

# THE NATIONAL GARDENER



Fall 2021  
[gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)



# The National Gardener

Fall 2021, Volume 91, Number 4  
*PLANT AMERICA - Play Outdoors*



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Columbine on page 4 • Klickblick

## Coming in TNG

### Winter 2022 - January 1

- ❖ Floral Design
- ❖ Landscape Design
- ❖ NGC Bylaw Proposals
- ❖ 2022 NGC Convention

### Spring 2022 - April 1

- ❖ Spring Planting
- ❖ Veggie Gardens
- ❖ The Environment



Halloween • Pixabay

## About Us

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility and we help coordinate the interests and activities of state and local garden clubs in the U.S. and abroad.

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- Winter Issue Dec. 1/Jan. 1
- Spring Issue Mar. 1/Apr. 1
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Mary Warshauer

# MARY'S MUSINGS

Autumn is a wonderful time of year to embrace cooler weather, colorful canopies and the harvest. Even though we all experience the beauty of this season differently, our collective fall spirits

are as lively as ever. Many of us look forward to reuniting with our loved ones around the Thanksgiving table. It is a special time to reflect and give thanks.

During the recent times, our members have been incredibly adaptable and resilient in embracing virtual platforms. Through trial and error, and with the help of technological savvy young (and old) minds, we have persevered. Just as our youth have taught us new skills of the digital world, we, as gardeners, have many talents, knowledge and experiences to share with young people.

Introducing children to nature at a young age fosters an appreciation for the natural world and all it has to offer. From learning about life supported by water sources, to exploring the process of food production, connecting youth with nature is educational. Public parks and green spaces provide opportunities to teach children the importance of trees and their role in cleaning the air. Planting a tree with a young person may establish the roots of a relationship with nature that they can nurture and carry into adulthood. One of NGC's goals is to expose our youth to the beautiful earth.

The heartwarming children's book *Network with Nature* tells the story of a child who is encouraged to put down his electronic devices and embrace the joy in playing outdoors. This story reflects a child's curiosity as he explores and discovers nature. NGC's website includes a section for [Youth](#) with resources and activities in gardening, horticulture, sustainability and conservation.

November marks the time to honor our military veterans. The Blue Star Memorial Marker program honors the people who have served, are currently serving and who will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. In 2015, National Garden Clubs incorporated the Gold Star Families Marker into the Blue Star Memorial Marker Program. Gold Star families provide

support to those who have lost a loved one in service to our country through the United States Armed Forces. NGC garden clubs work with Gold Star Families placing these markers honoring our fallen heroes.

In 1917, the Congressional Record stated, "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother... their children." We are grateful for our veterans who have fought to protect our freedom.



Freedom • Anita S.



On the Bright Side--  
PLAY OUTSIDE

# Kids Gardens



## Make Gardening with Kids Fun for All Involved

Melinda Myers

As gardeners we know planting and tending a garden is good for our mental and physical wellbeing. The same holds true for kids. Getting them involved in growing plants indoors or out can also help increase our gardening enjoyment. Children see plants, insects and the garden through fresh eyes and often with great enthusiasm. Their sense of wonder is contagious and invigorating, helping to turn routine tasks into fun adventures.

Look for creative ways to get children involved in gardening. Some are naturally drawn to working in the garden while others may need a bit of coaxing. Tapping into other interests or skills like art, reading, writing, insects, math and computers can help you segue them into growing plants.

Involve them from the beginning of any gardening project whenever possible. Have them draw pictures of the plants or gardens they want to grow. Little ones can use crayons and those a bit older can create a collage from old catalogues, creating the plan for their ideal garden. Don't discount the value of graph paper and a ruler or computer aided design apps for children who prefer those planning tools.

Look for clues and themes in these plans. Michigan State University surveyed children when developing their Children's Garden and found color was an important feature. Kids also are drawn to plants with unique form or names. Crested Celosia resembles brains, making it a good choice for the zombie fans in the group. Eyeball Plant (*Acmella oleracea*), Balloon Plant with the hairy inflated seedpods (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*), Snake Plant and Kangaroo Paws (*Anigozanthos favidus*) are a few to consider. Gardeners of all ages will appreciate Popcorn Plant (*Senna didymobotrya*) with the buttered popcorn scented leaves or bat faced cuphea and the hummingbirds it attracts.

Consider adding features that make the garden a fun space to visit. There is a reason bean teepees, sunflower houses and tunnels in the garden have remained popular with kids of all ages for decades. Grow a garden shaped like a slice of pizza with all the key ingredients or a salsa garden. Everyone will benefit when using the freshly harvested ingredients to create these dishes.

A pot or flat of grass makes a nice field for super heroes and lawn for dolls. A bare patch of soil is perfect for digging, driving cars and trucks or sculpting hills and valleys. All these build skills that can be applied to future gardening efforts.

Incorporate some activities that provide quick results to maintain their interest. Growing microgreens is a fun, fast and easy

(Continued on page 6)



Granddaughter Maya Helping to Water • Melinda Myers

fences for a fairy, gnome or zombie garden. This is great practice for building a full-size wattle fence for a garden.

Create a worm bin and watch red worms turn kitchen scraps into valuable castings. Worms and insects often capture children's interest before the plants in the garden. Take it one step further and build a compost pile. Building and turning the pile helps burn excess energy and allows kids to find insects while watching things rot into compost.

Put kitchen scraps to work growing into something edible. The top of a sweet potato, sprouted potato from the

project. Start by letting them eat a few microgreens, with their parents' permission of course. Then break out saved fast food containers with lids and get busy planting. In less than two weeks they will be harvesting their crop of microgreens with their favorite pair of scissors.

Plant some salad radishes in the garden or container when growing tomatoes, beans and other vegetables that take longer to produce. Consider thinning the radish planting as the first stage of harvesting. Use the radish greens as a snack or in a salad. Harvesting and eating is more fun for all of us than thinning a row of radishes.

Use rainy days to create plant labels from paint sticks or stones. Paint individual words on some of the stones and place them in the garden. Let children leave messages for each other or write poetry. Repurpose pickle jars into garden treasure jars. Have children decorate the jars, then you fill them with messages or treasures before hiding in the garden.

Use the garden to teach other valuable lessons based on the children's ages, interests and time of year. Use recycled items for starting seed and rooting cuttings. Decorate larger pots into attractive containers and create plant supports from found items.

Use 2 liter soda bottles and lessons from Bottle Biology <https://bottlebiology.org> to explore nature and science. These fun and affordable projects were the inspiration of Paul Williams, a professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He and others have created a variety of easy to follow lessons.

Explore ways to reuse and recycle landscape trimmings and kitchen scraps. Put twigs to use creating small-scale wattle

pantry or bottom of the celery can be grown into a plant and eventually be consumed.

The Children's Gardeners at the Royal Botanical Garden in Hamilton, Ontario taught me the Pluck, Drop and Stomp method of insect control. Children learn about good and bad insects in the garden. They control harmful pests by plucking them off the plant, dropping them to the ground and stepping on them. No pesticides used and kids burn off some excess energy. Or go for a Bug Hunt <https://www.atcllc.com/learning-center/trees-and-vegetation/grow-smart/young-gardener-activities/>

For more ideas, watch the recording of my [Gardening with Kids Webinar](#) (passcode: X#bWe=0Z) sponsored by American Transmission Company's Grow Smart Program. It is available through the end of the year. Download the [Handout](#) with links to a variety of Kids Gardening resources.

Gentle guidance, realistic expectations and age appropriate activities will help get kids excited about gardening. The gardens they create and plants they grow are often amazing, but more importantly, it is the experience of growing together that makes it worthwhile.

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Melinda Myers is a gardening and horticulture expert. See Melinda's website for more information: [melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)

# R E M E M B E R

MEMORIAL GARDEN  
In remembrance  
of those who lost their lives in  
terrorist acts on September 11, 2001.  
They will live forever  
in our hearts and memories.  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Dedicated May 16, 2004  
redesigned and rededicated  
through the generosity of  
June M. and Fred S. Kummer, Jr.  
September 28, 2007



NGC 911 Garden • Katie Roth

Insets: Dedication Plaque/PA Keystone fountain • Katie Roth

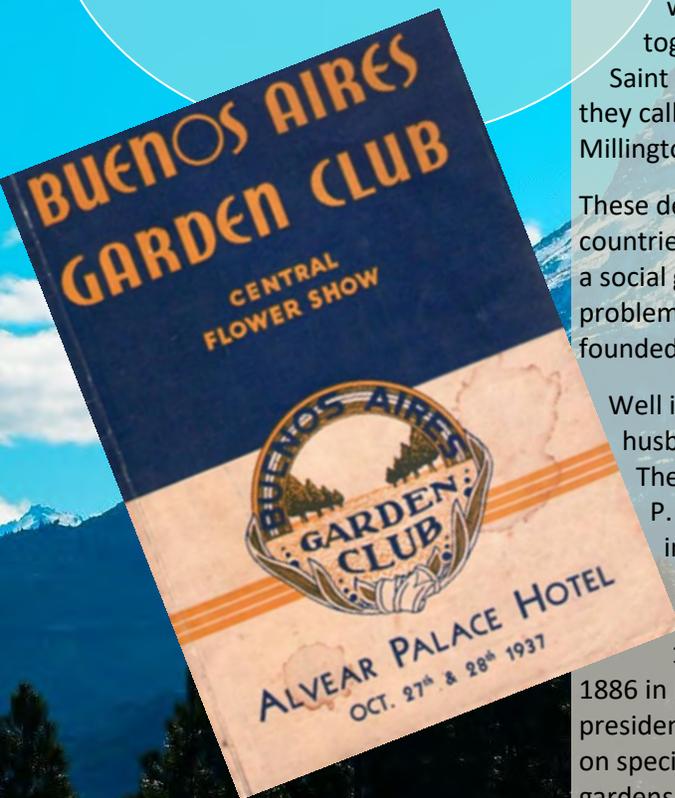
## Twenty Years Later Katie Roth

Twenty years have passed since that tragic day in 2001. During the intervening years, many memorials have been and continue to be raised honoring the victims, survivors and responders. On May 16, 2004 during NGC's 75th Anniversary, NGC dedicated its September 11 Memorial Garden. Members of the National Garden Clubs generously donated to the construction of this special place on the grounds of the NGC Headquarters in St. Louis.

The September 11 Memorial Garden is located at the end of the wall extending from Kellogg Hall. The 16-foot wide garden incorporates a number of symbolic meanings. They represent the sites where so many fellow citizens, and individuals of other countries, were killed. A low, pentagon-shaped retaining wall surrounds two flagpoles representing the twin towers of the World Trade Center along with a granite fountain in the shape of the Pennsylvania Keystone. The garden is currently planted with *Leucanthemum × superbum* 'Snow Lady', *Geranium* 'Gerwat' Rozanne, *Rudbeckia hirta*, *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln', *Calamagrostis × acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster', *Taxus × media* 'Hicksii', *Phedimus ellacombianus* and Summer Annuals. The garden is a beautiful, fitting memorial to all who lost their lives on that terrible day and assures they are never forgotten.

Katie Roth is the NGC Assistant Executive Director.

Happy  
Birthday!



## GARDEN CLUB ARGENTINO TURNS 100!!!

### Pampa Riso Patrón

In August of this year, the Garden Club Argentino (GCA) celebrated its first 100 years. The enthusiasm of a group of British and American women, who shared a passion and dedication for their gardens, brought them together. Their first amateur floral exhibit was held at the Anglican Church of Saint Saviour in Belgrano, a suburb of Buenos Aires. It was November 1912 and they called the event "The Sweet Pea Show." Lady Effie Mackay, wife of Sir Eugen Millington-Drake (Councilor to the British Embassy), awarded the prizes.

These dedicated "club" ladies, a social activity they brought from their native countries, found a way of getting things done and diligently planned and organized a social group. They shared their knowledge of gardening and resolved common problems they had in their well-preserved and beautifully cultivated gardens. They founded the Buenos Aires Garden Club on August 3, 1921.

Well into the twentieth century, the members were called only by their husbands' last names and this is how they appear on a headquarters' plaque. The first three presidents were Mrs. Ackley, Mrs. M. Rolfe-Rogers and Mrs. A. P. Allensworth. Today we know that the first was Anna Klopfer. She was born in Allegheny, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States, on July 11, 1879, and was married to William Kerr Ackley. Sybil May Buxton succeeded her two years later. She was born in Davenham, Cheshire, England, on May 10, 1880 and married Ralph Rolfe-Rogers. In 1924, Elizabeth Cockburn, born in 1886 in Barton, Maryland, USA and married to Allen P. Allensworth became president. From the start, these distinguished ladies decorated the British Embassy on special fund raising events. They managed the upkeep of the British Hospital gardens and discovered how to benefit society by organizing a flower show.

