

THE NATIONAL GARDENER



Summer 2023
gardenclub.org



The National Gardener

Summer 2023, Volume 93, Number 3
GO GREEN - PLANT AMERICA



In This Issue

Brenda's Journal	4
Meet Our Executive Committee	6
Happy Gardener	9
Landscape Design, Part 1.....	12
Gardens of Ireland.....	14
Bilingual Bylines	17, 20, 26, 37, 40, 42
Schools' News	19, 21, 25
No Coincidences	31
NGC News	33
Blue/Gold Star Markers.....	34
Oasis® - What's New?	35
Let's Cook	38
Memory Gardening.....	39
Dark Skys.....	44
Bumble Bees.....	46
Mark Your Calendar.....	48
Sitting on the Porch.....	49

Cover Photo • Monticello, This Page • Kseniia Gorova, Page 4 Columbine • Klickblick



Coming in TNG

Fall 2023 - October

- ❖ 2023 AOE Recipients
- ❖ Back to School with Youth
- ❖ New PLANT AMERICA Projects

**Submissions Welcome
and Encouraged!**

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. We help coordinate the interests and activities of state and local garden clubs in the U.S. and abroad.

Contact Us

NGC Headquarters: Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
314-776-7574, Email: [Headquarters Staff](#)

The National Gardener (ISSN:0027 9331) is published quarterly by National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Av., St. Louis, MO 63110-3492.

Subscribe for free:
[The National Gardener](#)

Follow us: [gardenclub.org](https://www.gardenclub.org)





Go Green PLANT AMERICA

Plant for Pollinators • MThipsorn

The National Gardener Staff

Editor [Gerianne Holzman](#)

Assistant Editor [Pat Young](#)

Advertising/Marketing Manager [Debi Harrington](#)

Copy Editor Gerry St. Peters

Copy Editor Linda Harkleroad

International Editor Pampa Risso Patrón

Subscription Manager [Emily Kiske](#)

Feature Writers

Ana Calegari, IA Region III

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, *Food to Table*

Pilar Medellín de Miñarro, IA Region I

Brenda Moore, NGC President, *Brenda's Journal*

Blanca Niño Norton, IA Region II

Charlotte Swanson, *Happy Gardener*

Write for TNG:

We welcome ALL NGC members, garden writers, designers and outdoor enthusiasts to share their club, community or personal story. You do NOT have to be a professional author to submit an article. See the [TNG page](#) for submission information.

Deadline/Publication Dates:

- Fall Issue Sept. 1/Oct. 1
- Winter Issue Dec. 1/Jan. 2
- Spring Issue Mar. 1/Apr. 1
- Summer Issue Jun. 1/Jul. 1

Advertise in TNG:

- Full Page \$650
- Half Page \$350
- Quarter Page \$175

See the [TNG page](#) for more information on advertising.

Legal Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in *The National Gardener* are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily reflect those of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). NGC reserves the right to edit or not publish any article for any reason or no reason in its sole discretion. Without limiting the foregoing, articles must not:

1. Contain any material, which is defamatory, obscene, indecent, abusive, offensive, harassing, violent, hateful, inflammatory or otherwise objectionable.
2. Promote sexually explicit or pornographic material, violence or discrimination based on race, sex, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age.
3. Infringe any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or other intellectual property or other rights of any other person.
4. Violate the legal rights (including the rights of publicity and privacy) of others or contain any material that could give rise to any civil or criminal liability under applicable laws or regulations or that otherwise may be in conflict with these Terms of Use and our Privacy Policy.
5. Be likely to deceive any person.
6. Promote any illegal activity, or advocate, promote or assist any unlawful act.
7. Cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety or be likely to upset, embarrass, alarm or annoy any other person.
8. Impersonate any person, or misrepresent your identity or affiliation with any person or organization.
9. Involve commercial activities or sales, such as contests, sweepstakes and other sales promotions, barter or advertising.
10. Give the impression that they emanate from or are endorsed by NGC or any other person or entity, if this is not the case.

Authors may submit previously published work and must notify *The National Gardener* editor of the location and date of prior publication. All material in *The National Gardener*, including design, text, images and logos are owned by the National Garden Clubs, Inc., unless otherwise indicated. All rights are reserved by NGC. Content may not be copied, reproduced, transmitted, distributed, downloaded or transferred in any form or by any means without NGC's prior written consent, and with express attribution to National Garden Clubs, Inc.



BRENDA'S JOURNAL

Green fingers are the extension of a fertile heart.

Russell Page

I am proud to represent NGC as a West Virginian. West Virginians are an independent and self-sufficient people who enjoy a slower pace of life and defend our faith, family and friends. A former state auditor, Glen Gainer, said: "West Virginians are as rugged as our mountains, as generous as our abundant wildlife and are as complex as our network of clean free flowing rivers."

My theme for the next two years is "Go Green - PLANT AMERICA." It appears to be a simple theme, but it is multifaceted. When I look at Google Earth, I am proud to live in a forested state that appears all green. Many places in our state are remote, but I would not trade the natural beauty of our green spaces for anything.

Plants are essential for survival and give us a sense of well-being. That is the subject of National Garden Clubs' latest, and my last, youth book entitled *My Green is Gone*. We will continue to promote participation in our youth projects and working with youth. This includes a new printable activity book entitled *Do Something Green*. Children are our future garden club members and stewards of our earth.

"Go Green" promotes environmental responsibility. To quote Kermit the Frog, "It's not easy being Green." It is not always easy being a good steward of our planet – it often times means making hard choices. We need to ask ourselves: Do we always have to have the biggest, newest and best while disposing old, yet still usable items? Thomas S. Monson states, "May we ever choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong."

