 Convention, 2020 Fall Board and the 2021 Convention. However, the pandemic did not inhibit the work that needed to be accomplished. Since we were not able to meet at the usual times, the committee continued to meet via conference call to conduct its business. One advantage is we were not limited to meeting just twice a year. By the end of President Gay's term, over 102 amendment recommendations were presented and processed by our committee.





Environmental School

JUDY NEWMAN

Purple Gallinule, Everglades National Park

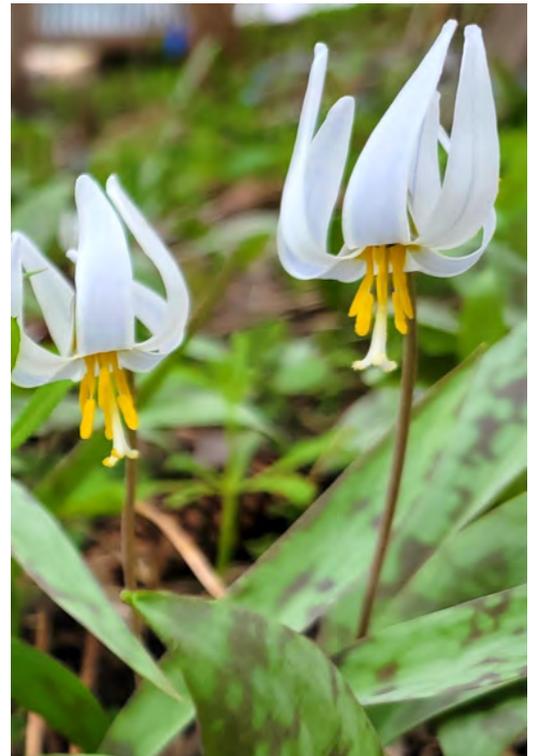
Local and State Environmental Schools Chairmen accepted the many challenges of conducting schools during the coronavirus pandemic. Most of the courses scheduled in 2020 were canceled or postponed. South Carolina successfully held two courses in a classroom setting. Connecticut held its first course in the Zoom format in September 2020. The State Chairman hosting virtual schools, with the assistance of a Technical Administrator, held several orientation sessions to assist the participants in learning about using Zoom. Florida, Missouri and New York hosted virtual Environmental Schools. Other Chairmen are working hard to reschedule Environmental School courses. Check the [NGC Website](#) for upcoming events near you or far away.

Attendees are enjoying the opportunity to learn about environmental issues outside their local areas. Some of the field trips have been amazing; walking in the Everglades, viewing the Atlantic Ocean and touring some of the gardens in Hawaii, all led by local guides. Participants in the Missouri courses enjoyed a hands-on experience for their field trip. The Zoom format is not designed to replace in-person experiences but is a great opportunity for our members to attend schools across the country.

GARDENING SCHOOL

BARBARA HADSELL

During the last two years, the NGC Gardening School has faced a tremendous unforeseen challenge. As one GS Course after another canceled due to the pandemic, renewed interest in gardening became apparent as a safe and healthy way to stay active and create enjoyable and beneficial gardens. Our NGC Gardening School met this challenge head on at our spring meeting in 2020. Three states volunteered to hold their courses as Zoom Beta Trials, following California's lead with two of their courses held via Zoom in March and April of 2020. A Zoom Beta Advisory Group formed to aid the NGC School's Policy Committee with the approval of President Gay and the NGC Executive Committee. GS Courses occurred in Washington, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Connecticut, Massachusetts, National Capital Area, New York and Florida. GS Accrediting Chairs deserve kudos for attending and guiding these Zoom courses. For guidance and uniformity, Zoom Guidelines were published in June 2020 with the help of our International Affiliates; then revised and streamlined in April 2021. I thank all of you for supporting this cooperative effort.



Grow Natives: Erythronium albidum (Trout Lily)

Awards of Excellence

DONNA ROUCH

Award of Excellence instructions and applications were sent to all State Presidents and Region Directors. Colorful follow-up flyers were sent to all reminding them of the January 1, 2020 and 2021 deadlines.

Award of Excellence for Non-members is the highest National Garden Clubs, Inc. award presented to a Non-member of NGC sponsored by a State Garden Club organization. It is awarded for significant contribution toward the advancement of goals and purposes of NGC. Each winner receives an NGC plaque and has the opportunity to give an acceptance speech at the convention along with recognition in *The National Gardener*. Three may be given per year; three were awarded in 2019 and in 2020.

Award of Excellence for State Garden Club is awarded for distinguished work in a state for a coordinated activity or project in accordance with the programs and objectives of NGC in which State Garden Club members have participated. Each State winner receives \$500. Four may be given; no applications were received for 2019 and 2020.

Award of Excellence for Regions is awarded for distinguished work in a Region for coordinated activity in accordance with the programs or objectives of NGC in which all states in the Region have participated. A Certificate of Merit and \$500 may be awarded. One may be given in the second year of an administration; one was awarded this year.

Since the 2020 and the 2021 Conventions were canceled, the Award of Excellence for Non-members winners will receive their plaques from the State Presidents at their respective state conventions. The 2019 winners were Jon Carloftis, John Forti and William Radler. We will soon announce this year's recipients on the NGC website along with other Administration Highlights.