The 1929 Great Depression greatly affected Argentina along with the rest of the world. That year, a Garden Club committee organized a flower show to benefit the unemployed of the British Community in Buenos Aires. They held the event at Prince George's Hall and Lady Millington-Drake participated with her enthusiasm, inviting newcomers to "...admire the charming products of nature: from the earliest spring blossoms to the late autumn crocus".

The success of this experience created the Central Flower Show and became the Club's most important event of the year for decades. When Prince George's Hall became too small, the Club moved the event to the terrace and top two floors of the most prestigious Alvear Palace Hotel. The Club's activities and the Central Flower Show grew measurably well into the late 1930's to welcome the attendance of the President of Argentina, Agustín Pedro Justo, in 1937.

Throughout these ambitious years, the Garden Club strengthened its ties to the Royal Horticultural Society, which it had joined in 1928. With the imminence of the war in Europe, this wise group of hard working women embraced fund raising teas having to cancel the Central Flower Show in favor of smaller and less costly events.

*(Continued on page 9)*



In October of 1940, they held a Rose Show at which Lady Ovey, wife of the British Ambassador, presented the prizes. The following year they organized the first Garden Club Plant and Flower Market to benefit the British Red Cross. This continued for years with a number of different beneficiaries. (The Plant Market continues today with the same generous charitable activity.) It was during WWII that the Club organized the sale of plants and flowers for the British Community Council's Goodwill Fête. After the war, it held the Plant Market at St. Andrew's Scots Church.

In the 1950s, the Garden Club started a fruitful collaboration with the British Hospital whereby they landscaped, planted and cared for the hospital grounds. This work enthused the staff as well as patients who called the Garden Club members "The Bottoms Up Brigade"!

This activity continued for years and in the 1990s evolved, under a new generation of Garden Club members, into an initiative called Gardening Therapy - thanks to information supplied by the Royal Horticultural Society. Today, another well-known children's health institution, Garrahan Pediatric Hospital, benefits from the Garden Club involvement with hospital staff, patients and their families.

In the 1960s, after many visits with the authorities, Buenos Aires Garden Club affiliated with the National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC) and since then they work within the NGC rules of floral design. Members are active with the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) and in 2002 became a part of the World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA). In mid 1970s, the Garden Club accepted the use of Spanish in all Club meetings.

As they reach their first century, the GCA has 10 districts in the country, with 40 groups and 550 members throughout Argentina. The Hurlingham Group is the oldest club with its very committed 94 years of youthful dedication to the love of nature. The main activity of the Garden Club continues to be our legacy to transmit disciplines relating to gardening, floral design, horticulture and, as of most recently, gardening therapy. It was during the presidency of a Hurlingham group

member, in 1997, that the original Buenos Aires Garden Club changed its name to Garden Club Argentino, in recognition to the great expansion of garden clubs within the country.

Our current GCA president, Christine Pentreath de Raffo, has enthusiastically shared a special mission for this occasion, stating, "This year, we celebrate our centennial and our goal is for each group to plant a tree that will survive another hundred years. In our community work, the Garden Club has taught us to contribute design and care of local parks, hospital gardens, senior living spaces and schools. We have offered courses in gardening, not only to our members but also to doctors, nurses and teachers. We have taught children the secrets of nature, how to care for her, understand and respect her. We have shown elder citizens projects for a healthy and happy tomorrow, to learn, enjoy and share their knowledge. This we have done in the past 100 years and will continue doing it happily for the 100 years to come."

Because travel opportunities changed dramatically since 2020, our members have become very savvy with virtual meetings to keep in touch within our country's groups, and more recently with the NGC's *Comité de Actividades de Afiliados Internacionales* (COMAAI) <https://www.comaai.org> with whom we regularly exchange tutorials and lectures.

As of this issue, *The National Gardener* is presenting, along with this anniversary article, three bilingual (English/Spanish) articles of COMAAI dedicated to floral design, horticulture and the environment. It is an open window to reach out to the world with new, exciting and exotic articles to showcase the beauties south of the Rio Grande.

To commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> year, the GCA sponsored several virtual events. During the presentation of our book, *100 Years of History*, we had the honor of having National Garden Clubs' President Mary Warshauer share kind words of recognition with more than 500 members virtually present. To document this wonderful period of existence, the GCA has published a beautiful coffee table book available for sale. For further information, contact [sede@GardenClubArgentino.com.ar](mailto:sede@GardenClubArgentino.com.ar)

To conclude with the centennial events, the GCA is holding a Virtual International Show, *Time and Tide Wait for No Man*. It will include the following divisions: education, horticulture, botanical arts, youth, design and photography. It will also have the special participation of exhibitors from the World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA). For additional information, please contact [GardenProgramacion@gmail.com](mailto:GardenProgramacion@gmail.com)

Pampa Risso Patrón is the *TNG* Translation Editor and the Bilingual Editor of COMAAI. She is especially grateful for the collaboration received from the GCA, its members and for the use of photographs from their archives and their website that enabled this entertaining story. More online:

- \* [Garden Club Argentino Anniversary Presentation](#)
- \* [La traducción de este artículo al español](#)

# Happy Gardener



## Fall Tasking Charlotte Swanson

After a long, simmering summer, autumn is a refreshing pause. Garden-wise there are various tasks ahead before the tool shed closes. One of my favorites is gathering grass and shredded leaves for the compost pile. Free amendments for next year's garden are always welcome! Nature is willing to do most of the work of converting these raw materials into fine black gold by springtime. Turning the pile occasionally is all the help needed and is a small price to pay for such a valuable commodity.

Another task is the burying of spring bulbs so one can daydream about their appearance while the garden rests in tones of brown or white. In open areas, a few passes with the rototiller is all that is needed to open the earth enough to sink those tulip and crocus bulbs that promise spring color. A little work in the fall pays off when those fresh blooms dot the new season. Even in late winter, one can sneak about checking to spot their green spikes and assure that spring is near.

Though not a yearly task, there is the peony to plant. It is a risky venture in my book as I often wonder if the eyes of the peony are at just the right depth in the soil. Too deep and no blooms, too shallow and the roots do not get established. Digging the hole, throwing in the shovel of compost and refilling with soil is the easy part. Setting the root ball just right is the trick. The correct depth can be one-half inch to two inches. Over the years, in Hardiness Zone 5, I have aimed for one inch and have had good results. It is well worth the risk, for nothing is more glorious in early June than a peony in full regale. Layers of frilly lace deftly hide the pistil and pollen-laden stamens. The mature bush generously bears enough blooms so that every room of the house can be indulged with their beauty. To be rich in peonies is a fate to be desired.

Though every type of peony bears loveliness, whether a single layer of petals or a whole stack of them, there is one whose color and size tends to steal the show. 'Bartzella' is a definite show-off. Huge, ten-inch blossoms in a crisp yellow hue layer around a reddish center. In five years or less, it can spread into a shrub 5 feet wide by 4 feet tall. Here is the bonus - its strong stems need no staking and the foliage is pleasing until frost. This intersectional or Itoh peony is a fabulous cross between the herbaceous and tree peony. Bless the memory of Mr. Itoh, who labored 20 years before successfully uniting this cross.

A little rest, a little folding of the hands and a little winter sleep lies ahead, but not before the gardener finishes those last few projects that ready one for the return of spring.

---

Charlotte Swanson is a NGC Gardening Consultant.

*Paeonia 'Bartzella' • Charlotte Swanson*  
*Inset: Narcissus 'Plant America' • Gerianne Holzman*



# Getting Creative Naturally

## Johnna-Claire Metz

It is time to engage our children with nature! Rally the troops, Girl Scout, Boy Scout, Youth Groups, Junior Clubs, 4-H, all School Children & Campers! Empower them to create their own "State Patch!" Create a contest to design your state patch. Make them nature inspired, colorful, educational; then setup a criteria for earning this specialized, one of a kind patch. While doing so, you are stimulating our future gardeners and stewards of this great land. Connect your patch to your state's symbols, e.g. the United States of America's symbols are Bird=Bald Eagle, Flower=Rose and Tree=Oak.

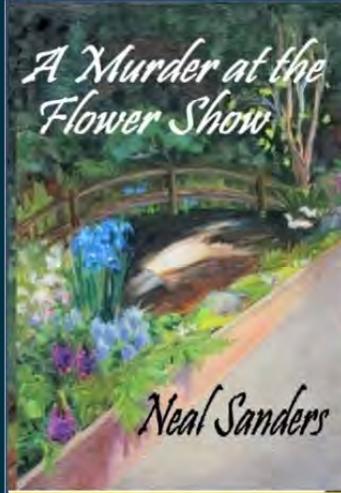
### Project Suggestions

- \* Saving Seeds - Heirlooms
- \* Native Plants
- \* Invasive Plants
- \* Endangered State Plants
- \* State Tree Identification by Leaves
- \* Nature Walks: Study Habitats
- \* Birding: Create a Habitat for your State Bird
- \* Insects - Bugs and Bees
- \* Plant Identification
- \* Science & Biology of Seeds, Plants, Propagation
- \* Natural Resources - Soil, Water, Sun & Minerals
- \* Renewable Energy

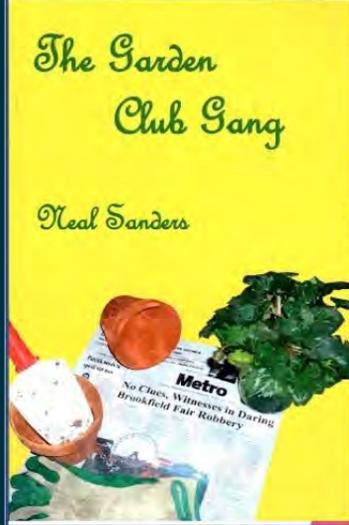
Whatever project you target, make sure to encourage our youth to *Play Outside*, explore, learn, touch, smell and identify their amazing world around them. As Patch Chair, I can help you with ideas, organization and plans for years of growth. To NGC states that currently have a patch, please send me a photo for our "Patch Library." Inspire our young gardeners!

[Johnna-Claire Metz](#) is the NGC Patch & Youth Gardening Projects Chair.

South Carolina Patch • GCSC









## Books you can't (and won't want) to put down

*"Fun", "Thoughtful", "Addictive", "Kept me up way past my bedtime", "Intelligent", "Horticultural", and "Twisty-windy".*

These are the way readers describe Neal Sanders' 15 mysteries.

They all feature strong, independent women – some of whom solve crimes, and others who commit them. Many of his books use garden club settings and 'women of a certain age' but don't mistake these for 'cozies': his plots involve everything from romance scams to 'protect your assets' schemes.

**Order his books** in print and Kindle formats on Amazon. Go to [www.TheHardingtonPress.com](http://www.TheHardingtonPress.com) to explore his titles, read first chapters, or purchase directly from the author.

**Neal is also one of the most entertaining speakers you'll ever hear.** 'Gardening Is Murder' is equal parts humor, psychology, and gardening wisdom; a husband's point of view of what goes on in the garden. He has been a featured speaker at NGC events from Maine to Kentucky. Contact him at [Neal02052@Gmail.com](mailto:Neal02052@Gmail.com).



# PLAY Outside



Play Outside • Rawpixel

## Back Yard Magic

A backyard isn't just a place where parents have barbecues  
And grow vegetables gardens.

They're also a place of adventure, magic and fun.

Back yards are a mystery, many people just see them as grass in a fence, but  
children can see them as anything they imagine.

They are an amazing magical land to a wild western with horses, no matter what a  
kid will always imagine a place to run.

They are a major part of most children's childhood, they love it with a passion.

It's amazing what happens in a backyard, lives change every day, a new  
accomplishment every minute.

So next time you see a backyard, try to remember all your favorite memories,  
whatever they may be sad, happy, rewarding.

So just know, to a kid in a backyard, the skies the limit.

William Wiecken, 7th Grade - First Place  
Grow and Glow Garden Club, MO

From *Exploring Backyard Mysteries*, NGC Youth Poem Anthology

# Let Us Never Forget

## Candace Wells

As we attempt to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, Blue Star Memorial Marker and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker dedications are occurring across the country from the north to the south and from the east to the west. Our garden clubs are seizing opportunities in their communities to honor their true heroes. Our service people are willing to give their lives fighting for the freedom we enjoy every day. Let us rally our clubs to honor these brave individuals, many of whom have given the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. Let us never forget.

The Richmond Garden Club, Kentucky, dedicated a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in the lobby of the Madison County Veterans' Center in Richmond in conjunction with the Center's open house. The community enthusiastically received the Marker. The Estero Island Garden Club, Florida, dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker in front of the Fort Myers Beach library where the garden club holds its meetings and collaborates with the library on various community projects. The Tuckaleechee Garden Club, Tennessee, dedicated a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker at the entrance to the Gatlinburg Welcome Center, the gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains, hosting millions of visitors each year.