Sometimes that harder choice is purchasing more costly native plants compared to the plants found in box stores. It could mean not having the latest electronics. It might mean using a pitcher of water instead of using plastic water bottles at our meetings. It can mean not

having America's idea of perfect lawns and instead choosing to protect pollinators and animal habitats. Sometimes it means doing away with unnecessary paperwork at our garden club meetings. Environmental Stewardship is part of who I am and thus will be a major emphasis of this administration.

A green light means GO. So, we will have Go Green - Plant America initiatives. I will continue to support and encourage applications to PLANT AMERICA Community Grants. A new initiative will be PLANT AMERICA – Feed America, encouraging planting gardens and sharing the bounty to feed those with food insecurities. Others are PLANT AMERICA – Landscape for Wildlife, and PLANT AMERICA – Plant for Pollinators. These will involve National Garden Clubs' promotion, certification and tracking members' pollinator and wildlife habitats. Once certified, members will have the option of purchasing a sign for their yard.

I encourage members to GO for it, whether it is deciding to attend NGC schools, deciding to serve in their club, on their state or the NGC board of directors, or making changes to long held traditions to make all garden clubs more appealing to all individuals. Set goals for yourselves, for your clubs, for your state as I have set goals for NGC and myself. One of my personal goals is to become a five-star member. I am now one symposium away from that goal. I believe in our schools, and completing all four schools has shaped how I view our natural world.

Another lyric in Kermit's song states, "But green's the color of Spring. And green can be cool and **friendly-like.**" We need to be friendly-like as we go green. We need to be encouragers and not be critical, especially of our

(Continued on page 5)

leaders. We are all volunteers. We are all going to make mistakes. During this administration I do not want us to be recognized for our titles, but by our works. I hope we can set an example of what it means to "Go Green." I look forward to hearing from and working with each of you. (From President Brenda's Inauguration speech, May 4, 2023 - Greenbrier Resort, West Virginia.)



Gone are unnecessary papers and plastics.

Outreach to diversify our membership.

Growth in our membership.

Recycling and upcycling will be emphasized.

Environmental concerns will be expressed.

Encouraging more participation in our schools, conventions, meetings, and programs.

Networking with our members and nature.

Kermit • iconspng.com

Planning Your Garden to Include Wildlife

Barbara Campbell

As garden club members we should aim to practice sustainability in our landscapes. Habitats are being lost to development, and we can hold the key to preserving them for future generations. As development pushes natural habitats further and further back, we can encourage wildlife to co-exist with us in our landscapes. Biodiversity is a key to successful wildlife habitat. Good plant options provide fruit and seeds for native wildlife. Native trees are good choices. Traditional oak leaves absorb airborne pollution. In one year, an average tree can remove 10 pounds of air pollution. In addition to plantings, consider the following when gardening for wildlife:

- ✓ Provide food, water, cover and places for animals and insects to raise their young.
- ✓ Work to reduce areas of lawn.
- ✓ Make conscious choices when choosing plants for your garden.
- ✓ Look for plants that are native and keep away from invasive species.
- ✓ Consider turning off outdoor lights at night to help wildlife survive.
- ✓ Eliminate pesticides.
- ✓ Purchase electric tools that do not add fossil fuels to the environment.
- ✓ Use leaves or pine needles as mulch.
- ✓ Keep a clean water source such as a small fountain or birdbath, or if you have enough space, build a pond.
- ✓ Think of creating corridors or hedgerows at the corners of your property.

We can work together to help our pollinators and wildlife survive. Connecting with nature has benefits for us with physical benefits reflected in our health. These include reducing stress and increasing physical activity. An NGC special program, for those of us that are including wildlife in our gardens, is coming. Watch for this after the Fall Board Meeting in September!

[Barbara Campbell](#), of New York, is the NGC PLANT AMERICA - Landscape for Wildlife Chair.

Acorns • Kaczor58
Squirrel • RT Images



Get to Know Our New NGC Executive Committee!



Brenda Moore, President, is a member of the Woodland Oaks GC in West Virginia. She is an NGC Four-Star Member. Her favorite flowers are wildflowers and orchids, especially the Lady Slipper orchid. When Brenda has 30 minutes of free time, she spends it pulling weeds in her garden or reading a book. Brenda adds, "I am honored to serve as National Garden Clubs'

President. I view my role as one of reaching out to our membership to help fulfill the mission of National Garden Clubs: promoting the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility and to help coordinate the interests and activities of state and local garden clubs in the U.S. and abroad. I also hope to encourage leadership and explore ways to increase membership and interest in National Garden Clubs."



Donna Rouch, 1st Vice President, also serves as the Liaison to State Presidents and Region Directors among her many other committee assignments. She is a member of the Plattsmouth GC in Nebraska. Donna is an NGC Four-Star Member. Her favorite flower is daffodil as they fill the brown of winter with the yellow of spring. In her 30 minutes of free time, Donna spends time in her

garden sanctuary or catching up on business literature from her sons. Donna adds, "I am proud that National Garden Clubs provides education through our schools, YouTube, and webinars, promotes the love of gardening, floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility and financially supports our members with grants and scholarships. We must speak loudly and proclaim our accomplishments to the nation that we PLANT AMERICA!"



Donna Marie Donnelly, 2nd Vice President, also serves as the Chair of the Finance committee. She is a member of the Ellore GC of South Carolina. Donna is a Master Flower Show Judge and Landscape Design Consultant. She has many favorite flowers including lilac, lily of the valley, gardenia, rose and gladiola. Donna packs a lot into her 30 minutes of free time including reading

and gardening with her cats, dogs, mule and donkey. Donna adds, "NGC is an amazing organization! It provides many

fundamental essentials for happiness such as something to do, something to love and something to learn. It will only get better and more interesting as we move into the future of gardening. When I moved to the South the members of my garden club were my first friends in my new town and they are still my dear friends to this day."