2021 Ames Tool Grant Recipients Flossie Narducci

Congratulations to the clubs receiving Ames Tools for their projects. We received 100 applications from all across the country. Projects included beautifying communities, introducing youngsters to horticulture, working with the physically challenged and increasing accessibility to fresh food.....just to name a few.

- * CALIFORNIA - Folsom GC, Roseville Better Gardens Club
- * DELAWARE - Plantation Lakes GC, Spade and Trowel GC
- * FLORIDA - Valparaiso GC
- * GEORGIA - The Azalea GC
- * KENTUCKY - Four Seasons GC
- * MASSACHSETTS - The Hull GC
- * MARYLAND - Howard County GC
- * MISSISSIPPI - Plantation GC, Winona GC
- * MONTANA - Missoula GC, Rainbow GC, Stevensville GC
- * NEW HAMSHIRE - Derry GC, Littleton GC
- * NEW JERSEY - GC of Long Beach Island
- * PENNSYLVANIA - GC of York, Littlestown Area GC, Milford GC, Norristown GC
- * SOUTH CAROLINA - Chapin GC
- * TEXAS - Gardeners' Club of Parker County, Ocean Drive GC, Polk GC
- * WASHINGTON - Marine Hills GC

CONGRATULATIONS



Vision of Beauty

BRENDA BINGHAM

The VISION OF BEAUTY Calendar Committee has risen to the challenge of COVID-19. I write this (January 2021) as we send this edition to press after a tumultuous year for everyone around the world. It is my great pleasure to present the 2022 edition. The calendar highlights traditional and creative design as well as small pocket gardens. In addition, it is a teaching tool for new trends in design. The addition of naming the types of design in the descriptions has made our publication not only a valuable resource to our membership but also a valuable aid for teaching design. Our committee member, Karen Booker, researched and compiled a list of scientific names of plant material often used in our designs. This list updates as new varieties are developed.

We invite all members of clubs affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. to submit entries. We especially appreciate the entries from the International Affiliates. The entry requirement of submitting digital images has enabled our committee to evaluate each entry remotely in this year when we were unable to gather in person. As always, selections are evaluated for the quality and creativity of design, clarity of reproduction and variety. Special thanks to Karen Booker, Amye Kelly, Janet McGinnis, Parke Fineold and Sandy Mangels for their commitment to editing the 2022 edition of *Vision of Beauty*.

The continued success of the publication depends on YOU and your creativity, expertise and quality of images submitted. Sales to our members and friends are an important part of your support. The 2022 *Vision of Beauty* Calendar is coming to our [NGC Store](#), visit soon to order your copy.



Vision of Beauty 2022
(L-R)

- * International Flower Arranger of the Year:
Curved Delight
Joyce Warnock
- * Flower Arranger of the Year: *Birds Take Wing*
Ann Lange
- * Vision of Beauty Cover Design:
Florence Leysene





In Memory...

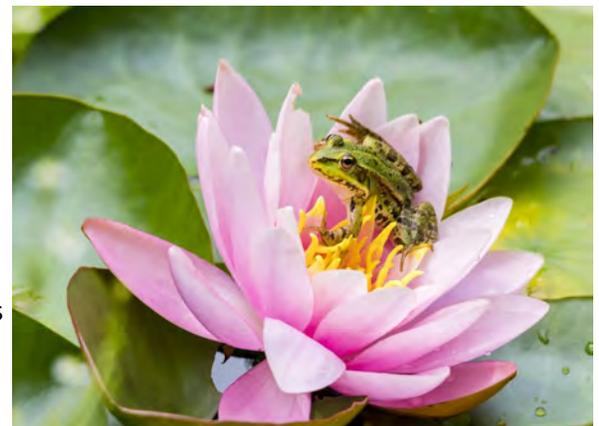
DAVID ROBSON

Sandra Robinson (1953 - 2021)

Former NGC President, Sandra H. Robinson passed away

March 22, 2021. Sandy served as President of National Garden Clubs, Inc. from 2015-2017 with a theme of "Leap Into Action." Sandy resided in London, KY with her husband Bill, children and grandchildren.

Sandy may have been small in stature but had a heart as big as the outdoors. She surely loved nature and all its living things from plants to animals, especially frogs. That love for frogs was the force behind *The Frightened Frog* book, with more than 8750 sold (and still selling) by garden club members. It is a wonderful present for children and grandchildren. *The Frightened Frog* can be found in many community and school libraries as a gift from the local garden club across the world.



She was quick to share a smile from ear to ear and a story. She lived and loved the garden clubs, and never met a garden club member she did not like. Sandy never missed an opportunity to promote NGC to anyone, anywhere, and at any time. She was the best traveling companion throughout the United States and abroad, especially in Central and South America. Sandy held a special place in her heart for the International Affiliates and never could believe the lavish attention and admiration they showered on her.

She truly did "Leap into Action" before, during and after her administration. Give her a job, ask her to enter a flower or to judge a flower show by traveling less than 24 hours after returning from an International Wafa show and she would do it without thinking twice. All the while, hoping she could get someone else to drive so she could catnap or not get caught speeding then still look totally refreshed and engaging when arriving at her destination. Sandy was game for any experience, as long as it did not involve pork or shellfish. She was a mentor to many people, helping solve problems of all sorts or just lend an ear and shoulder. Truly, she was a "rock" and "glue" to her family and friends, someone you could always count on.