Richmond GC Dedication • Renee' Williams

## Karen Bowen

In March, the MGM Garden Club in Yuma, AZ, dedicated a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at the entrance to the Robert J. Moody Demonstration Garden.

"MGM Garden Club is proud to sponsor a Blue Star Marker at Moody Garden," said Peggy Taylor, MGM president. "The garden is used by the public on a regular basis, and the marker will be viewed by everyone who enters the garden. We hope the public will stop for a moment, read the inscription on the plaque, and reflect on the sacrifices our armed forces have made while defending America."

National Garden Clubs, Inc. has honored our armed forces with the Blue Star Memorial Marker Program since 1944 when the New Jersey State Council of Garden Clubs voted to beautify a stretch of U.S. Highway 22 with 8,000 dogwood trees in memory of American service members and women who gave their lives in World War I and II. The Legislature of New Jersey named this piece of highway the *Blue Star Memorial Highway Project* in honor of Blue Star Banners hung in windows of families of those serving in World I and World II.



Estero Island GC Dedication • Candace Wallace



Tuckaleechee GC Dedication • Candace Wallace

Since that first project, garden clubs have continued the tradition by placing Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers along our nation's highways plus Blue Star Markers in veterans' cemeteries and hospitals as well as other civic and historical locations.

*It is the soldier, not the reporter, who preserves freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who preserves freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who preserves freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, not the pastor, who preserves freedom of religion. It is the soldier, not the Congressman, who preserves freedom to vote. It is the soldier who protects our flag and our way of life, who serves beneath our flag and whose coffin is draped with the flag.* Charles M. Province (adapted)

Candace Wallace is the NGC Blue and Gold Star Memorial Chair.  
Karen Bowen is the AZ Western District Director



MGM GC Dedication • Karen Bowen



Have  
**FUN**

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Allen M. M...

## Engage Youth

Susan E. Yoder

We know garden clubs are active, robust groups dedicated to beautifying, preserving, protecting and restoring the environment in communities. Across the country, clubs engage in exceptional projects that make a positive difference for the earth and for people. However, we frequently suffer under the stereotype that we are “clubs for senior citizens.” It is an unfair moniker, but the fact remains that public perception can be difficult to adjust. If we cannot entice young people to understand, appreciate and ultimately participate in our work, the future of our clubs, and perhaps our planet itself, is in jeopardy.

That said, we are at an exciting crossroads in gardening, environmental stewardship and civic improvement. The global health crisis sequestered families in their homes, apartments and condos. Interest in growing food, beautifying houses, yards and balconies skyrocketed. Garden centers, home improvement stores and the green industry reported 2020 as their best sales year on record. As our country continues to emerge from the impact of the pandemic, garden clubs are poised to ensure that this interest in gardening and the environment does not wane. If we can capture this excitement and show how the work of our clubs

is important to our communities, we can secure the future of our clubs and interest in gardening well into the future.

But where to start? Specifically, what can we do that will resonate with youth? In a world where kids and families have a mind-boggling number of options for how to spend their time and energy, how can we lift our work above the field (so to speak) and spark engagement? To begin, each club needs to think about its own activities and culture. Are you really accessible and welcoming to youth? Ask yourselves thought-provoking questions. For example, if all of your activities and meetings are, on a Thursday at noon, can you really expect kids and families to engage with you? Consider adjustments you might need to make to invite younger people into your club. The following ideas may jump-start your efforts. They range from simple one-time activities to projects that are more complex. Begin where you can. The important thing is to get started somewhere!

1. **Attract Youth by Promoting NGC Youth Contests**  
Sometimes the path to engaging youth is not literally through gardening activities and projects. Igniting interest in our creative contests naturally grows awareness of your club and National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). For example, youth interested in writing may be excited to

*(Continued on page 15)*

submit an entry into the Youth Poetry Contest. Kids who love art might be jazzed about submitting an entry for the Youth Sculpture Contest or the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. [Click for details on NGC Youth Contests](#) For tips on how to encourage participation in the contests, check out this NGC BLOG post from August 2021: [Engage Youth Through the NGC Poetry Contest](#).

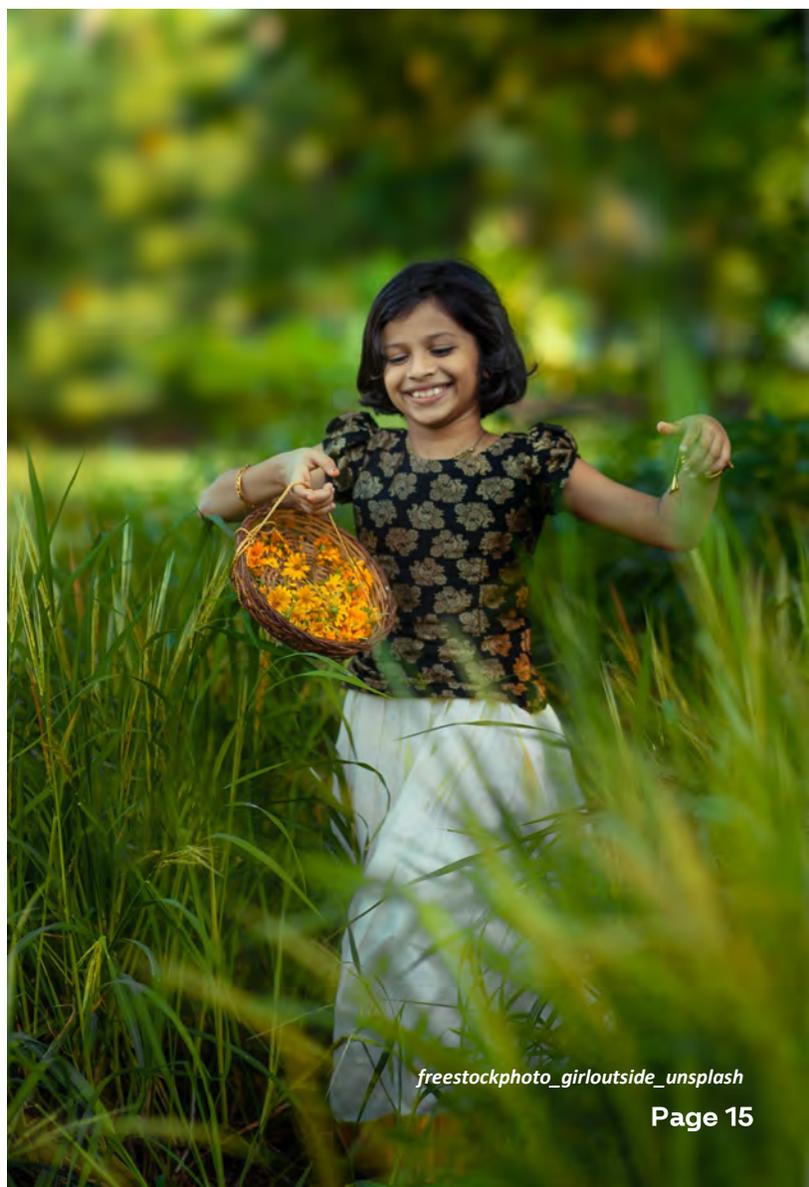
2. **Invite Youth and Families to All of Your Events** Families are hungry for activities to do with their kids. They are looking for educational experiences that are fun. Seeing a community beautification project up close (and perhaps even participating in) can inspire long-term interest in improving the world. Think creatively about how you promote your projects and events. For example, consider rebranding your annual “garden walk” to a “plant adventure.” If you host a flower show, consider titling it “An Exploration of the Flowers in Our Community.” Explain in your promotions/invitations that visitors will get the opportunity to learn about horticulture and plant-based topics at your show.
3. **“Sell” Your Club** If only we all could have a brand-awareness expert promoting our club! Short of that, think like youth - where do they get their information? Social media and word of mouth. You don’t have to make it complicated. Examples:
  - ◆ Create a club Instagram account. Young people are not on Facebook the same way older people tend to be. Instead, youth enjoy Instagram, Tik Tok and more cutting-edge social media. If your Instagram posts are compelling, fun and “young,” youth will follow you. (Ask a young person to help you and you will be amazed at the buzz that can be generated.)
  - ◆ To become more “known” in your community, develop a regular “community stroll” on your club calendar. Get out and walk around your communities together. Talk with the kids and adults you encounter about the plants you see (and do not see) in your area. Offer advice and support. Become known, if you are not already, as the “plant whisperers” and “garden gurus” we all know you are.
4. **Partner With Other Youth-Focused Gardening Organizations** There are a myriad of organizations working to interest youth in growing their own food, improving the environment and developing life-long gardeners. You need not reinvent the wheel. Reach out to the organizations in your community and strategize together. *Great examples include:* [Kids Gardening](#), [American Horticultural Society](#), [Junior Master Gardeners](#), [National Farm to School Network](#) and [Seed Your Future](#).

5. **Talk with Educators About What You Can Do to Help Them, then Make Plans Together** Contact local K-12 teachers. Invite them to a discussion about how your club can help support/start a school garden or other project. Remember the out-of-school-time community. Contact FFA Advisors/4-H Advisors/Scout Leaders. Invite them to a discussion about projects you can do together.
6. **Partner with Local Businesses to Inspire Youth and Families about Gardening** Be creative. For example, you might sponsor a public event at a garden center during spring planting season or fall harvest.

These ideas are just a start. Many clubs across the country are already doing wonderful projects to engage youth. Learn from them, reach out and ask for help on how to get started. Now is the time to engage more youth and families. As President Mary Warshauer notes in her recent President’s message ... we have a “playground of possibilities.” Let’s make sure those possibilities resonate and entice the next generation of gardeners!

---

[Sue Yoder](#) is the State Youth Activities Chair of The Garden Club of Indiana and Executive Director Emerita of Seed Your Future.



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# PAT

“Each One Plant One”

Our National President, Mary Warshauer, would love for each member to plant a native tree during her administration. This project began in the fall of 2019 as Gay Austin’s initiative.

As the Trees and Shrubs and Each One Plant One Chair, I would love to receive a list from State Presidents of trees planted by their members.

Please email me your information including your name, state, trees planted (preferably native, both botanical and common name) plus where and when they were planted by May 1, 2022. I will compile a list and announce our numbers at the 2022 NGC Convention and again at the 2023 NGC Convention. How fun it will be to hear about our successful tree plantings across our nation and internationally this coming year!

More information: contact [Audrey Coyle](#),  
Each One, Plant One Chair

# Flower Show School



## A Fresh Look Jan Warshauer

*A Fresh Look at Flower Shows* is a club-friendly mentoring program designed to promote flower shows with support for garden clubs who have never had a flower show or not sponsored one in the last 5 years. A judge from the State Judges' Council encourages a club by providing information and organizational support on schedule writing, awards and procedures while guiding the club through the flower show process. Contact your State Judges Council Chair for more information. A list can be found on the NGC [Flower Show School Resources](#) page.

All exhibiting and judging credits required to attend an NGC Symposium are suspended for a judge's next symposium, if taken prior to December 31, 2022. Any exhibiting and judging credits earned in the years 2020 through 2022 can be carried over to 2023.

Changes made in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* are no longer in *The National Gardener*. Instead, see the [Flower Show School Resources](#) page for updates. *Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 (HB)* Clarification: "Cut Specimens are exhibited in clean, transparent (clear) containers. Containers do not have to be colorless but cut stem/s should be viewed easily through any colored container." HB p. 33

The next Handbook Examination for Student Judges is Thursday Oct. 28, 2021.

---

Jan Warshauer is the NGC Flower Show School Committee Chair.

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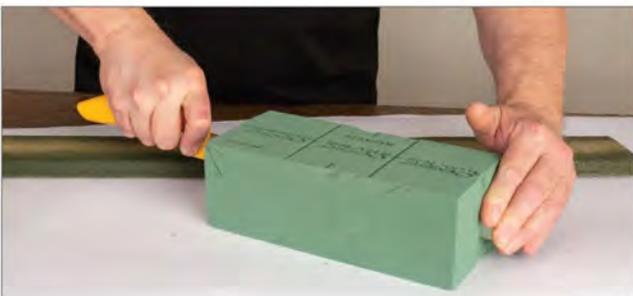
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## LONGING, FROM THE ASPHALT/AÑORANZA EN EL ASFALTO Pilar Medellín de Miñarro

Imagine walking on the grass with bare feet or feeling the wind on your face, opening your eyes facing all the colors of the sun, and the almost imperceptible sound of running water in a nearby stream or the roar of braking waves dragging themselves in from the sea. I walk by your side. Should we extend our arms we could almost touch the natural landscape in our minds, the product of our intense experiences from the first contact with nature in our memory, our skin. We feel how our senses vibrate when we perceive it, when we evoke it. All this nourishes us in order to express it in our stroll through life, arriving to this short passage in time that we live wandering, and abundantly filling our immense sac... although light in weight. If you are lucky, life will allow you the good fortune of living in the countryside or you may have to migrate to asphalt and replace green with concrete, iron and glass.