Gerianne Holzman, 3rd Vice President, also serves as *The National Gardener* editor and chairs the Award of Excellence and Organization Study committees among other duties. She is a member of the Sunset GC in Wisconsin. Gerianne is an NGC Five-Star member. Her favorite flower depends on the season with a special fondness for bottle gentian due to its color

and the bees' tenacity to pollinate them. In her 30 minutes of free time, Gerianne spends time reading. Gerianne adds, "It is a huge honor to serve the members of NGC. We can be a vibrant organization, with perseverance and dedication, that continues to do good in our communities and looks to the future. A cause, dear to my heart, is raising money to fight pancreas cancer with the 2023 event's fundraising goal of \$200,000 and all of the monies staying local."



Monica Hansen, Recording Secretary and Central Atlantic Region Director, has "too many other duties to list." She is a member of the Orchard Park GC in New York – proud home of the Buffalo Bills. She is an NGC Four-Star member. When asked about her favorite flower, Monica stated, "A couple of years ago when I was asked to do an installation, I asked my husband what my

favorite flower was. Without missing a beat, he said 'Pillsbury All Purpose.' So instead of using flowers in that installation, no matter how you spell it, I used chocolate." Her favorite flower spelled with a "w" is the *Anemone* 'September Charm.' In her 30 minutes of free time, Monica plays with her dog, Jack, or reads. Monica adds, "Looking forward to seeing everyone over these next few years if I don't get kidnapped while I'm in Africa where I'll be going later this month."

(Continued on page 7)



Lynette Jeffres, Treasurer, also chairs the Budget Committee. She is a member of the Riverton GC in Wyoming. Lynette is reluctant to choose just one favorite flower but is especially fond of the Wyoming state flower, the Indian paintbrush. In Lynette's 30 minutes (or more) of free time, she hops in her truck with her dog and camera and

hits the dirt roads to explore her state or relaxes with a book. Lynette adds, "Garden Club is just one of several 'services of the heart' type activities I am involved in around our community. Being active in our community is rewarding even when it is frustrating at times. Everyone doing a little to make a difference adds up to making a big impact!"



Bud Qualk, Corresponding Secretary, also serves on the Organization Study and Award of Excellence committees. He is a member and president of the Laurel Oak GC in Kentucky. Bud's favorite flower is the angel trumpet. When he has 30 free minutes, Bud spends it on his porch or patio with a glass of wine, and admires nature. Bud adds, "I hope to soon become a Student Flower Show Judge. I host and produce two TV and YouTube shows (Master Gardening and Community Service Spotlight) and am the McCracken County MG President. I retired from Regions and Independence Bank as a trust officer dealing with estate planning and played football for Murray State University."

Susan Yoder, Historian, also serves on the Organization Study committee. She is a member of the Hendricks County GC of Indiana. Susan's favorite flower is lily of the valley. In her 30 minutes of free time, Susan enjoys gardening, cooking, reading or hiking. (Susan did not provide a photo.)



Patty Arndt, Parliamentarian, also advises other committees. She is a member of the Berk-Mar GC of West Virginia. Patty is in the process of becoming a Gardening Consultant. Her favorite flower is the lavender rose. When Patty has 30 minutes of free time, she works in their vegetable garden or cooks. She also enjoys playing with her 11 chicken hens and two roosters.



Mary Warshauer, PH&E Trustees Director, also serves on the Finance and Budget committees as well as chairs the Advisory committee. She is a member of the Garden Club of Fair Haven in New Jersey. Mary is a Flower Show Judge. She states there are too many favorite flowers to just be able to pick one. In her 30 minutes of free time, Mary enjoys reading or walking.



Lynne Ehnert, Central Region Director, also serves on the Scholarship and Youth committees. She is a member of the Western Acres GC of Wisconsin. Lynne is a Flower Show Judge. Her favorite flower is the *Dahlia*. When she has 30 minutes of free time, Lynne reads or enjoys a good movie.



Debby Cooper, Deep South Region Director, also serves on the Scholarship committee. She is a member of the Greenwood GC and the Design Masters Study Club of Mississippi. Debby is an NGC Four-Star Member. Her favorite flower is the angel trumpet. During her 30 minutes of free time, Debby checks on her many, many, many container plants. Debby adds, "Thanks to being in a garden club or two, I have met the most wonderful people from all over the country."



Susan Miner, New England Region Director, also serves on the Scholarship and Membership/Leadership committees. She is a member of the Atkinson GC of New Hampshire. Susan's favorite flower is the peony. In her 30 minutes of free time, Susan loves to relax outside. Susan adds, "Besides my numerous garden club activities, I enjoy playing flute in Timberlane Community Band and Kokopelli Flute Ensemble, researching family genealogy and traveling and exploring new places."



Carol Norquist, Pacific Region Director, also serves on the Scholarship committee and is the Social Media chair. She is a member of the Anchorage GC of Alaska. Carol is a Flower Show Judge. Her favorite flower is the primrose. Her 30 minutes of free time varies with the seasons of Alaska with gardening in the summer and reading in the winter. Carol adds, "I have been in the garden club since 1989 and enjoy my garden club friends. I also enjoy starting plants from seed for the short growing season in Alaska."



Robbie Kupper, Rocky Mountain Region Director, also serves on the Scholarship and Awards of Excellence committees and is the 2025 NGC Convention Chair. She is a member of the Ogallala GC of Nebraska. Her favorite flower is the *Dahlia*. In her 30 minutes of free time, Robbie pulls weeds in her flower and vegetable gardens. Robbie adds, "I also try to volunteer at my local church by playing in the bell choir and also the choir."