She was a longtime and dedicated member of NGC and the Garden Club of Kentucky state president 2001 - 2003. Sandy was a NGC Five-Star member, having completed all four NGC schools and reaching the highest level in each. Many of her classes were taken throughout the U.S. Abundant lives have been touched and enriched by her friendship and generosity. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace, Sandy, you are missed.



Blue/Gold Star Markers

PAM DOWD

*Gold Star Garden & ByWay Marker
State Capital Grounds, Madison, WI*

With the 2021 NGC Annual Convention being canceled because of the Coronavirus pandemic, this report serves as a convention/year-end report. It covers Blue Star & Gold Star Family Markers (BS and GSFM) ordered from June 1, 2020 thru May 15, 2021. This report covers events, notifications and work accomplished by NGC members and your NGC BS and GSF Memorial Marker Chairman for the second year of the 2019-2021 NGC Administration.

With more restrictions being placed on the public and with businesses and schools closing during the first part of the garden club year of 2020, Blue Star and Gold Star Family Marker orders decreased. Dedications were set back because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

With the assistance of Gerianne Holzman, Website Committee, we revised and updates the [Guidelines for Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers](#). Prior to making changes on the order forms, Sewah Studios was consulted about expected turnaround times for delivery of markers and the necessity of having original signatures on orders. Delivery of markers is 12 weeks from the time the order and check are delivered to Sewah. Sewah does not require original signatures and accepts copies. With this information, we created new instructions for shortening the time in getting the order signed by the State BS & GSF Marker Chairman and the State President and getting the order to the NGC BS & GSF Marker Chairman. These new instructions save time, postage and avoid the check being mailed to two extra people before the NGC BS & GSF Marker Chairman receives it. Please see [website](#) for more info.

BS and GSFM Marker orders processed this past year were 32 BSM and 18 GSFM. To date, there are 3,334 BSM and 99 GSFM Markers. We can all soon look forward to Region Blue Star Memorial Dedications in two of our eight Regions. The Deep South and Pacific Regions are each in the process of finalizing plans for Region Blue Star Markers. It has been my pleasure to serve as NGC BS and GSF Memorial Marker Chairman. It has been heartwarming and so meaningful to me to see these projects come to fruition and to see the pleasure and pride they have brought to so many. Let us all continue to remember and honor our Armed Forces and our Gold Star Families by supporting the NGC BS and GSF Memorial Marker Program.

What did they do?

STATE PRESIDENT & REGION DIRECTOR LIAISON

Mary Warshauer

Amidst the unique challenges of this past year, we have seen the adaptability and resilience of NGC. Our dedicated State Presidents and Region Directors worked tirelessly to keep the members of their State Garden Clubs connected and inspired. They did an admirable job creating opportunities to accomplish their goals.

This year NGC has evolved through virtual meetings. These virtual platforms provide the ability to learn, interact and communicate with members from coast to coast. While connecting in person is desirable, these virtual platforms are an asset to keep business moving.

Since September, we hosted three successful 'Care to Share' virtual meetings for State Presidents and Region Directors. These meetings created a friendly, casual environment to share thoughts, concerns and questions. The level of participation confirms virtual meetings are valuable and will enhance the future of NGC.

It has been an honor and a sincere pleasure working with the State Presidents and Region Directors these past two years.



Around NGC

Watkinsville GC Blue Star Dedication

CHERYL JOHNSON

The Watkinsville Garden Club held a dedication ceremony on March 30, 2021 for the Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers installed by the club at the Oconee County Courthouse in cooperation with Oconee County and The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Special guests were three Gold Star Families, veterans, Garden Club of Georgia President Barbara Bourque and Blue Star/ Gold Star Marker Project Chair Jan Thiese. City and county officials also attended the event. Master of Ceremonies Frank Johnson, LTC, U.S. Army, Retired, a member of the Watkinsville Garden Club, conducted the moving ceremony. The Junior ROTC Color Guard from Clarke Central High School presented the colors. Alan F. E. Thiese, YNC, U.S. Navy, Retired offered special music. Rev. Dr. Lowrie J. Welton, COL, U.S. Air Force, Retired gave the Invocation and Benediction. The ceremony concluded with a haunting rendition of *Taps* presented by Regan O'Connor and Joel Garcia from the University of Georgia. A reception followed the ceremony.



Junior ROTC Color Guard

TANJA SWANSON

The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs is holding virtual Flower Design Contests. The March design style was "Featured Plant Material." We were thrilled that some of the people who entered were members who had never done design before. There are many clubs that never organize a Flower Show, perhaps not enough interest in design? You might want to think again. When is the last time you have asked your members? You do not have to organize a full-fledged show. Start with a virtual show as we did. When we can meet in person, start with a very small show in someone's home, just to get a taste of it. There are so many creative people in our clubs and it is just FUN! Who knows, some of your members might fall in love with designing and even might want to take Flower Show School classes! We always need more judges. With so many classes are on Zoom, members might be able to find a class online.



Patty Boynton's First Place Design



Vermiculture

KAILA BAILLENE

Kitchen Scraps + Worms = Compost

Vermiculture is the art of composting with special composting worms. Your soil is the most important ingredient of garden and makes everything you are growing survive or thrive. The cheapest and best fertilizer is vermicompost or decomposed materials worms make into composted matter. You can add the composted worm castings to the soil around your vegetables, flowers or any plant whether in pots or in the ground.