That is where you will find one and a thousand ways to yearn, to gather small samples of what you lost along the way, to cultivate drop-by-drop the nostalgia of your jungle, your mountains, your steppe and even your desert. There you will find, in every possible corner, that essence that belongs there which you treasure and ensure it will survive as you will, anywhere. You will search, with thirst, for flowers, leaves and roots - for what you feel -- to satisfy the art that comes to your hands. It will come together and express what your mind is capable of bringing back, for a short period of time, that which you vividly remember, by bringing together and caressing and manipulating with your hands to form something designed by you, only for a short time.

Pilar Medellín de Miñarro, is a TNG international feature writer. Click to view more images of the [Pilar's Urban Designs](#).

Imaginas caminar sobre la hierba con los pies descalzos o sentir el viento en plena cara, abrir los ojos encarando todos los colores al sol, y el correr del agua con sonido casi imperceptible en un pequeño cause o en el estruendo de la ola rota que llega arrastrando desde el mar. Camino junto a ti, si extendemos los brazos casi podemos tocar el paisaje natural en nuestra mente, producto de todas nuestras experiencias intensamente vividas desde el primer contacto con la naturaleza en nuestra memoria, nuestra piel. Sentimos como vibran nuestros sentidos al percibirlo, al evocarlo. Todo eso nos va nutriendo para expresarlo, en nuestro andar, en nuestro pasar, en nuestro llegar por este corto tiempo que permanecemos recorriendo, admirando y llenando un valioso bagaje inmenso, pero ligero en nuestra espalda. Si tienes suerte, la vida te permitirá la buena fortuna de vivir en el campo o tal vez tengas que emigrar al asfalto y sustituir el verde por concreto, fierro y cristal.

Ahí es en donde encontrarás una y mil formas de extrañar, de acercar pequeñas muestras de lo que perdiste en el camino, cultivar a cuenta gotas la nostalgia de la selva, la montaña, la estepa y hasta el desierto. En cada rincón posible habrá un ser que allá pertenece y lo atesoras procurando que logre sobrevivir como tú y en cualquier parte, buscarás sedienta unas flores, las hojas, las raíces, para eso que sientes, para satisfacer el arte que llega a tus manos, lo une y lo expresa para mostrar de lo que es capaz tu mente para traer de vuelta por tiempo corto lo que vívidamente recuerdas, uniendo y acariciando con tus manos y plasmarlo en alguna imagen diseñada por ti, pero menos duradera.

Pilar Medellín de Miñarro, es escritora internacional de artículos especiales para TNG. Favor de hacer clic para ver más imágenes de sus [Diseños Urbanos](#).



Garden Beds • Elizabeth Gundlach

# Providing Community

## Elizabeth Gundlach

[St Joseph the Worker Church Community Garden](#), in East Patchogue, NY, is mostly an edible garden with many diverse flowering plants for pollinators and predators. Native plants abound to educate as well as promote them. We have areas where individual gardeners plant for themselves and areas where the community is responsible for maintaining perennial edibles that can be shared by all who participate such as, asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and raspberries. The goal is to make the garden as beautiful as it is productive.

The land has been used for some form of gardening since the late 1970's, then fell into disuse when the man who started it became too old to continue. I was told that he wanted it to go back to nature if there was no one to garden. In 2007, the only plants on the lot were mugwort and quackgrass. Working with a priest with a horticulture background and others, we brought it back to life. In 2009, I designed the layout for a more permanent garden, more or less what it looks like today.

A question for *TNG* readers: What is going to happen when I die or get too old to do the hard work the garden requires? (I'm 71 and pretty healthy right now.) Without constant maintenance, gardens disappear or at least go into hiding. If anyone has a suggestion as to how to keep a garden going if the "crazy person" who started it leaves, let me know.

[Elizabeth Gundlach](#) is a member of the Lemon Bay Garden Club, FL. She summers in New York.



Pergola • Elizabeth Gundlach



# Let's COOK!

## Pico de Gallo and Salsa

Pat Greathead

Now that your garden and/or farmer's markets are filled with wonderful vegetables, a great way to save the harvest is as Pico de Gallo or salsa. The difference is that salsa is cooked and may be canned for use much later. Pico de Gallo will stay fresh for weeks in jars with plastic lids (vinegar rusts metal). If you do not have plastic lids, place plastic wrap over the jar, then the metal cover works fine.

This recipe won America's Best Garden Center's Salsa Contest years back. It was also printed in the Madison Area Master Gardeners' annual calendar. I hope you enjoy it.

### Ingredients:

- 8 cups heirloom tomatoes\*, do not peel, cut to ¼"
- 1 to 2 cups seeded and chopped peppers\*; remove placenta for less heat (**Wear gloves when handling hot peppers.**)
- 2 cups chopped purple onions
- 12 (or to taste) minced garlic cloves
- ½ cup (or to taste) chopped fresh cilantro (optional for those who think it tastes like soap)
- ¼ cup fresh or organic bottled lime juice
- ¾ cup organic apple cider vinegar – I use Bragg's organic
- 1 tablespoon Himalayan pink salt

\*I find using a variety of tomatoes and peppers (jalapenos and others) adds a richer flavor and more colorful salsa.

For Pico de Gallo: Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. (You may double the recipe.) After combining, ladle mixture into glass jars to the top and cover with plastic lid. Date and label jar. Refrigerated, I find it will last 6-8 weeks. Eat with chips, on Mexican dishes or potatoes.

For Salsa: Combine ingredients in a large pot, bring to a boil over medium high, then reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Ladle hot salsa into hot, sterilized glass jars, leaving ¼" headspace. Place lid and process in boiling bath for 15 minutes.

Makes 4 - 5 pints of Pico De Gallo or Salsa.

Pat Greathead loves to cook and grow vegetables. She shares her delicious recipes at many garden club events. Click here for a [printable recipe](#).



The Table is Set • Ana Calegari  
La mesa esta tendida • Ana Calegari

## School Gardens/Las Huertas Escolares

### Ana Calegari

We know that the contact of the hands of children and adolescents with soil makes them happy, reduces their level of anxiety, decreases depression and increases their learning capacity. Scientifically, it has been proven that *Mycobacterium vaccae*, a non-pathogenic bacterium present in the soil, increases the secretion of serotonin when penetrating the body and therefore is responsible for these changes.

School gardens have become an educational activity of great importance, being adopted by many countries. It promotes knowledge of agriculture, the environment and its care, as well as a love for nature.

When these young students see the flowers, vegetables and fruits they planted grow, it makes them value and recognize many of the foods they consume at home as well as those they often reject. They learn to recognize a fundamental part of a healthy diet.

Following the NGC guidelines on community education, a group of Salto Garden Club members developed a project for a rural school in the Department of Salto, Uruguay.

They chose the Public School No. 85 of Colonia “El Charrúa”, located 20 km. from the City of Salto. They worked with 30 children, between 4 and 12 years of age.

The organic farming method was used, workshops were held with the children and their families to teach them the importance of caring for the environment and also maintaining a healthy diet.

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Ana Calegari, is a TNG international feature writer. Click to view more images of the [School Garden](#).

Sabemos que el contacto de las manos de los niños y adolescentes con la tierra los hace felices, reduce su nivel de ansiedad, disminuye la depresión y aumenta su capacidad de aprendizaje. Científicamente se ha comprobado que *Mycobacterium vaccae*, una bacteria no patógena presente en la tierra, al penetrar en el organismo aumenta la secreción de serotonina responsable de estos cambios.

Las huertas escolares se han convertido en una actividad educativa de gran importancia, siendo adoptada por muchos países. Fomenta el conocimiento de la agricultura, del medio ambiente y su cuidado, así como el amor por la naturaleza.

Ver crecer flores, hortalizas y frutos por ellos plantados los hace valorar y reconocer muchos de los alimentos que consumen en sus casas y que muchas veces rechazan, y que son parte fundamental de una dieta saludable.

Un grupo de socias de Salto Garden Club, siguiendo los lineamientos del NGC sobre la educación a la comunidad, elaboró un proyecto para desarrollarlo en una escuela rural del Departamento de Salto, Uruguay.

Para este trabajo se eligió, la Escuela Pública No. 85 de Colonia “El Charrúa” situada a 20 km. de la ciudad de Salto.

Se trabajó con un total de 30 niños, con edades comprendidas entre los 4 y los 12 años.

Se utilizó el método de cultivo orgánico, se realizaron talleres con los niños y sus familias sobre la importancia de cuidar el medio ambiente y mantener una dieta saludable.

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Ana Calegari, es escritora internacional de artículos especiales para TNG. Favor de hacer clic para ver más imágenes del [Jardín Escolar](#).

# Pelican Award



Pelican Award Presentation • Barbara Downing

## Cape Fear Garden Club Honored Barbara Downing

In August 2021, the North Carolina Coastal Federation presented a Pelican Award to the Cape Fear Garden Club (CFGC) of Wilmington, NC for “an outstanding community effort to beautify, conserve, educate and inspire the citizens of Southeastern North Carolina to make the coast a better place to live, visit, work and play.”

It was the action of CFGC's Conservation Committee, led by Virginia Teachey, who joined forces with the NC Coastal Federation to develop the Bradley Creek and Hewlett's Creek watershed restoration plan. In 2010, they installed four rain gardens at Bradley Creek Elementary on Greenville Loop Road. The rain gardens are also outdoor classrooms for the school.

In the fall of 2020, CFGC's Conservation Committee began a much-needed maintenance of the rain gardens, which serve as bio-retention areas with two cells totaling 3,400 square feet. The project treats storm water run-off from a portion of the school parking lots and front yard. The committee's purpose is to keep one of the rain gardens in condition to catch the first 1.5 inches of rainwater, which contains the most pollutants. Therefore, the committee members periodically weed, trim bushes and trees, edge and clean the grates at the Bradley Creek site. Spring of 2021 found the Conservation Committee also identifying and labeling all plants found in the rain gardens at the school.

The work of the Cape Fear Garden Club has also supported the installation of habitat gardens and wetland nurseries at the Stanback Coastal Education Center in Wrightsville Beach. In addition, the club provides scholarship grants to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College. Audubon North Carolina receives an annual grant for the bird sanctuary on Battery Island. The NC Coastal Federation felt that the Cape Fear Garden Club is dedicated to its mission to use horticulture and garden development to beautify, conserve, educate and inspire people of all ages.

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Barbara Downing is the Chair of the Media & Communications Committee for the Cape Fear Garden Club in Wilmington, NC.



Wellington Veterans Memorial • Stormi Bivin



Svetlik-Calagro Residence • Stormi Bivin

## ULDA Stormi Bivin

More than 10 years ago, District X of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) created the *Unsolicited Landscape Design Award* (ULDA). This annual award, judged by NGC Landscape Design Consultants, recognizes and gives accolades to well-designed and maintained landscapes in four groups:

1. Small Business
2. Public Facility
3. Private Facility
4. Private Residence

There is one winner chosen per category per year in the district. Nominees are submitted by local garden club members, not the property owner, hence being *unsolicited*. It is somewhat clandestine, as nominees are not notified they are being considered. Past winners included municipal buildings, parks, gas stations, mini-golf business, HOA entrances, apartment buildings, coffee shops and, of course, many beautifully maintained private residences.



Svetlik-Calagro Residence • Stormi Bivin

This year, District X received nine submissions from six separate garden clubs located throughout the district. Our very own NGC Accredited Landscape Design Consultants visited, reviewed and judged the beautifully maintained landscapes. How is one nominated? What are the rules? How are the awards conferred upon the winners? Annually, the ULDA District Chair sends all club presidents, within District X, notification of the competition date, including the rules, forms and the deadline for nominee submissions. There are three simple rules that apply.

1. All landscapes must have been completed and installed for a minimum of one year. They may be professionally or privately maintained.
2. Landscapes must be viewable from the street.
3. Photos must accompany the completed nominee entry forms and be submitted by the stated deadline.

All garden club members are encouraged to go out and peruse their usual “stomping grounds,” but with a keen eye. If they find a property that has merit, then they take the next step, which is to submit a completed entry form, along with photos, to the District Chair. The assigned LDS consultants (volunteers solicited by the ULDA Chair) visit the properties and score them according to NGC’s Landscape Design School Standards taking into consideration the following.

(Continued on page 25)



1. *First Impression* (5%)
2. *Suitability of Design to Purpose* (5%)
3. *Design Aspects, including functionality and aesthetics* (45%)
4. *Implementation* (30%)
5. *Maintenance* (10%)
6. *Final Impression* (5%)

The judges are no pushovers; they have very discerning eyes! The judges submit the completed evaluation sheets and the tabulations to the District Chair. The winners are chosen and the nominating garden club presents the ULDA certificate to them. The four winners for 2021 had impressive scores of 97, 97.5, 98.5 and 99 out of a possible 100 points!