(Continued on page 8)



Carcille Burchette, South Atlantic Region Director, also serves on the Scholarship committee. She is a member of the Corbin GC of Kentucky. Carcille is a Flower Show Judge. Her favorite flowers are sunflowers, tulips and calla lilies. When Carcille has 30 minutes of free time, she spends it reading or contemplating. Carcille adds, "I love and appreciate education of all sorts. I have varied interests and feel like 'a Jack of all trades and master of none.' I was a math teacher who loved teaching algebra. This helped when I participated in shaping our school district's new gifted and talented program to offer a variety of extracurricular activities that enriched and interested many students. I continue to serve on the Corbin Board of Education."



Sarah McReynolds, South Central Region Director, also serves on the Scholarship committee and chairs the Gardening School committee. She is a member of a Mexia GC of Texas. Sarah has submitted her application to become a Four-Star Member. Her favorite flower is lavender. In her 30 minutes of free time, Sarah enjoys riding her horse or reading. Sara adds, "I am pending my Four-Star application, having finished all schools. I am a master in three and will work towards my Five Star this next two years."



Thank You 2021 - 2023 Executive Committee

Mary Warshauer, Brenda Moore, Donna Rouch, Donna Donnelly, Monica Hansen, Lynette Jeffres, Gerianne Holzman, Phyllis White, Patty Arndt, Gay Austin, Carol Yee, Betty Cookendorfer, Carol Hall, Suzanne McCance, Lana Finegold, Margie Soileau, Marty Bowers, Rose Knight

Baseball and Gardening

Charlotte Swanson

Humid air is hovering over the bleachers and the home team is up to bat. Will there be electricity in the air when a homer is secured, or will there be a brief disappointment when the batter must retreat to the dugout? Whatever the outcome, there is joy in the journey on a perfect summer's night.

Gardening in the summer is not exactly baseball, but there are some striking similarities. For example, there is plenty of practice involved in both ventures. Getting the right plant in the right place is a constant goal. As with batters, gardeners take many swings before one is completely satisfied. In the garden, alliums can serve as a case in point. We often place tall versions of allium at the back of the border, but sometimes they look best in the middle where they defy gravity and suggest they are floating in the air. It can take a summer or two to settle the matter.

Baseball players know the progression after they hit the ball successfully - three bases and then home. Gardeners sometimes wish their plant life would follow such a pattern but more times than not, they must conduct and endure experiments. Some plants simply decide to grow and bloom, on their schedule. If a morning glory vine decides to take all summer to bloom then the gardener must look at a bare trellis for much longer than expected.

Every baseball team has its ups and downs as do the gardening seasons. Last year, the rains in our area did not come. The plants were stressed, some died and others were stunted. Even noble efforts to water the earth fell short. Other years when temperate was the name of the game there were garden parties and a vase of flowers in every room plus tomatoes to spare.

A baseball team no doubt reviews the season, reliving the victories and examining the defeats with an aim to improve. The gardener is of a like mind. Looking back over my last year there were victories. Despite the poor showing of the spring bulbs, the summer bulbs relished the heat. The dahlias bloomed early and long. The gladiolas were nonplussed by the circumstances and produced fat bulbs for the next year. Even losing my early tomatoes to herbicide turned around when a surprise volunteer showed up to shine through the heat. It is fun to win!

On the other hand, losses and mistakes, while uncomfortable, can be instructive. A long hot summer did not pair well with the newly planted hydrangeas. They barely survived. I did not notice the powdery mildew on peony bushes until it was nearly unstoppable.

But the wonderful thing about baseball and gardening is that there is optimism for "Next Year!" Mistakes can be teachers, and past victories stoke the imagination till new ones take their place. On a perfect summer's night who wants to be anywhere else other than the place they love - be it the baseball field of dreams or the gardener's backyard oasis? Batter up!

Charlotte Swanson is a NGC Gardening Consultant and a long time writer for *The National Gardener*.



Happy Gardener

Stop and Smell and Touch and See...continued

Debi Harrington

In the last issue of *TNG*, gardeners were challenged to stimulate the major senses – touch, sight, smell, taste and sound – in their garden plantings and decor. We can create outdoor spaces that please us while also providing for other physical and mental needs. Gardeners can incorporate these sensory stimuli into developing their gardens as well as those we design and care for in our communities.

The sense of **SIGHT** likely impacts us the most when we walk into our gardens. Plants and hardscapes easily stimulate the sense of sight when they offer:

- planned color schemes
- visual textures, shapes and sizes of plant specimens
- bright or filtered light and shadows
- line, rhythmic movement, reflection and repetition
- architectural features

A myriad of wildlife - like fluttering butterflies, busy bees and beautiful birds - catch our eyes in the garden. Colors can be calming pastels or stimulating vivid bright ones. Color allows us to make an area look larger or smaller as well as make an area appear to recede or come to the forefront. Various

textures can complement each other while stimulating one's brain. Native plants increase pollinators in the garden. The list of potential plants is infinite! Have fun coordinating and contrasting colors, textures and shapes in your garden.

Incorporate plants that are fun to **TOUCH** to stimulate our tactile receptors.

- Lambs ear (the quintessential perennial for texture), pussy willows, dusty millers, chenille plants and cockscombs are just a few which offer a soft, fuzzy experience, as do many grasses.
- Shrubs and trees offer both rough and smooth bark and a myriad of seed pods for physical stimulation.
- *Echinacea*, *Eryngium*, *Mahonia* and roses offer just the right amount of prickle.
- Smooth gourds, fruits and veggies plus ceramic orbs and pots placed near a garden path or bench provide a smooth, cool sensation.
- Mosaic garden art and bumpy veggies provide yet another experience.