There are hundreds of videos showing ways to make your own worm composter or you can spend \$75 to several hundred dollars for a commercial bin. It depends on how much you want to do for yourself or how much compost you want to make.

Here is a quick and easy method to make your own vermicomposter. It should take you about two hours once you have assembled all the items you need. If you are not going to complete the process in one day, make the bin ensemble before getting your worms. You need the following items to make your worm composter: Two plastic bins (35 gal.) and two small plastic containers (recycled is great), bedding, worms, water, food source, drill with ¼" blade bit.

Plastic bins come with lids that you will use. They should be opaque because worms like to live in the dark and shy away from light. Most videos show the same size being used; however, you could use a shallower one for the bottom as long as it is the same length and width as the upper bin.

Bedding material comes from several sources: coco coir (Coco coir/fiber comes dehydrated so it must be soaked in water to hydrate and crumble. It does not have any bacteria, fungi, spores or seeds and is very easy to work with, but adds to your costs.) Other bedding materials are shredded newspaper and/or junk mail (no colored or slick paper), small bits of cardboard, dead leaves and small twigs. If you choose paper, you can add some leaves and twigs to the top. You will need about a five-gallon bucket full, loosely packed. You need garden soil to blend with the other bedding materials and to sprinkle on top of the worms, approximately one small bag or a full garden pail.

Worms are red wigglers (*Eisenia fetida*). They are voracious composting worms, not earthworms found in your yard. You might have a local source from a bait shop or you can order online. Weekly, feed the worms the same weight in scraps as the weight of the worms. Two thousand worms weigh about one pound. They will reproduce and you will need to increase the amount fed. Start with any number of worms, the more worms, the more scraps needed and the faster you have vermicompost.

Water moistens the bedding layer. Sprinkle it on or pour very lightly. The area needs to be moist, but not too wet. You will use about one quart of water to start.

(Continued on page 22)



Red Wiggler Worm - Eisenia foetida



NGC Headquarters

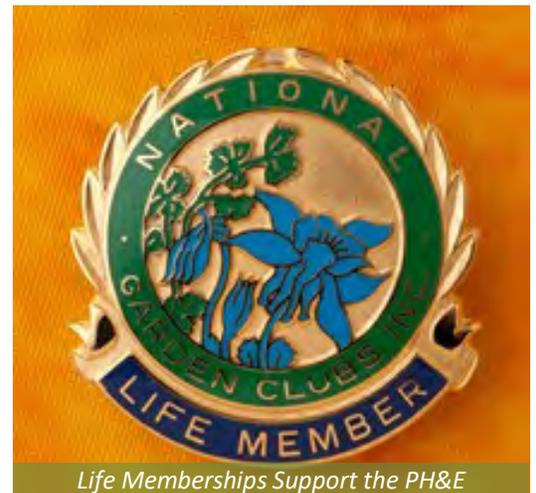
NANCY HARGROVES

NGC Headquarters, St. Louis, MO

The goals of the Permanent Home and Endowment (PH&E) Trustees for this term evolved from gifts given during the current and previous administration. Events began with the dedication ceremony in September 2019 for the renovation of the front grounds of Headquarters donated by June Kummer, the new atrium garden donated by Jean Ohlman, the replanting of the Butterfly Garden and the new Butterfly sculpture donated by Barbara Baker. The replanting of the overgrown Butterfly Garden revealed the need for more garden maintenance practices to avoid future total renovation of garden beds. The goal was to develop plans for the long-term maintenance and renovation of the grounds.

The PH&E Trustees accomplished the following during the past two years.

- * Plant Inventory Map with Maintenance
 - ✓ Plant identification to include both scientific and common names
 - ✓ A plant status or health check for each plant
 - ✓ Maps with updates to be included in each contract in order to ensure it continues from year to year. This will keep NGC current when future leaders move into these positions.
- * Renovation of the 9/11 Garden
 - ✓ Irrigation repair
 - ✓ Boxwood removal
 - ✓ New plant material, with year-round interest, installation
- * Removal and replacement of various trees, shrubs and plant material
- * More frequent rotation of annual plantings as well as more varieties selected for use
- * Renovation and enhancement of several areas on the property based on recommendations made while drawing the landscape plan
- * Removal of a dead oak and a dying oak (200-300 feet tall) at the back property line near the Missouri Botanical Garden
- * Installation of lightning protection systems on the most vulnerable trees, based on height, after lightning struck a huge Dawn Redwood in February. Removing very large trees (\$26,000 in January for the oaks) showed the cost of savings of lightning protection versus removing trees.



Life Memberships Support the PH&E

This committee is very proud to have made possible this GIANT STEP FORWARD to insure a current and accurate inventory of plants and trees, as well as having an actual landscape drawing, of the grounds of National Garden Clubs' Headquarters.

FOUR & FIVE STARS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

GARDENING SCHOOL

MULTIPLE REFRESHERS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Schools' Updates

JUDY NEWMAN

The Schools Policies Committee includes Chairmen of the Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools (ES, GS, LDS), Chairman of Four and Five Star Memberships, Multiple Refreshers and International Schools. The committee members worked many long hours to achieve the following.