Past recipients have been so appreciative of the recognition that they proudly display their awards. The 2021 ULDA recipients are Lori Williams of Common Grounds Coffee Shop (small business) in

Clewiston, the Village of Wellington Public Works staff for their outstanding plantings at Wellington’s Veterans Memorial Park (public facility), Kolter Homes for Cresswind’s entrance landscape, a brand new 55+ community (private facility) in Westlake and the homeowners at the Svetlik/Calagro residence in Delray Beach (private residence).

Think about starting this award program in your own district or state. It is very easy to implement. Encourage your club members to get out there, drive around and find some outstanding landscapes. Perhaps a neighborhood fast food restaurant has an impressive landscape design, the local library or city hall plantings may “wow” you. Check out a church, hospital or police station. Go way beyond the next-door neighbor’s beautifully manicured front yard...the possibilities are endless! Then take photos and get rolling. Let us get this program started throughout the U.S. and make it fun. To see what the judges look for and to review NGC’s Evaluating Landscape Design point scoring form, [Click Here](#)

Stormi Bivin has the honor of being District X’s ULDA Chair for the past three years. She is a long-standing member of The Wellington Garden Club and a Landscape Design Consultant. Contact [Stormi](#) for more information on starting your own ULDA.

## Newscape

### Greg Pokorski

Do you read *Newscape*? Do you know that it exists? *Newscape* is the colorful NGC Landscape Design newsletter, published in early spring and late summer. It contains news and photos about Landscape Design Schools and the activities of Landscape Design Councils and Tri-Councils all over the country. Recently, news of Environmental and Gardening Schools/Councils is included. Those involved in NGC School administration often hear the question “What can I do as a Consultant?” The articles in *Newscape* about Council projects, tours and educational events provide ideas.

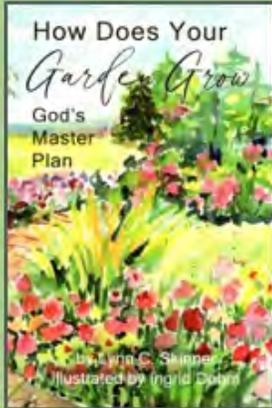
*Newscape* is distributed to NGC and State Schools Chairs and State Presidents, who share it with all of the Consultants in their states. California Garden Clubs references *Newscape* on its website and directs readers to read it online. *Newscape* is on the NGC website. Click on Member Resources, and then click on the tab for [Newscape](#) and find issues dating back to Fall 2011. *Newscape* invites NGC Consultants and students to contribute articles and photos. A former state president said, “*Newscape* is the best advertisement ever seen for Landscape Design Schools.”

[Greg Pokorski](#) is the NGC Landscape Design Schools Chair.

## National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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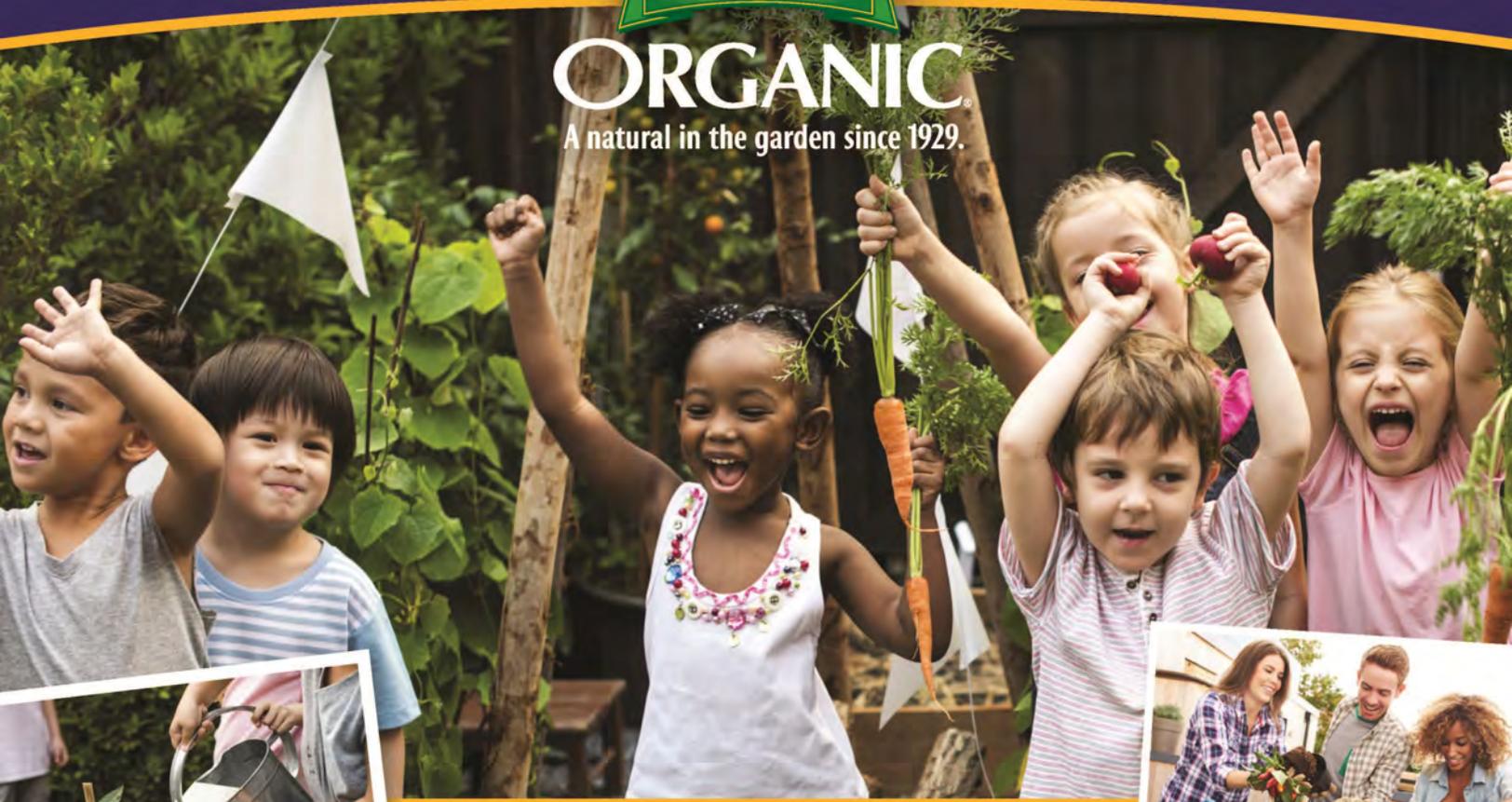
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Fall Leaves • Chris Lawton



# ORGANIC

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Adams Hollow Community Garden • Donna McCloskey



Bee Hives • Donna McCloskey

## Tennis Courts to Raised Garden Beds Donna McCloskey

In 2015, Donna McCloskey drove by her town's empty tennis courts and saw an opportunity for a community garden. She and other members of her garden club met with Bristol Borough, PA officials and received permission to convert the town's vacated tennis courts into a community garden. With the help of Borough workers, their club members built, filled and rented out 31 raised beds. Today, Adams Hollow Community Garden offers 123 large and 32 small beds. Renters range in age from mid-20s to early-90s and have varying levels of gardening experience.

This year, they expanded their partnership with the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Bucks County (PSMG/BC). The garden became a hands-on classroom and education center. The PSMG/BC formed committees to share their knowledge with garden members. The Compost Team built and maintained three compost bins and taught an onsite workshop on how to compost. The Food Pantry Team grew produce for the local food pantry and hosted a "Veg Growing" event to shared advice on how to successfully grow and harvest food. Garden pests and plant problems have been an ongoing challenge for the members, so, the IPM Team came to the rescue with an informal "Ask a Master Gardener" event to provide guidance on squash vine borers, blossom end rot, tomato blight, etc. The Pollinator Team designed, prepped and planted a new native pollinator bed. This garden was placed on the outside of the fenced garden to provide beauty and education to residents who walk the pathway to the adjacent Delaware Canal State Park. It was recently certified by Penn State as a "Pollinator Friendly Garden."

Donna McCloskey is the President, Garden Club of Bristol Borough.

# Collaborate

Young Gardener • Crema Joe

## Youth Symposium Sue Bennett

Johnna-Claire Metz (NGC Patch & Youth Gardening Project Chair) and I attended the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (July 7 – 9/ 2021) hosted by American Horticultural Society (NCYGS 2021). This virtual symposium included both live interactive sessions and prerecorded sessions for on-demand viewing. Each day started with a Keynote speaker and finished with live interactive sessions that attendees chose to attend based on their interest. Topics included, among others, Celebrating Diversity in the Garden, Classroom Aquaponics with Drop the Beet Farm, Cultivating Young Leaders: Digging into Youth-Led Garden-Based Business, Growing a Vibrant Youth Gardening Community. The Keynote speakers were wonderful. Topics included the following.

*How to be a Youth Leadership Ally* by Charles Orgbon, III Charles is an internationally recognized youth engagement expert, environmental activist and diversity and inclusion strategist who, at the age of twelve, founded [Greening Forward](https://greeningforward.org). (https://greeningforward.org) Charles talked about a winning blueprint for how youth and adults can work together to create a more sustainable, equitable world, while also building a dynamic career as a young entrepreneur.

*Spark + Opportunity + Supportive Adults = Rock Star Youth* An organization needs to be relevant to today's younger generation. Help create an organization where the CEO is a high school or college student who set the agenda. Young people still need the support of adults to realize their potential.

(Continued on page 29)

**The Same but Different** The next Keynote speakers asked each other questions, which was very thought provoking. What can a seasoned veteran of gardening for the greater good and a young rising star in the field learn from each other. The conversation included community gardening, food security and green activism. This models the two-way street of mentorship where both parties are experts in their own right with a strong commitment to working together to elevate the entire field - very different yet very much the same. Megan Chen, age 18, is the Founder and Executive Director at [The Urban Garden Initiative](#) and Sheryll Durrant is an urban farmer, educator and food justice advocate. She has been the Resident Garden Manager at Kelly Street Garden since 2016 and is the Food and Nutrition Coordinator for New Roots Community Farm, managed by the International Rescue Committee.

**Hooked on Plants: Student Perspectives on Great Garden Education - Seed Your Future** Panel participants (college-age horticulture students) shared their feedback on K-12 programs. They explained what inspired them to pursue a career working with plants. Participants' input could help current educators to strengthen their programs by learning what makes for truly engaging and inspiring curricula and connections. Topics included: Advice to a younger person (self); when were you validated? Answers included the following. "Do not box yourself in, failure is part of the system, be prepared, if your passion is there continue with it, find something you like (a niche) and go for it, ask questions."

Horticulture is for everyone. Everyone can grow a plant. Look at your yard. Share your knowledge, better yet, share your excitement. Ideas for kids to do:

- \* Have them research an environmental issue, e.g. pollution in the ocean
- \* Have them pick a topic of interest to them
- \* Bird Watching; get a book of local birds in your area, show them photos, have them look up the photos (gets them outside to play)
- \* Plant a terrarium
- \* Have them start a Nature Journal (gets them outside to play)

[Sue Bennett](#) is the NGC Youth Coordinator and a Master Gardening Consultant.



Pumpkin • Larisa Koshkina

## Invite One of These Ladies to Your Next Online Garden Club Meeting



Josephine Bonaparte in "Josephine: The Empress Gardened"



Queen Elizabeth I in "Gardening in the Age of Elizabeth, or Bring the Bard to your Yard"



Clara Barton in "Medicinal Plants of the Civil War"



Jane Colden in "The Real Housewives of New Jersey"



Queen Victoria in "Beyond the Potted Palm: Victorians and their House Plants"



Beatrix Potter in "Suitable for Framing: Female Victorian Botanical Artists"



Bring garden history to life with a fascinating and beautifully illustrated talk by garden historian and writer, Lesley Parness.

Online talks can be scheduled to meet your club's needs. Helpful handouts accompany each program and a friendly question and answer period completes the virtual experience.

For a detailed list of topics, reviews and more information, please visit [www.lesleyparness.com](http://www.lesleyparness.com).