(Continued on page 11)



Garden Path • Debi Harrington

SMELL is a sense that is easy to bring out in the garden. Fragrant plant specimens abound and are often the most fragrant when they are heirlooms or natives.

- Plant jasmine, lilac, rose, stock, honeysuckle, peony, *Gardenia*, *Freesia*, alyssum, *Phlox*, *Dianthus*, *Daphne*, Witch Hazel and *Viburnum* – just to name a few.
- Add to the floral specimens a myriad of herbs and evergreens, as well as spring-blooming shrubs and trees.

Indulge in the addition of scented plants by including them where they may be most experienced – by a garden bench, containers near the front and back doors, along garden paths and where breezes most often flow.

A gardener may not think of **TASTE** while in the garden. We often grow tasty things, but harvest and then bring them indoors. Assuming one is an organic gardener, there is nothing more delicious than a fresh-picked strawberry, blueberry, blackberry, peach, apple, tomato and numerous other fruits and vegetables. Pluck and eat on the spot, or if you must...rinse in a bucket of water. Once again, do not forget fresh herbs and their often-edible blossoms such as:

- celery-like lovage
- lavender buds
- peppery arugula flowers
- oniony chive blossoms
- Sweet-flavored anise hyssop blossoms
- cucumber-y borage flowers
- citrusy cilantro flowers and chamomile blooms
- thyme flowers.

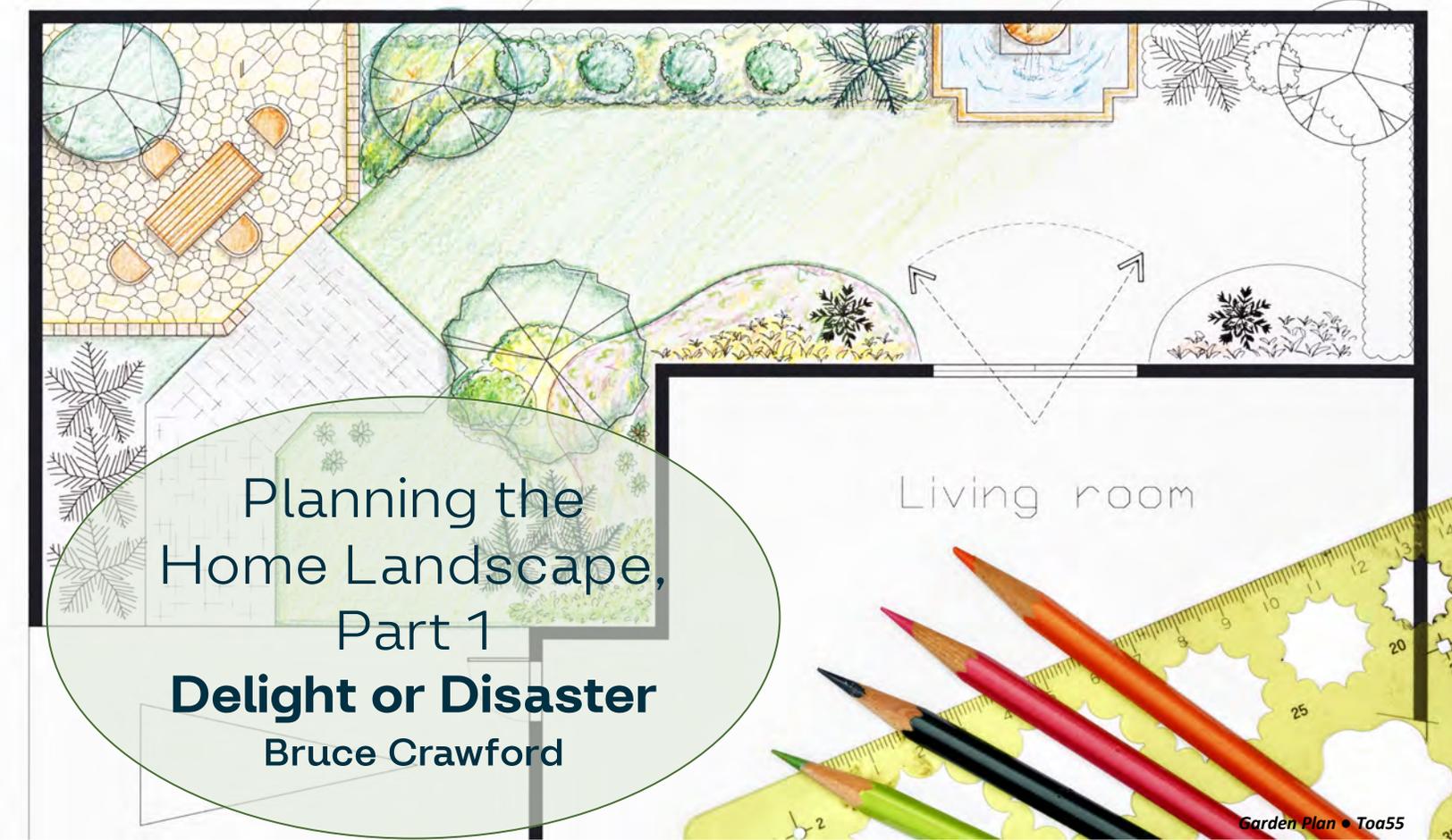
Other edible blossoms include peppery nasturtiums, squash blossoms, daylily blossom petals and whole buds, pansies, violas, tangy marigold petals, calendula blossoms, bachelor button flowers, sweet or sometimes spicy rose petals and hips – just to list a few. Use these edibles to infuse drinks, add color to salads and casseroles, and in baking for both savory and sweet foods. Of course, all these edibles should be free of pesticides and other chemicals.