- Updated the curriculum for each of the three schools
- Revised the Schools Handbook and all of the forms to make them user friendly
- Updated all of the Multiple Refresher forms
- Updated and posted the Four and Five Star Membership forms
- Authorized International Affiliates to sponsor virtual schools/workshops (These highly rated events have expanded in Central and South America.)
- Revised and posted items on the new NGC website

Due to the pandemic, Zoom Courses were initiated with several Zoom Beta test courses and a Tri- Refresher held across the country. The committee members spent many hours establishing Zoom Guidelines, monitoring the new format and assisting those conducting these courses.

- We prepared and revised a Zoom Kit with guidelines, sample brochures, spreadsheets plus slide decks for training, hosting and presenting virtual ES, GS and LDS Courses.
- We created a procedure chart to aid in the processing of all of the forms so students' and Consultants' records are properly recorded with their State School Chairman or designated person and submitted to the NGC Schools Secretary.
- We reviewed and responded to requests for information from Students, Consultants and State School Chairmen

Most of the ES, GS and LDS Courses hosted over 40 students and consultants from 15 - 20 different states. Students and refreshing Consultants enjoyed the opportunity to learn about areas in different parts of the country without having to travel. A few State Chairmen are holding our schools in-person, others are doing a hybrid of students in the classroom with speakers "Zooming" from other locations or a combination of some students in the classroom and others in a Zoom.

What did they do?

LIFE MEMBERS

Bobbie Verser

It has been a pleasure to serve as NGC Life Members Chairman during Gay Austin's term as NGC President, 2019-2021. The job definitely kept me busy. At the same time, it provided an opportunity to meet and get to know many new people. Valuable guidance was received from Headquarters, the Executive Committee and former Life Members Chairmen.

This year, 45 new Life Members from 22 states were accepted and welcomed. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and convention cancellations, we were not able to honor the new members during a luncheon as we did in 2019. The \$200 donation, for becoming a Life Member, is divided evenly between the PLANT AMERICA Community Grants Fund and the Permanent Home and Endowment. We awarded two states with special certificates plus \$100 for the State Garden Club with greatest increase in NGC Life Memberships and the State Garden Club with the greatest per capita increase in NGC Life Membership.



Espoma Grants

DEBI HARRINGTON

Tipton Students 2020 Espoma Grant

The COVID-19 Pandemic has curtailed much of what we normally could do in our day-to-day lives, but it has not curbed the passion and enthusiasm of NGC member clubs and their creative, hard-working members when it comes to beautifying their communities!

During the 2019-2021 term of office, the Espoma Grant Committee received over fifty applications for grants. These grants, worth \$250 each, enabled the winning clubs to be able to receive Espoma's organic soils and fertilizers suited for their projects. We selected forty-two winning projects from thirty states. Each winning venture was unique and provided beautiful places for respite, reflection and recreation within the community.

The variety of winning ideas brings attention to the importance of gardening in the community, whether it is providing much needed fresh produce for struggling families, therapeutic activities for the mind and body, beautiful places to sit and relax or engaging future generations of gardeners.

Applications for 2021 grants continue to pour in. NGC affiliated clubs receiving grants so far in 2021, include: Amaryllis Garden Club of Oklahoma, Myrtle Beach Garden Club of South Carolina, Parkside Garden Club of Washington and Wildflower Garden Club of Pennsylvania.

Up to fifteen additional grants will be awarded by mid-summer. Photographs and a detailed description of your project might net your club a 2021 grant! Let Espoma help your NGC club PLANT AMERICA! The application deadline is May 31, 2021.

Apply for a 2021 Espoma Grant now at:

<https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/>



Parkside GC 2021 Espoma Grant

Clubs receiving Espoma Grants in 2019: Bay Shore-NY, Bellmere GC-GA, Big Rapids-MI, Butler-PA, Camden-AR, DeKalb Federation of GCs-GA, Garden Gate Study Club-LA, Germantown -TN, Grow & Show-NJ, Hearthstone-TX, Lake Bloomers-MO, Mountain Laurel-MD, Naperville-IL, O'Fallon-IL, Oshkosh-WI, Ramblers-KY, Schaumburg Community-IL, Shepherd of the Hills-MO, Dix Hills-NY, GC of Garden County-NE, GC of Long Valley-NJ, GC at Palm Coast-FL

Clubs receiving Espoma Grants in 2020: Chambersburg-PA, Clarice Wilson-SC, Cocoa-Rockledge-FL, Eastside-TN, For the Love of Growing-ID, Granada-GA, Grenada-MS, Lakemoor Hills-TN, Lookout Mountain Beautiful-TN, Mason County-MI, Plantation Lakes-DE, Plaquemine-LA, Rose and Dahlia-GA, Stevensville-MT, Roswell-GA, The 25 Gardeners-MO, The GC of McKeesport-PA, Tipton Federated-IA, Top O' The World-CO and Tuolumne County-CA

More Worms

Worms Create "Black Gold" Soil

(Continued from page 18)

The **food source** is mostly your kitchen/food scraps. You can also add a few leaves and more shredded paper at the same time. Loosely add the scraps of food on top of the bedding or dig small holes into the bedding to place small amounts in two areas. Worms eat most vegetable and fruit scraps, but do not like citrus peels, onions or peppers. Do not add meat, fat, bones or dairy. You can add yellowing leaves from your garden as well. Reaching a balance of how much you feed them and how much water you provide keeps your bins odor free and the worms happy and productive. If you over feed the worms and they are not able to compost all the scraps; it will rot and cause odors. If you over water them, they could drown and die. If you do not feed them enough, they will try to crawl out and you have wasted your time and money. Just put small amounts of water and food in to begin with. Check it every few days and adjust, as needed.