# NGC NEWS



## **PENNY PINES** **Heather White, Chair**

During President Mary Warshauer's administration through the end of August 2021, 32 states donated a total of \$18,700 for 275 plantations of native tree seedlings for the U.S. Forest Service National Forests. The largest contributor state is Florida, with \$3,060 for 45 plantations. Currently there is a contest for donations in the South Central Region. In addition to clubs and individual NGC members, Penny Pines received donations from women's clubs, DAR Chapters, churches and individuals all interested in supporting our efforts. Questions: [Heather White](#)



## **FOUR/FIVE STARS** **Kitty Larkin, Chair**

Have you completed all four NGC Schools? Have you reached Master status in all of the Schools? Receive recognition of your efforts by applying to become a NGC Four or Five Star Member. Go to the [Four/Five Star page](#) on the NGC website, scroll down to Applications, click on the desired application, fill out the online form and you are done! (The Four/Five Star member application no longer requires the signature of the applicant's state president.) Questions? [Kitty Larkin](#)



## **TNG MASS SUBSCRIPTIONS** **Emily Huck/Gerianne Holzman**

Clubs, Districts, States, Councils, Executive Committees and more can now subscribe, as a group, to *The National Gardener*. Simply go the [TNG webpage](#), click on subscribe and follow the instructions for a group subscription. Each member of your group receives *TNG* directly to their inbox and they do not need to subscribe individually. (Please assure you have permission to share the email address of everyone in your group. Subscribers always have the option to unsubscribe and email addresses are never shared.) Questions? [Emily Huck](#) or [Gerianne Holzman](#)



## **CORRECTION** **Vision of Beauty - Summer 2021**

The Summer issue of *The National Gardener* contained an incorrect spelling of Florence's name and email address. Florence Leysene is the *Vision of Beauty* Calendar Chair. Contact [Florence](#) with any *VOB* questions. *TNG* staff apologizes for this error.

# Free MONEY

## Scholarships

### Lisa Robinson

Forty-three NGC Scholarships are available, annually, at \$4,000.00 each! This NGC tradition assists deserving college students to receive the funding desperately needed to further their education. What better way to support the mission of National Garden Clubs than by assisting the future stewards of our environment, food production, horticulturists, maintainers and beautifiers of our lands?

Please assist your state Scholarship Chair in identifying applicants in your area, work together to inspire interest from local students and schools. A recent survey of our state federations showed that, combined with NGC, we annually award over \$600,000 in Scholarships. Over the years, the NGC Scholarship Program has awarded over 4 million dollars! Be proud of these accomplishments and use them to bring awareness to our programs.

Our NGC website contains all of the necessary forms for students to apply. Applicants must be attending an accredited College or University, majoring in Agriculture Education, Horticulture, Environmental Concerns or a number of other related fields of study. Find qualifying criteria and the complete list of acceptable majors on our [NGC Scholarship](#) webpage.

The next deadline for NGC Scholarship applications is February 1, 2022. Applications are submitted to the Scholarship Chair of the student's state of residence. If you have any questions regarding application procedure or eligibility requirements, contact your State Scholarship Chair, Regional Director or me.

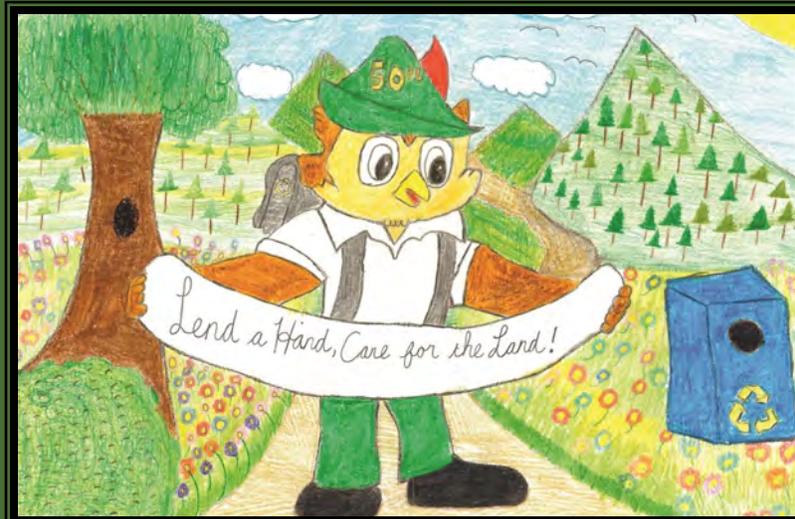
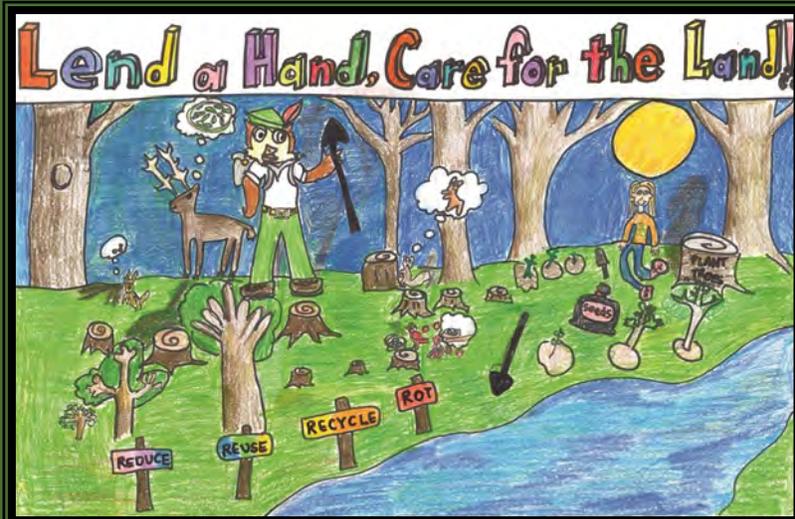
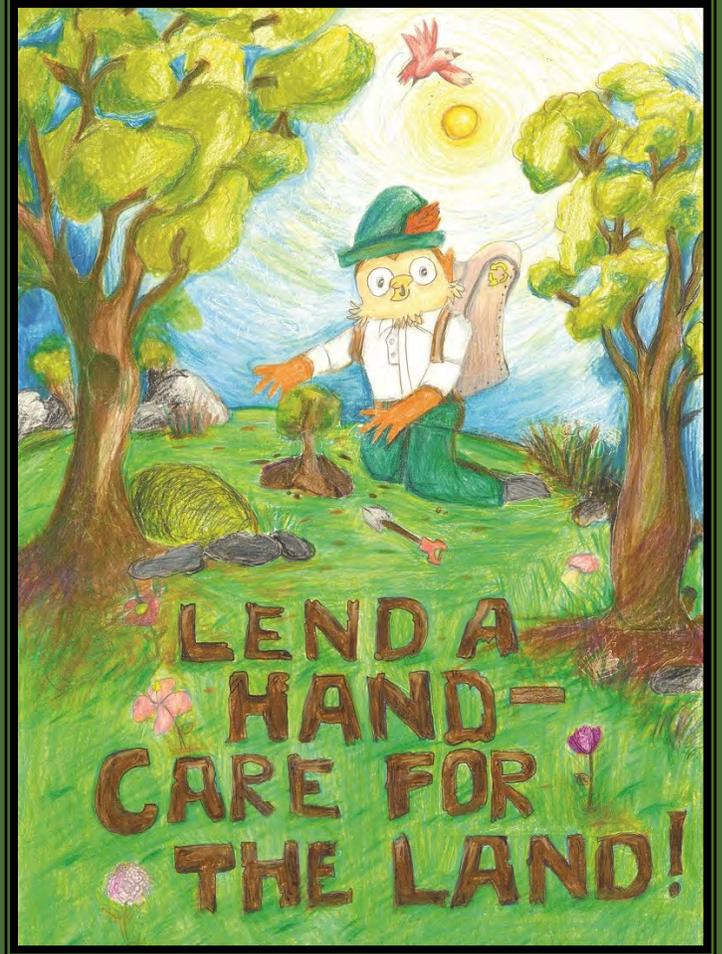
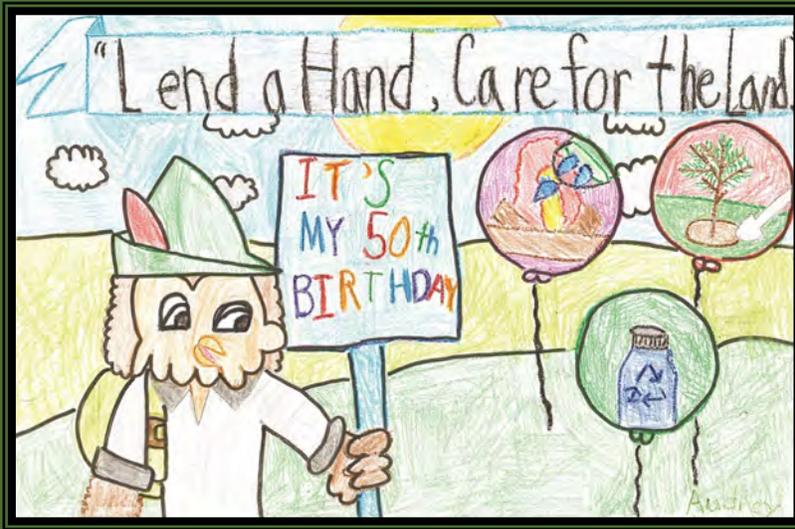
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[Lisa Robinson](#) is the NGC Scholarship Chair. Contact her for NGC Scholarship questions. She is a member of the West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild and a professional floral designer, landscape designer, garden consultant and project manager.



CONGRATULATIONS  
POSTER WINNERS!

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
WOODSY!



Counter-clockwise from top, left: Audrey Jenson - Grade 1, Bentley Milmine - Grade 2, Grace Woodbury - Grade 3, Sorcha O'Sullivan - Grade 4, Katie Phan - Grade 5 (National Grand Prize Winner, Smokey Bear/Woody Owl Contest)



NGC Headquarters at Night • NGC

★ I ★

★ N ★

★ T ★

★ H ★

★ E ★

★ N ★

★ E ★

★ W ★

★ S ★

## New Life Members

### Gail Corle Manna

Congratulations, and a very warm welcome to the newest NGC Life Members: Karen Blackmore, Thelma Busk, Joy Garrett, Barbara Gollwitzer, Marlene Hutton, Carolyn McCabe, Margaret Ann McCay, Sheila Anne Webb and Carol Williams!

Do not miss out being part of this prestigious group, who strive to maintain and encourage NGC projects and goals. Your donation of \$200 aids two wonderful programs, Plant America Community Grants Fund and the Permanent Home and Endowment. Click [NGC Headquarters](#) for a video tour of NGC's Permanent Home.

Join today or give a gift membership to any individual deserving an honor or someone in the community who shares our garden club interests. Applications are on the [Life Membership](#) webpage. *LIFE MEMBERSHIPS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!* Thank you.

[Gail Corle Manna](#) is the NGC Life Membership Chair.

## SHOP, SHOP, SHOP!

### Karen Blackmore

NGC First Vice President Brenda Moore did an outstanding job writing [Network with Nature](#) and the illustrations by Emily Lackey Anderson are sure to make you smile. All three of the children's books are so well done and only \$10.00 each. Your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and the kids next door will enjoy these books.

The [2021 Vision of Beauty](#) calendars are on sale for only \$3.00. The designs in this edition are amazing. We need to get these beautiful examples out of our inventory and into the hands of those who can use them. Do you have new members who are excited

about design? Are you having flower shows, flower show schools, symposia or workshops? Getting a gift of beautiful examples in a lovely book for \$3.00 is an inspiration for any new designer. As you place your order for the 2021 calendar, add the [2022 Vision of Beauty!](#) It is another amazing example of our designers' work and only \$5.00! Save shipping cost by combining your order with your garden club friends.

We continue to search for new items to add to [Our Store](#). We consider cost, availability and shipping fees and appreciate suggestions, especially if you have a vendor that will work with us. The Holidays are coming soon, shop today for that special garden club person in your life. Happy Shopping!

[Karen Blackmore](#) is the NGC Member Service Chair.

# Tomb of the Unknown

## Commemorate 100 Years Marilyn Wellan

The USA and France commemorate the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, specifically at Arlington National Cemetery, on Veterans Day, November 11, 2021. Garden clubs may play an active role in the Centennial by planning their November program to bring renewed awareness of the Unknown Soldier along with the meaning of the sacred memorial. To honor the Centennial, consider planning a Never Forget Garden. This project is a part of the national Centennial commemoration.

National Garden Clubs has a sense of patriotism, love of country and pride in the American flag. NGC's Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial Marker programs continue to honor those who serve and those who lost their lives in duty. The Centennial's Never Forget Garden project unites two values, Respect for our Veterans and Love of Gardening. Each Never Forget Garden, large or small, public or private, is a memorial to loved ones lost and lives sacrificed in all wars. Each plant or tree, in the Garden, symbolizes love, courage, valor, strength, peace or remembrance. Never Forget Gardens are not just for 2021; they are forever. It is a sacred duty to "never forget."

The American Rose Society, leader in the Never Forget Garden initiative, created ideas for planning your garden. Click for more details, [Create Your Never Forget Garden](#). More information is on the [American Rose Society](#) website. Click for more information on the [Centennial Commemoration](#) and [Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#).

Marilyn Wellen is a former president of the American Rose Society & Coordinator of the America's Rose Garden Restoration Project.