Engaging the sense of **SOUND** in a garden might appear challenging, but it is not. As soon as we step into our garden, we may hear a thud as we step on a wooden deck or bridge or a crunch as we meander down a gravel path. We rustle shrubby leaves and ornamental grasses as we pass by. As breezes blow through our garden, we might also hear a rustle of various dried seed pods, such as *Nigella*, Greater Quaking Grass, Northern Sea Oats Grass and non-invasive, clumping varieties of Bamboo. Cascading, willowing trees provide gentle swoosh sounds. If we have planted natives and other plants that bees and birds enjoy and thrive on, we will hear their gentle buzz and hum, or the tweets, songs and shrill calls of various bird species.

Add bird feeders and baths to facilitate bringing the sounds of wildlife into the garden. A simple floating, solar-powered aerator, pump, or fountain for a bird bath is a huge draw for wildlife. Some type of garden water feature is a must. It may bring a gentle babble or be a large splash as it falls from above and makes its way down boulders to a pool below. Water sound may be a calming trickle from a tilted pottery cascading fountain. There is a water feature sound and price point for every gardener. There are kits to build your own – from a simple tabletop feature to a large cascading waterfall.

Sensory gardens can calm our minds, reduce stress, and enhance our sense of well-being. They allow us to become more connected with nature and provide a heightened awareness of our surroundings. Whether building a new garden, revamping an established one, or planting in containers for a patio, balcony or courtyard, why not incorporate a few new sensory plants, decorative garden art, or stimulating hardscape in the garden?

Debi Harrington, of New Mexico, was the 2017-2023 NGC Gardening Committee Coordinator. She is currently the Sponsors' Grants Chair and *TNG* Advertising Manager. This is part two of her two part sensory gardening article begun in the Spring issue of *TNG*.



Planning the Home Landscape, Part 1

Delight or Disaster

Bruce Crawford

All gardeners wrestle with the design of their home garden. The challenge is due to our familiarity with the property, making it difficult to objectively visualize alternative designs. You can become inspired by books and magazines, but it is difficult to visualize how those printed images will feel in person or relate to your home. Visiting public gardens, especially those designed around a home, can prove helpful. If nothing else, studying other gardens helps you determine what you do not like! Hopefully, this and the ensuing four articles will shed some light on the design process, allowing you to dodge some of the disastrous pitfalls and make your garden the delight you crave.

To start, most gardeners wish to focus on arranging plants, but success begins with the somewhat abstract concept of arranging spaces. To me, there are three initial criteria important to a garden's success. First, it should meet your **Program Needs**. Second, you need to understand the **Site Restrictions** and lastly, develop the proper **Spatial Sequence** to ensure the spaces or "outdoor rooms" are the proper size and organization to best serve your Program Needs and work within the Site Restrictions.

Program Needs is the list of what you or your family need/want from a successful garden. Of course, your needs should be within your maintenance and financial capabilities. The list is endless, but some considerations include:

1. Patio
2. BBQ or outdoor kitchen

3. Vegetable garden/herb garden
4. Swimming pool/ hot tub
5. Water feature (pond or fountain)
6. Utility shed
7. Solar clothes dryer (clothesline)
8. Compost bin
9. Additional parking
10. Tot lot

Site Restrictions are the limitations of the site and are best located on a Site Map. A Site Map includes everything from the location of buildings to downspouts, low wet areas, steep slopes and so on. Everyone receives a survey when purchasing a house which includes the property boundaries, the location of the house, easements and the north orientation. Locating north allows you to understand where the sun rises and sets and where shade is cast throughout the day. This helps in locating spaces and plants best suited for sun or shade and the direction of those chilling northwesterly winds. It is best to enlarge the survey from 1" = 30' (or 1" = 50') to 1" = 8' to create a Site Map that will be both easier to note the restrictions and develop the Spatial Sequencing.

Space and **Spatial Sequencing** are something designers spend a lot of time discussing. Creating spaces that have the appropriate size, shape and location, relative to the home, for specific activities is truly the key to the development of a usable garden. In general, spaces that are circular, square,

(Continued on page 13)



Chanticleer • Bruce Crawford



Highline • Bruce Crawford

octagonal, or somehow have uniform length sides, are spaces with low “energy.” They subconsciously inform us that this is a space in which to pause, sit and enjoy, as the curved bench at Chanticleer Gardens illustrates above, left. Conversely, if the space is long and linear it has more energy, and propels people through that space as seen on the Highline image on the right. Simply put, we do not feel comfortable lingering in a linear and narrow space. (This may be why teachers sent misbehaving children to the hallway in elementary school!!)