Step 1: One bin will not have any holes. The lid will be the bottom; the bin will sit on its lid. If you are using two different size bins, the smaller one will be the bottom to catch the water that drains out of the top bin.

Step 2: Drill about 12 holes on the bottom of the second container, within two inches of the edge. Space them somewhat evenly around the sides and center. Water from the composting will drain through them. Drill five holes on the long sides and three holes along the shorter sides 3-4 inches from the top of the container. This is to allow airflow into the bin.

Step 3: Place the two small containers inside the bottom bin in opposite corners, top down. They allow head room for the water to drain into the bottom bin. Place the top bin inside the bottom bin, setting it on top of the two small containers.

Step 4: Layering the other items. If using coco coir, layer the crumbled pieces evenly on the bottom, it will be about four inches or more thick. If using shredded paper and leaves, assure the paper is fluffy and loose in the bin. Pour the water

over this layer of bedding to moisten but do not make it too wet. If water is left over, it is OK, do not use it. Spread two cups of soil over the bedding; spread the worms around the bin, breaking up those that may have balled up together. Sprinkle the rest of the soil over the worms. Spread the food scraps loosely around the bin. Cover and snap down lid.

Place the bins in a shady, dry place with good airflow. The worms like cool shade. If you want to elevate them on some blocks, a table, or other object, that is OK too. They may be kept on a porch or in a garage. Check on them in three days. If all the scraps are gone, give a few more. Check after one week. Discard any leftover scraps then put in fresh scraps - ratio of worm to food. You can add a cup of water, if you think it looks a bit dry, but do not overdo it.

When the worms finish eating all of the bedding and scraps for about three months, harvest the compost, use it and restart the cycle. Separate the worms from the vermicompost. You may want to wear gloves, but you do not have to. The worms are a bit moist, but will not hurt you or crawl too far or fast. Scoop out some (maybe half) of the compost onto a piece of plastic or the top lid. Form it into a log shape and pat together gently. Wait a few minutes. The worms will migrate to the bottom away from the light. Scoop the compost off the top and put it into a bucket to use. Gather up the worms into a container to restart the bins. Repeat the process until all the compost is gathered. It is okay if a few worms remain in the compost. They will continue to compost yard material and reproduce. Both males and females lay eggs and each egg produces 3 - 20 baby worms. Use the liquid from the drainage to feed your plants. If you want more worm tea, you can put some compost in a pail, add water and strain off the liquid. Use both the tea and compost in your plants. With extra worms, you could build a larger bin, spread them into the garden or give/sell to friends.



Yellow Swallowtail Butterfly on Tiger Lilies

Protect Pollinators

(Continued from page 3)

For the pollinator garden that I started earlier this summer on my school grounds, I met with staff at the local Audubon center who were very helpful in instructing me on choosing the best plants, how much water and shade they needed, and how to space them out. In the school garden's first year, we are already attracting clouds of bees and butterflies to the milkweed, bee balm, tickseed, anise hyssop and coneflower we have planted.

Another important action we can take to help pollinators is educating others - including young people - on their importance. Many adults, as well as children, are unaware how crucial bees are and that one third of the food we eat is made possible from bee pollination. While "educating" could be as simple as a conversation with a friend or family member, if you are a teacher or student, you can do what I did and spread knowledge by establishing a garden at school, talking about it on social media and petitioning to have the importance of protecting pollinators incorporated into the curriculum. Sharing information is, in a way, the most important and helpful thing you could do. For example, I learned how fragile honeybee ecosystems are from my neighbor, a beekeeper. In helping him care for his hives, I learned how easily a hive can collapse and how hard it is for them to regain stability.

In conclusion, we are facing a possible crisis in terms of rapidly depleting pollinator populations. Every person on earth benefits from the existence of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators because we all need food to survive. By making better choices in our own gardens and yards, we can make a huge difference in ensuring these vital creatures flourish and continue their role in our world.