HERE RESTS IN  
HONORED GLORY  
AN AMERICAN  
SOLDIER  
KNOWN BUT TO GOD

*USA Tomb of the Unknown Soldier • Philippa Rose-Ti  
Inset: Flag • Kaufdex*

# Robin's Nest

## Robin Pokorski

Garden club needs to be like a buffet - a wide array of activities to attract the most interest. When I joined my club, we had 32 members. When I completed my term as president, we had 100 members. How did we increase our numbers? We held a school and got a few new members (Club members paid a lower price and we got new members so they could take advantage of the discount. Did they all stay a part of our club? No, but a few did). That was so successful; we sponsored two more schools. We installed and dedicated a Blue Star Marker. With great coverage from the VA, our club got a few members. We hold an annual flower show and get a few members each year. A variety of programs garnered us new members. We participate in environmental and gardening fairs and you guessed it, we get new members. We financially sponsor native plant events at a local nursery with our name and logo in their program. We publicize our club every chance we get. One event would not get all these new members (or clubs if you are thinking as a state president) but a host of diversified programs and projects may pique the interest of a potential member or club.

Robin's Nest is a continuing feature of TNG. Do you have questions on leadership? Send your questions for Robin's Nest to [Robin Pokorski](#).

Robin Pokorski has held many position within NGC and currently serves on the Membership and Organization Studies Committees.



Robin's Nest • Gerianne Holzman

## Invite, Invite, Invite

Gaye Stewart

Growing Club membership is a joy, Planning, organizing, leading, O'boy,  
Retaining current members is vital Without them, the future is frightful  
Create great programs, field trips and such Excitement, fun, joy results in much  
Love your members with great care Surprise, inspire, nurture, all if you dare  
Today is the time, please act real soon Invite, deliver and share the bloom  
Members will join and bring their zest Adding skills, enthusiasm and their best  
Your Club will grow with such delight All because of you and your hearty might  
Always remember to, "Invite, Invite, Invite!" Our Guests add sparkle and most don't bite

Halloween • Squarefrog

Gaye Stewart is the President, Dallas Garden Club, OR.



Gerd Altman

Unlatch the Garden Gate, . . .  
Discover the World of Art in Bloom

Get out and get growing on  
these inspiring spring garden tours  
for 2022!

**Savannah and Charleston:** featuring the Annual Tour of the Hidden Gardens: April 22-26

**Canada's Tulip Festival:** tiptoe through the tulips in Ottawa, the world's largest tulip festival: May 15-19

**Amalfi Coast's** culture, cuisine and coastal beauty: May 15-23

**Wildflowers, Waterfalls and Watercolors:** Vermont Springs into Bloom, featuring full day watercolor workshop: May 22-May 26

**Coastal Gardens of New England:** featuring the Newport Flower Show, Blithewold, private gardens and historic homes: June 17-21

**The "Hills are Alive" at Vermont's Trapp Family Lodge:** private garden tours, historic sites and glorious scenery: June 26-30

Visit our website for itineraries and complete list of tours

Art in Bloom Garden Tours

30 Whitecap Road • Colchester, VT 05446  
802-860-7601 • [artinbloomgardentours.com](http://artinbloomgardentours.com)



Photo Contest • Jeannie & Richie Pelikan

# Photography

## Photo Contest Margot Partridge

Photography classes are common in many Flower Shows. Enticing members to take photos and enter is a challenge. This is an example of how a small club encourages its members to share images while having fun and learning from each other. In the future, they just might consider entering their masterpieces in a Flower Show.

The Photography Committee of The Rake and Hoe Garden Club from Westfield, NJ, plans a year's worth of activities for their photographers. This includes trips and workshops culminating in a contest at their Annual Meeting and Luncheon. The contest is comprised of four classes, which are announced at all club meetings and in their newsletter throughout the year. The club encourages participation by all members, no matter their skill level. Popular vote selects the winners. The goal is member participation, to learn and have fun. In June 2021, they had over 20 photos (one per person). In some cases, the pictures came to the luncheon but the photographer did not.

Over the years, the process has become fine-tuned to limiting the entries to two entries per person, one entry per class. Members print images in the required 8X10 size, over-matted with an 11X 14 mat. Members include their names on the back of the images, indicate the class they are entering and place an arrow to indicate the orientation of the picture.

Entries are submitted a few days before the luncheon to allow the committee to classify the photos. The images are displayed on small easels provided by the committee. Members receive simple ballots. Prior to lunch, members cast their votes. Upon tallying, winners receive a ribbon and a potted plant from club members' gardens. The members really enjoy admiring, evaluating, discussing and selecting their favorite photos. It is the highlight of the year.

Margot Partridge is a member of the NGC Photography Committee. She thanks her fellow committee members for their input.

## PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

### ARABELLA DANE

- ❖ **MOVE.** Step to one side or the other, get closer or farther away. These variables may turn an ordinary composition into something sublime.
- ❖ **FRAME YOUR SCENES.** Have something in the foreground leading the viewer to believe they are standing right where you are, consider leading lines and silhouettes to assist in framing.

Arabella Dane is a member of the NGC Photography Committee.

# Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas

Invite you to attend

## "SHOWTIME!"

### CFAA Seminar 2022

February 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside

With

Claudia Chopp & Penny Decker

Kathleen Hawryluk

Anna Burns

"The Coming Attractions"

featuring

Mercy Abrams, Carol Friedman,

Constance Lowery & Linda Paré

AND a special

Challenge Program

5 Fabulous Design Presentations

6 Exciting Hands-On Workshops

50+ Kaleidoscope Design Exhibits

Registration begins October 1<sup>st</sup>

Seminar Registration \$325.00

Registration forms were mailed to  
members in September and available on  
the CFAA website beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more detailed information on this  
amazing seminar visit the website at

[www.creativefloral.org](http://www.creativefloral.org) or contact our  
registrar at [CFAAmst@outlook.com](mailto:CFAAmst@outlook.com)





Orchid Garden/Jardín de Orquídeas • Silvia de Palmieri  
Inset: *Sobralia macrantha*

# Orchid Garden, an Environmental Ecosystem

## Silvia de Palmieri & Blanca Niño Norton

This beautiful orchid garden, called *Orquideario de la Asociación Guatemalteca de Orquideología* (AGO), is located within the Ecological Park of La Asunción, as part of the city's ecological belt. At one time, these 30 acres were a clandestine garbage dump that successfully removed 80 tons of garbage and rubble by the Municipality of Guatemala.

The new park was created, on April 15, 2015, to raise awareness of the biodiversity of Guatemala and the importance of orchids for our environment. The orchid family is the largest of the flowering plants, with over 25,000 species. Amazingly, it is the most threatened plant family in the world. Guatemala has more than 1,400 native species, which includes the national flower, White Nun, *Lycaste virginalis* var. *alba*.

Orchids are indicators of our ecosystem's health. Just like birds and other animals, they need good water quality and a pesticide-free ecosystem. Creating an orchid conservation awareness involves conserving the entire ecosystem: wild flowers, birds, butterflies, Tillandsias and epiphytes.

Today, one can enjoy a natural oak forest and the beautiful ravines that have become the lungs of Guatemala City, due to the large percentage of ravines in the city. Because of climate change, pollution, deforestation, the neglect of natural habitats and changes in land use, orchids have disappeared from their natural environment. The goal of the Orchid Garden is to preserve these beautiful plants in their natural environment and offer the public a place to rejoice in nature.

In 2019, the garden received 6,000 visitors, 4,000 of them children from the city's schools. The epidemic brought many

challenges, since the primary funding for the garden comes from an annual National Orchid Exhibition and the sale of the calendar. Unfortunately, both activities were canceled; however, the garden continues with the help of two young gardeners who tend to the care and maintenance of the garden once a week financed by AGO.

As of November 2020, the AGO, in collaboration with La Asunción Ecological Parks, began an Orchid Tour on the second Tuesday of each month. The purpose is to raise awareness among the residents of the city regarding the urgent need to conserve our forests and the orchids that inhabit them.

The medium and long-term goals for the Orchid Garden are:

- The reintroduction of 1,500 orchid plants within the next 5 years
- To increase the gene bank and to reproduce them in their natural habitat
- Become a model for an orchid reserve
- To help educate the public on environmental issues
- Become a National Orchid Rescue Center

For further information contact Raquel Pérez, secretary of AGO [agoraquelperez@gmail.com](mailto:agoraquelperez@gmail.com) and/or Silvia de Palmieri, coordinator of AGO [silviadipo@yahoo.com](mailto:silviadipo@yahoo.com)

Silvia de Palmieri is coordinator of *Asociación Guatemalteca de Orquideología* (AGO). Blanca Niño Norton, is a TNG international feature editor. Click to view more images of the [Orchid Garden](#).



Orchid Garden/Jardín de Orquídeas • Silvia de Palmieri  
Inset: Guarianthe aurantiaca

## Jardín de Orquídeas, un ecosistema ambiental

### Silvia de Palmieri & Blanco Niño Norton

Este hermoso jardín de orquídeas llamado Orquideario de la Asociación Guatemalteca de Orquideología (AGO) se encuentra dentro del Parque Ecológico de La Asunción, como parte del cinturón ecológico de la ciudad. Esta área de 12 hectáreas fue, en su momento, un basurero clandestino que fue limpiado con éxito de 80 toneladas de basura y escombros por la Municipalidad de Guatemala.

El parque fue creado el 15 de abril de 2015 para crear conciencia sobre la biodiversidad de Guatemala y la importancia de las orquídeas para nuestro medio ambiente. La familia de las orquídeas es la más grande de las plantas con flores, con más de 25.000 especies y, sorprendentemente, es la familia de plantas más amenazada del mundo. Guatemala tiene más de 1,400 especies nativas que incluyen la flor nacional llamada Monja Blanca, *Lycaste virginalis* var. *alba*.

Las orquídeas son indicadores de la salud de nuestro ecosistema. Al igual que las aves y otros animales, necesitan agua de buena calidad y un ecosistema libre de pesticidas. Crear una conciencia de conservación de las orquídeas implica conservar todo el ecosistema: flores silvestres, pájaros, mariposas, Tillandsias y epífitas.

Hoy se puede disfrutar de un bosque de robles naturales y de los hermosos barrancos que se han convertido en el pulmón de la ciudad dado a que un gran porcentaje de la ciudad está formada por barrancos. Debido al cambio climático, la contaminación, la deforestación, el abandono de los hábitats naturales y los cambios en el uso de la tierra, las orquídeas han desaparecido de su medio ambiente natural. El objetivo del Orquideario es preservar estas bellas plantas en su entorno natural y ofrecer al público un lugar para regocijarse en la naturaleza.

En 2019 el jardín recibió 6000 visitas, 4000 de ellas niños de las escuelas de la ciudad. La epidemia supuso un desafío ya que el financiamiento principal para el jardín proviene de una Exposición Nacional de Orquídeas anual y la venta del calendario. Desafortunadamente, ambas actividades fueron canceladas, sin embargo el jardín continúa con la ayuda de dos jóvenes jardineros, financiados por la AGO, que se ocupan del cuidado y mantenimiento del jardín una vez por semana.

A partir de noviembre de 2020 la AGO, en colaboración con Parques Ecológicos de La Asunción, inició un Tour de Orquídeas el segundo martes de cada mes. El propósito es concientizar a la población sobre la urgente necesidad de conservar nuestros bosques y las orquídeas que los habitan.

Los objetivos a medio y largo plazo del Orquideario son:

- La reintroducción de 1.500 plantas de orquídeas en los próximos 5 años
- Aumentar el banco de genes y su reproducción en su hábitat natural
- Convertirse en un modelo para una reserva de orquídeas
- Ayudar a educar al público sobre los problemas ambientales
- Convertirse en un Centro Nacional de Rescate de Orquídeas

Para mayor información, contactar a Raquel Pérez, Secretaria de AGO [agoraquelperez@gmail.com](mailto:agoraquelperez@gmail.com) y/o Silvia de Palmieri, coordinadora de AGO [silviadipo@yahoo.com](mailto:silviadipo@yahoo.com)

Silvia de Palmieri es coordinadora de la Asociación Guatemalteca de Orquideología (AGO). Blanca Niño Norton es editora internacional de artículos especiales para TNG. Favor de hacer clic para ver más imágenes del [Jardín de Orquídeas](#).

A white oval graphic containing the title text, set against a background of a forested hillside.

# Orquideario de la Asociación Guatemalteca de Orquideología



*Parque Ecológico de La Asunción, antes de iniciar el orquideario.  
La Asunción Ecological Park, before starting the orchid garden.*



*El Orquideario actualmente.  
The Orchid Garden today.*

# Ames Tool Grants

Flossie Narducci

## ***Barnegat Pollinator Garden***

The Garden Club of Long Beach Island was thrilled when they received permission from the Borough of Barnegat Light to plan and install a new butterfly/pollinator garden last April at Bay Breeze Park. Shortly thereafter, the Borough began preparation for the garden by scraping the surface and adding tons of topsoil, but there was much more to do along the way. The club members generously donated plants and funds. The town government, local businesses and community raised more money and the work began in earnest.