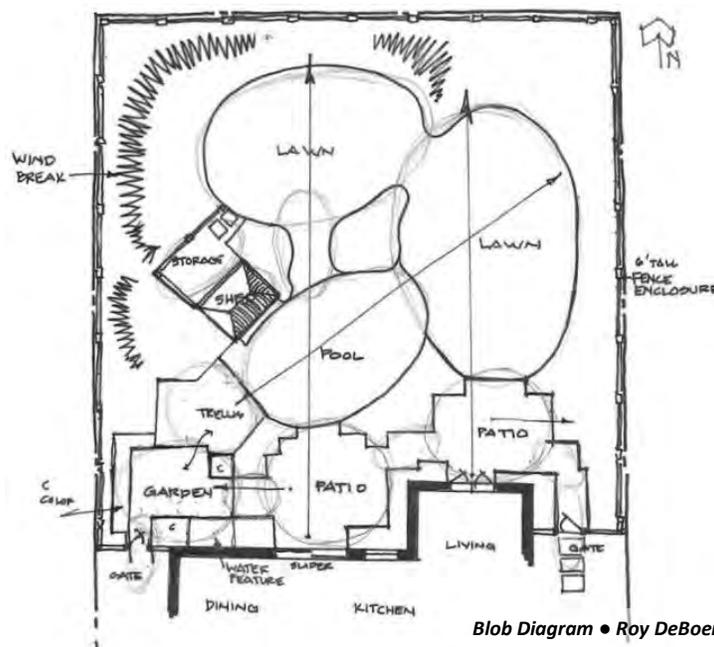
An easy way to lay out these outdoor spaces is to use circles to represent the spaces and construct what is informally called a blob diagram, as pictured in the image by Roy DeBoer. The advantage of this approach is the detachment from any thought of plants or details which is distracting at this design stage. Initially, we need to simply think about the use of the spaces and how one space properly relates to an adjacent space.

When considering the **Program Needs** you outlined, each one

correlates to a space that becomes a circle or oval on the Site Map. Ideally, work on trace paper laid over the Site Map. Where circles or ovals overlap, one space freely flows into the next, much like a kitchen transition into a family room without any blocking walls. However, where they do not overlap, some form of a physical barrier separates them. The barrier can take the form of plant materials, architectural elements (fence or wall) or a landform. It is the shape of the barrier that determines the vertical shape of the space and affects how people perceive or feel the space. For example, a space created by arching trees creates a welcoming and

embracing space, analogous to that of a cathedral ceiling. A space, surrounded by cone-shaped plants or those with irregular branching, can create a more uncomfortable or unharmonious space.

It is also important to locate important sight lines for unobstructed views or vistas as indicated by the arrows on the plans in the image. In some instances, the sight line may not be a path that you navigate physically but rather visually, as groundcovers may cover the ground plane. The sight lines could be locating a distant view of a mountain or a view within the garden of a bench or water feature.



Blob Diagram • Roy DeBoer

These spatial diagrams have the advantage of not only allowing you to organize outdoor spaces, but to organize them quickly. It typically takes 15-30 minutes to develop a diagram. Put that diagram to one side and think about how the design would work with a patio, pool or vegetable garden in another location, or consider a different circulation pattern. Walk through the inside of your house

and consider what views are most important and should be strengthened, as well as which views should be screened. I have always found it best to put together a few ideas and then revisit the designs a day later. It is amazing how things become apparent after a break! Once you are comfortable with the spatial layout, you can begin to detail the spaces (as seen in the image) and craft that delightful garden! In the next *TNG*, we focus on Public, Private and Utility spaces.

Bruce Crawford, of New Jersey, is the Manager of Horticulture, Morris County Parks Commission, Morris Township, NJ. He received an NGC Award of Excellence in 2021. [Printable Article](#)

Friendly people, lovely scenery and beautiful gardens best describe my recent visit to Ireland. We traveled from Dublin to Killarney, south to Dingle Peninsula then along the western coast to Galway. Then it was back to Dublin for a visit to the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland.

Despite Ireland's northern location, the Gulf Stream influences their climate resulting in plant hardiness zones of 8 or 9. You can guess there was a lot of zone envy for those of us from the Midwest and Northern regions of the United States. It is always fun to see what grows in milder climates and find inspiration to apply to our own spaces.

Dublin in Bloom

We started our journey at Dublin in Bloom (Bord Bia Bloom). This event began as a way to promote plants, garden design, horticulture and gardening. It has expanded to include the promotion of food and drink with sustainability as its overall goal. Like many gardeners in the U.S., they are concerned about water conservation, pollinators, reducing waste and native plants.

The Postcard Gardens were a favorite with lots of creative ideas for small space gardeners. One garden featured an outdoor office, and another was a garden on wheels for a nursing home. One of the Show Gardens focused on sustainability with a green roof, water collection system, native plants, permeable pavers and an electric car parked on the drive.

Gardens at Blarney Castle

I did not kiss the Blarney Stone but did spend my time in a few of the gardens. The Poison Garden contained many plants you would expect to see and some that may surprise you. I have to say the Golden Chain Tree (*Laburnum x watereri*) covered arch was one of my favorites in this garden. Plant hardiness listings vary with several sites saying hardy in Zone 5 and others in Zone 6. It does perform best in areas where it is hardy and the summers are cool. I just may have to try it.

The Jurassic Fern Garden filled with Australian tree ferns (*Sphaeropteris cooperi*), moss-covered rocks and logs and large trees did look like something from the movie. Those of you gardening in zones 8 to 11 where the soil is moist and the weather is humid can grow the Australian tree fern in the landscape. The rest of us need to grow it in a pot and move it indoors for winter. It has become invasive in Hawaii so always check a plant's suitability to your growing region before making a purchase.

Muckross Gardens

A pristine rose garden and an extensive rock garden created from a rock outcropping were highlights for me. But I must admit I did not have time to see it all. The rock garden was amazing with steps and paths throughout. Ferns, geraniums, campanulas and other plants growing in the crevices soften the overall effect. This rock garden inspired me to transform a problem space in my yard. I will let you know how it goes.

(Continued on page 15)

Gardens of Ireland Melinda Myers



Sustainable Show Garden and Inset: Bee Bank • Melinda Myers

[Brigit's Garden](#)

This garden was a favorite of the group. It is a more naturalized design in contrast to many of the formal gardens we visited. Brigit's gardens represent the Celtic cycle of the seasons with native plants and artwork reflecting the seasons.