2020- 2021 NGC ESSAY CONTEST

Jo Seller



First: Liam Jack Ellis, Ingomar GC, PA, Central Atlantic Region



Second: Felicia Elisabeth Foldes, High Desert Designers GC, AZ, Pacific Region

REGION WINNERS



Bailey Holly, Winona GC, MS, Deep South Region



Jennifer Tekut, Morning GC, NM, South Central Region



Luke Kreger, Caro GC, MI, Central Region



Tarig El Mammann, North Haven GC, CT, New England Region



Anders Kristensen, Neighborhood GC, UT, Rocky Mountain Region

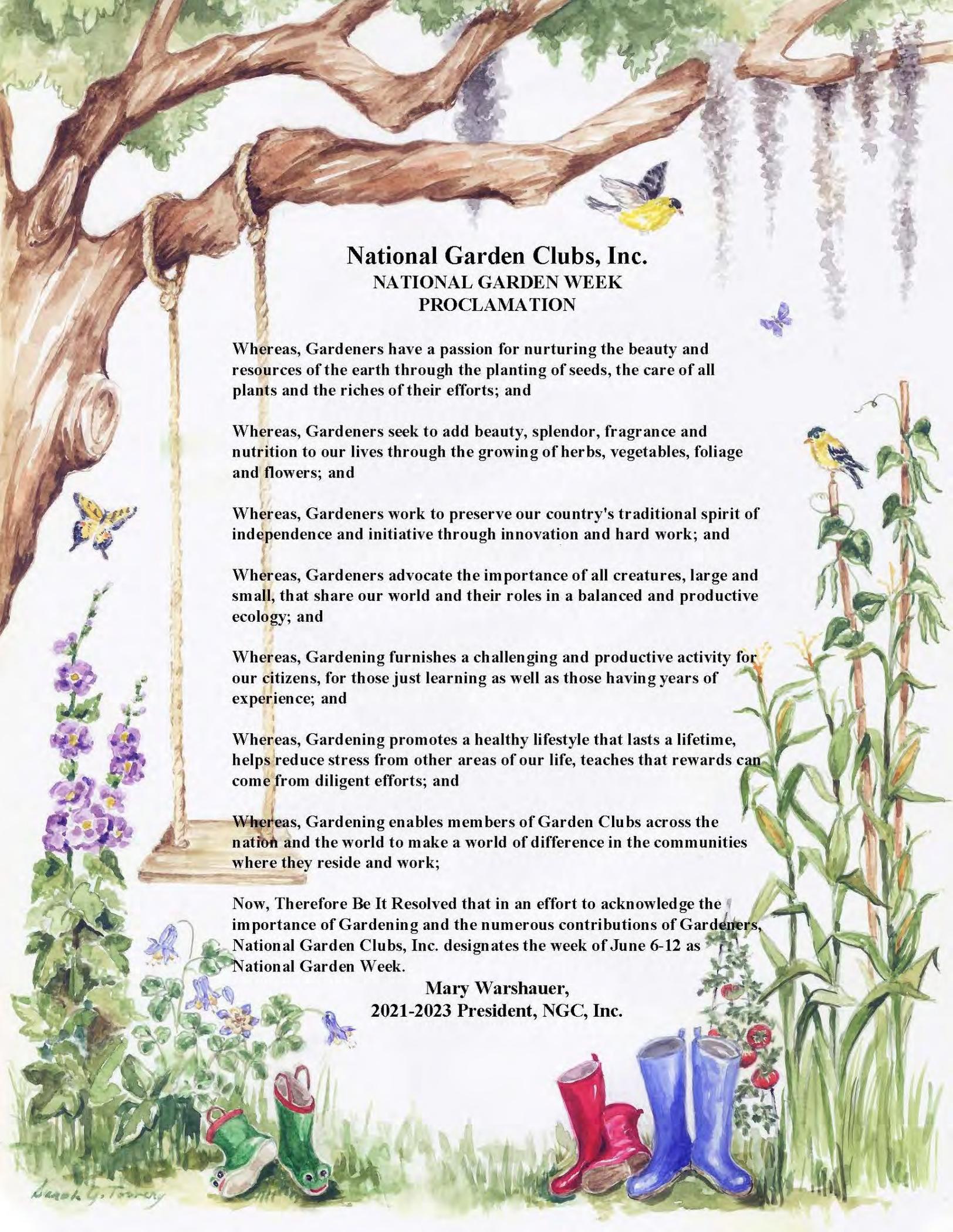


Gabriel M. McLendon, Lynn-Haven Heritage GC, VA, South Atlantic Region



Save the Date

Fall Board Meeting
 September 21 - 24, 2021
 St. Louis, Missouri
 More Info Pending



National Garden Clubs, Inc.
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK
PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants and the riches of their efforts; and

Whereas, Gardeners seek to add beauty, splendor, fragrance and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage and flowers; and

Whereas, Gardeners work to preserve our country's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through innovation and hard work; and

Whereas, Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small, that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and

Whereas, Gardening furnishes a challenging and productive activity for our citizens, for those just learning as well as those having years of experience; and

Whereas, Gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our life, teaches that rewards can come from diligent efforts; and

Whereas, Gardening enables members of Garden Clubs across the nation and the world to make a world of difference in the communities where they reside and work;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that in an effort to acknowledge the importance of Gardening and the numerous contributions of Gardeners, National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates the week of June 6-12 as National Garden Week.

Mary Warshauer,
2021-2023 President, NGC, Inc.

Calendar of Events

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PRESIDENT GAY?

May 10 - 12	Garden Clubs of Mississippi	Hernando, MS
May 16	New England Region	Virtual
May 17 - 18	NGC Committees Meetings	Virtual
May 19	NGC Board of Directors	Virtual
May 20	NGC Annual Meeting	Virtual
May 20	Installation of 2021-2023 Officers	Virtual
May 24	Federated GC of Missouri	Virtual

PRESIDENT-ELECT MARY'S MEETINGS

June 2	GC Federation of Massachusetts	Virtual
June 3	Michigan Garden Clubs	Virtual
June 4 - 6	Federated GC of Nebraska	Lincoln
June 10	Garden Club of New Jersey	Virtual
June 16	Oregon State Federation of GC	Virtual

During these challenging times, all schedules are subject to change without notice. Thank you for understanding.