Ames tools, such as the digging and transfer shovels and border spade, were essential to the effort as garden plans called for a horseshoe shaped crushed shell path through the garden. In the ensuing weeks, the club members used the shovels again for planting trees and shrubs. They also made extensive use of Ames hand tools for planting perennials and annuals, especially the hand trowel and the hand transplanter. From all reports, the equipment performed excellently. The club is very grateful for the Ames Tools Company's generosity and the outstanding quality of their products.

Upon completion, members celebrated with a ribbon cutting and the response from the local community was overwhelming. There is interest from folks wanting to join the club and, most importantly, the pollinators have found the garden! The movie *Field of Dreams* was right. "If you build it, they will come."

## ***West Side Sprouts Community Garden***

The Plantation Garden Club's West Side Sprouts of Sumner, MS were delighted to receive their shipment of Ames Tools. In 2020, the Sprouts created a community/children's garden. With adult help, they installed raised beds and added soil. The garden produced two bushels of tomatoes to share with community members.

The garden continued to expand in 2021. With their new Ames tools, the kids planted 18 tomato plants, a bed of lettuce, strawberries, a bed of zinnias and a plot of wildflowers. They installed new raised beds for each member's family to grow and share their own vegetables. The goal was to encourage healthier eating and food budget savings, while teaching the importance of sharing. A giving table, placed at the edge of the garden beside a popular walking route, contained free produce and cut flowers available to community members.

The club reports that the Ames tools have been a great boost to keeping the children motivated to work in the garden. The tools are lightweight, made just for them and give them the feeling of ownership. They are proud to announce this project has been funded 100% through the generous donations of land, wood, soil, seeds, plants and labor.

[Flossie Narducci](#) is the Ames Tools Grants Chair. Dawn Mozgawa assisted in writing this article.



*Paisley, Waverly and Emma Enjoy Their Tools • Shane Hoes*



*Barnegat Light Garden • Garden Club of Long Beach Island*



Emery Cooper's Gravesite • Trae Zipperer

## By Memorial Day Trae Zipperer

Off Bayshore Road in Palmetto, FL, I noticed the aging Blue Star Memorial Highway sign. Blue Star Memorials are familiar sights at various rest areas and roadsides during my journeys traversing America, but this time it was different. Pulling to the roadside, I got out of my truck, crossed two lanes of rush hour traffic and stood at attention, alone, my peripheral vision whizzing cars. It read, "A tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America." Over my left shoulder, more than 75 veteran headstones leaned under the shame of black algae and encrusting lichens. One headstone, now covered in disgraceful neglect, was of 19-year-old PFC Emery Cooper's Blue Star which turned to Gold on July 21, 1943 when he was killed in a training accident at Fort Dix, NJ.

Our mission is to clean every veteran headstone by Memorial Day, every year, in perpetuity, with a patriotic volunteer assigned to each veteran's grave. Unlike National Cemeteries where veteran headstones are meticulously honored in perfect rows of white, our veterans whose families chose to bury them in hometown cemeteries generally receive no attention, care or routine maintenance. To learn how to properly clean a veteran headstone and help maintain veteran graves in your community cemeteries, visit [ByMemorialDay.com](http://ByMemorialDay.com) and register to volunteer at [VeteranGraves.com](http://VeteranGraves.com).

[Trae Zipperer](#) is the president of the non-profit By Memorial Day, Inc.

## Why Digital? Mary Warshauer & Gerianne Holzman

Thank you for your comments and suggestions following our first issue of *The National Gardener* (TNG). A running theme was "Why is it digital-only?" and "I miss reading it in bed before I go to sleep." The reality is this was a financial decision by the National Garden Clubs' Board of Directors based on statistics compiled in 2019. At the time, there were 165,000 NGC members. Only 11,000 copies of TNG were printed for each issue. Of that 11,000, most were sent out at no cost to the individual. This included NGC Life Members and local club presidents. Paid subscribers were a mere 2,300 people – 1.4% of the total NGC membership. *The National Gardener* was operating at a loss. It became very apparent printing TNG and employing an editor was no longer sustainable.

Prior to going completely digital, about 369 people viewed the free digital TNG on the website. As of this writing, we have 5,107 subscribers and thousands of views of the Summer 2021 TNG. You do not have to sit in front of a computer screen to read our publication. You may print the pdf or view it on a portable device. Best of all, every issue of *The National Gardener* includes additional information by simply clicking on links within articles. [Subscribe](#) today and get the next issue of TNG sent directly to your inbox.

The National Gardener/Summer 2021



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# Gardening With Nature

## Developing Local Resources Victoria Bergesen

Your **Gardening with Nature** projects will be most successful when you use local resources and form local partnerships. Always start by taking advantage of your NGC affiliation. Our NGC Gardening with Nature Committee consists of the Environmental Concerns Committee and the Horticulture Committee. These include many committee chairs who offer resources within their specialized areas. Although your NGC Region and State Garden Club may not include all of these positions, you should be able to find some that will be helpful. For example, many states have pollinator projects. See our webpage, [Gardening, Horticulture and Environmental Concerns](#) for more information.

Your local Agriculture Extension office is always a great resource. Agents are often available as speakers, gratis or for a small fee, depending on the state policies. They can help you find sources for bulk native plants or seeds to use in community projects or give away to the public. They also offer soil testing which is very important if you want healthy plants. Agents usually have a wide range of free publications relating to the environment and gardening.

Contact your local Master Gardener and/or Master Naturalist Associations. These are great resources for free speakers and programs. Especially with pandemic uncertainty, think

beyond the typical indoor meetings or long-distance field trips. Consider a field trip to a small park or a private garden in your town. A local Master Gardener or Master Naturalist can teach you to recognize the plants (including weeds) and wildlife (including insects) in your own backyard.

Your state's Department of Natural Resources' website can offer a wide range of services. It is worth taking a few minutes to negotiate your DNR's website to find topics suited to you. Webinars on wildlife conservation might be a great way to educate your members.

Native Plant societies are wonderful resources. There is not one large federation, so try searching for "native plant" and your state. Larger societies may have local chapters offering speakers. They may also offer publications and seminars.

Of course, consider contacting your State Garden Club's Tri-Council or Consultants' Councils for advice and programs from NGC Accredited Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants.

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[Victoria Bergesen](#) is the *Gardening with Nature* Co-Chair. Contact Victoria for a comprehensive list of national resources.



Fall Calendar • CentralITAlliance

## President Mary's Travels

- ❖ October 12 - 13: New England Region Meeting, Wells, ME
- ❖ November 1: Central Region Meeting, Virtual
- ❖ November 17: Delaware Federation of GC, Fall Meeting, Dover, DE

## Mark Your Calendar

- ❖ October 15: [PLANT AMERICA](#) 2021-2022 Grant Application Deadline
- ❖ October 18, 2:00PM EDT: Membership Monday, Virtual, State Officers & State Membership Chairs - *Setting the Stage for Recruitment*, including a chat time. Zoom link to be sent.
- ❖ November 9-10: NGC Sponsored [Gardening School](#), Virtual, watch the NGC website for more info.

- ❖ November 12: Argentina 100 Years Flower Show, Virtual - Join the fun and participate in [Garden Club Argentino's Centennial Virtual Flower Show](#), click link for info.

## Coming Soon

- ❖ October - March: [Environmental Schools](#)\*
- ❖ October - March: [Flower Show Schools](#)\*
- ❖ November - April: [Gardening School](#)\*
- ❖ October - May: [Landscape Design School](#)\*
- ❖ October - June: [Multiple Refreshers](#)\*
- ❖ October - November: [Symposia](#)\*
- ❖ [International Events](#)\*
- ❖ May 15 - 21, 2022: NGC Annual Convention, Orlando

\*Clicking on the links takes you directly to the most up-to-date course listings and details on the NGC website.

## Blog Submissions

### Peg Ricci

As mentioned in the summer 2021 edition of *TNG*, members are encouraged to write for the NGC blog. Now, members, as well as nonmembers, have the ability to subscribe to the blog, free. Simply enter your email [here](#) and when a blog article is posted to the NGC website, you will receive an email. This allows you to keep up to date with the weekly blog articles. Remember, we are still looking for blog contributors. Once articles are posted on the NGC website, they can be shared to

one's Facebook gardening club or region/state site. In the past few months, some articles have been shared more than 70 times from the NGC Facebook page. This is a great way to promote club activities and increase awareness of the NGC. Do not worry about your writing expertise; we have a team of copyeditors who can polish your article. If you do not have photos, we can find suitable, copyright-free photos. To learn more, visit [Member Resources](#) on the NGC website and under "Blog Article Submissions," see the [blog guidelines](#) and a link for blog articles submissions.

[Peggy Riccio](#) is the NGC Blog Administer.



## Sitting on the Porch

Gerianne Holzman, Editor

As I sit on our porch, I think back to a recent conversation with one of my long-time garden club mentors. She mentioned that she had not read the summer issue of *The National Gardener* because she did not want to sit in front of a screen to read it. I was taken aback, to say the least, as I was quite proud of the publication. I was saddened that someone I long respected, and whose advice I cherished, did not feel it was worth her time to see my accomplishment.

Throughout this issue of *TNG*, we feature articles related to encouraging youth to participate in gardening activities. What does encourage mean? According to Merriam-Webster, it is "to inspire with courage, spirit or hope." Ah, inspire Courage! Do, we as experienced garden club members, have the courage to mentor someone? Do younger garden club members have the courage to accept advice? Are they, then, empowered to move forward on a project? It is a two-way street. What about the other parts of the above definition – spirit and hope? Mentoring is not just giving advice, it is also how that advice is given and received. If someone is told, "We always do it this way." Where is the spirit of lighting a fire of inspiration? Where is the hope of change and a different, and perhaps better, future?

This leads me back to the beginning of this message, as mentees, we have the responsibility to be courageous and check back with those who have taught us. They may still have some important advice to share. As mentors, we should continue to encourage and check in on those we have taught. Everyone appreciates acknowledgment of his or her successful work. It is an intergenerational circle with ebbs and flows. Today is the day to take the time to thank someone who helped you in the past and the time to encourage our next generation of garden club members.

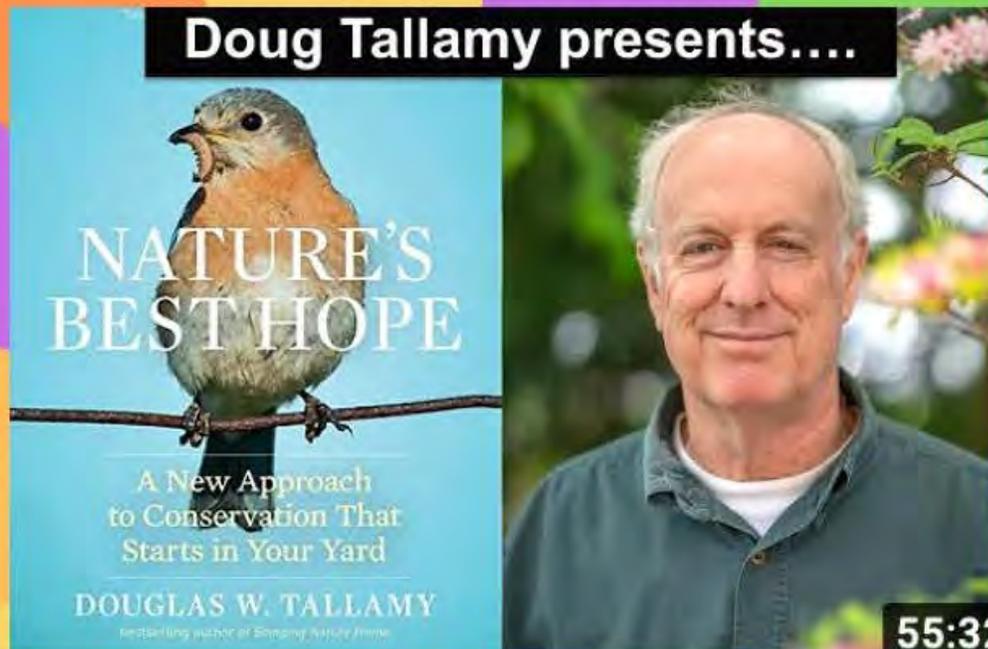
*Instruction does much, but encouragement, everything.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 1768

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We appreciate all of the amazing stories, articles and images in this, our Youth and Veterans issue of *The National Gardener*. Send comments and suggestions for future issues to [Gerianne Holzman](#), editor. We encourage all NGC members to submit articles. Thank you!

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