COURSES THROUGH JUNE 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Sep 22	CR 4	Sharon Bender	CT-Virtual
--------	------	-------------------------------	------------

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

May 11	CR 1	Deborah Wyght	Hamilton, OH
May 17	CR 4	Carol Ullerich	Frankfort, KY
Jun 4	CR 3	Marie Pasley	Columbia, MO
Jun 20	CR 2	Trish Summers	Winston-Salem, NC
Jun 22	CR 4	Jean Engelman	Las Vegas, NV

GARDENING SCHOOL

None scheduled through June, 2021.

PHOTO CREDITS BY PAGE NUMBER

1. Penny Lamb, Gerianne Holzman
2. Werner Pfenningberger (Pixabay-PB), Gay Austin
3. G. Holzman, Jo Sellers
4. Suzanne D Williams (Unsplash), G. Holzman
5. James DeMers (PB)
6. Shameer Pk (PB), Nicky Pe (PB)
7. Gennaro Leonardi (PB), Ciker-Free Vector (PB)
8. Pat McPherson
9. Fiona Stuart (PB), Melinda Meyers
10. Gerd Altman (PB) X 2
11. G. Holzman, Julius H (PB)
12. Abhay Bharadwaj (PB), G. Holzman
13. Stux (PB)
14. Joyce Warnock, Ann Lange, Florence Leyssene
15. David Robson, Piet van de Wiel (PB)
16. G. Holzman
17. Cheryl Johnson, Patty Boynton
18. Mel Green FR (PB), Rob Hill (Wiki)
19. G. Holzman, Bobbie Verser
20. Gerd Altman (PB) X 2
21. Debi Harrington
22. Planet Fox (PB)
23. G. Holzman, PB: David Mark, Pixie-Core, Mark Dawdy, Analogicus
25. William Iven (PB)
26. G. Holzman

Acknowledgements

Cercis canadensis - Eastern Redbud

CONTRIBUTORS

Idalia Aguilar, COMAAI
 Gay Austin, NGC President
 Kaila Baillene, Central Florida Horticulture
 Victoria Bergesen, PLANT AMERICA with Trees
 Brenda Bingham, Vision of Beauty
 Barbara Campbell, Nominating
 Jacqueline Connell, Environmental Concerns
 Pam Dowd, Blue/Gold Star
 Barbara Hadsell, Gardening School
 Nancy Hargroves, Permanent Home & Endowment
 Debi Harrington, Espoma Grants
 Gerianne Holzman, KIT Editor
 Liam Jackson, HS Essay Contest Winner
 Cheryl Johnson, Watkinsville Garden Club
 Pat McPherson, Judy's Garden Club
 Melinda Meyers, Garden Personality
 Brenda Moore, NGC Second Vice President
 Flossie Narducci, Ames Tools Grants
 Judy Newman, Environmental School/Schools Policies
 Greg Pokorski, Landscape Design School
 Lisa Robinson, Scholarships
 David Robson, Sandy Tribute

Donna Rouch, NGC Third Vice President
 Jo Sellers, Essay Contest
 Gerry St. Peters, Communications-Print
 Tanja Swanson, Oregon Garden Clubs President
 Bobbie Verser, Life Members
 Mary Warshauer, NGC President-elect
 Pat Wilson, 2021 Convention Chair
 Pat Young, Awards

STAFF

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

THANK YOU, GRACIAS, MERCI, GRAZIE, DANKE, SPASIBA, TAKK, MAHALO, NAKURMIK to our members, clubs, chairpeople, youth, staff, states, regions and leaders for all of your wonderful, engaging articles during the past two years. YOU made *Keeping in Touch* possible. Thank you to assistant editor Ann Fiel for assuring all of our links went where they should, thank you to our eagle eye copy editors Gerry St. Peters, Joyce Bulington and Jan Sillik for literally making sure all of our T's are crossed and I's are dotted. *Keeping in Touch* has truly been a team effort. Thank you!

Gerianne Holzman, Editor

Sitting on the Porch

Sitting on the porch...I am thinking back to over two years ago when President Gay asked me to become the editor of *Keeping in Touch*. To say I was surprised and honored is an understatement. Phyllis White had laid the groundwork of an amazing newsletter and I had big shoes to fill, indeed. My thoughts turned to new ideas for *KIT*, not to change it, just to move it forward a few steps. Even before the invention of photography, it has been images that bring us into a story or even to tell a story. One of the joys of bringing *Keeping in Touch* to all of you has been finding just the right image to draw you to a story and want to learn more. During the past year of not being together, imagery has become even more important as we yearn to see others, even if it is just on the other side of a screen on your desktop or in the palm of your hand.

GERIANNE HOLZMAN

As I mentioned, I was surprised when Gay asked me to be *KIT* editor. Well, I was speechless when President-elect Mary asked me to take over the reigns of *The National Gardener*. (Those of you who know me; know I am never at a loss for words!) I look forward to this opportunity and challenge.

Thank you for all of your wonderful *KIT* compliments, suggestions and especially your articles. As we move into a new age of NGC, the entire *TNG* team looks forward to providing you with an amazing learning experience as we journey forward. THANK YOU and please *Keep in Touch!*

Gerianne
Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength.
 Betty Friedan