Inspiring gardeners to provide food and shelter for pollinators is another mission of this garden. They select plants that attract and support native bees and created [Bee Banks for Ground-dwelling Bees](#). I did a bit more research and found another method called [Earth Banks for Bees](#). Brigit's Garden is also where I learned about the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#). The goal is to enlist all sectors of the population - businesses, farms, homeowners and others - to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive.

[Kylemore Abbey and Gardens](#)

The gardens here were a stark contrast to Brigit's Garden. The walled garden is described as "an oasis of ordered splendour in the wild Connemara Countryside." Geometric beds within the walls overflowed with flowers, vegetables, herbs and more. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has had an impact on these more orderly gardens. The nut trees were growing in a pollinator-friendly meadow.

[The National Botanic Gardens of Ireland](#)

This was our last stop. Their collection contains over 15,000 species and cultivars from around the world and more than 300 endangered species. As always there is never enough time to see it all.

The "Order" or "Family" beds show the relationships between plants. This collection represents about ninety of the plant families that are hardy in Ireland. The herbaceous borders were full of plants, some we can grow and others we treat as annuals, grow as annuals or not at all. Many members of our group visited the rose garden and said it was outstanding. I will have to see it through their photos.

Throughout our garden visits I noticed many of Ireland's garden plants are native to New Zealand and Australia. As gardeners, we are always interested in trying what others are growing. This interest has led to beautiful gardens and invasive plants and organisms. In the U.S. we are finding many of the European native plants we have grown in our gardens have escaped and invaded our natural spaces. This is a worldwide problem. In Ireland, the [New Zealand Flatworm](#) arrived in the potting mix of imported plants and is disrupting their soil ecology, much like the Asian jumping worm is doing in the U.S.

We can learn so much by visiting other gardens, whether through a local garden tour or trips to other countries. Take time this summer to learn and share with fellow gardeners.

Melinda is a TV and Radio host, author, columnist and speaker. She is the instructor for the *Great Courses: How to Grow Anything* DEV and Instant Streaming series. She has a Master's Degree in Horticulture and over 35 years of horticulture and gardening experience. Visit www.melindmyers.com for gardening tips, webinars and more. **Click on any of the links within this article to virtually visit the Gardens of Ireland.**

Memories of
Almost Heaven -
West Virginia
NGC
Convention 2023



Almost Heaven...

Darlene Newell, 2023 Convention Chair

The 2023 NGC convention is just a memory now, but, hopefully the words to "Country Roads" linger. The weather was chilly but the warmth of renewing friendships and meeting new friends was unmistakable inside the historic Greenbrier.

Members of the WVGC were honored to host over six hundred guests including International Affiliates from Central and South America. A COMAIL Zoom meeting was hybrid and included seventy members from South America. The speakers were educational and entertaining! Members learned how to recognize different birds by sight and calls, how to care for orchids in our homes plus tips on taking excellent photographs with our phones. *(Photos by Darlene Newell)*



A tradition at Convention, International Affiliates wear something from our country which adds color to the event and showcases the international outreach of NGC, Inc.

Una tradición en las Convenciones, las Afiliadas Internacionales vestimos algo de nuestro país que agrega color al evento y enfatiza la amistad internacional de NGC, Inc.

A New Beginning – COMAAI at the 2023 NGC, Inc. Convention Pampa Risso Patrón

This year’s NGC Convention attracted 26 Latin American members of COMAAI (Comité de Actividades de Afiliados Internacionales) International Affiliates of NGC, Inc. The three established international Regions, Region I – Mexico; Region II – Central America and the Caribbean and Region III – South America, were represented by five countries. The highlight of the event was having the opportunity to participate in this year’s National Garden Clubs Convention in a venue as beautiful and historic as The Greenbriar Hotel. We met with our American peers to work and plan future garden club activities.

We held our Annual Board Meeting to bid farewell to Gloria Remedi (Uruguay), as General Chairman and welcome María Regina Viau (Guatemala), as the new General Chairman for Brenda Moore’s Presidential term 2023-2025. The new COMAAI administration meeting was a hybrid activity, opening the participation to the members present and others who attended on-line from the three different regions. One of our Zoom participants wrote, “The feeling of camaraderie, held throughout the entire meeting, made me feel that I was there, and it made me look forward to attending an NGC, Inc. Convention in the future.”

We shared very emotional moments when the NGC, Inc. International Affiliates members received awards and Four and Five-Star recognitions. Former President Mary Warshauer presented special certificates to members who participated in organizing NGC, Inc. schools on-line and those who participated in organizing and establishing a COMAAI Regional Convention completely on-line.

Now that we are back in our respective countries, we have returned full of information and ideas to share with our fellow members in our frequent virtual meetings. I thank Sabina Arrieta for her kindness in creating the PowerPoint to accompany this article and Idalia Aguilar for being my eyes during the Convention that unfortunately I was unable to attend. Until next year, I say goodbye on behalf of COMAAI and wish María Regina Viau the best of success in her term.

Pampa Risso Patrón, *TNG* International Editor and of the Garden Club Argentino – Grupo Hurlingham. See more of [COMAAI at NGC](#).



COMAAI Comité de Actividades de Afiliados Internacionales

Left: COMAAI Delegation, Right: Brenda Moore, NGC, Inc. President 2023-2025 and María Regina Viau, COMAAI Directora General 2023-2025
• Sabrina Arrieta

Un Nuevo Comienzo – COMAAI en la Convención NGC, Inc. 2023 Pampa Risso Patrón

La Convención NGC, Inc. de este año tuvo el placer de recibir a 26 miembros latinoamericanos de COMAAI (Comité de Actividades de Afiliados Internacionales), incluyendo nuestra Asesora Internacional de Texas. Las tres Regiones establecidas Región I – México; Región II – Centroamérica y El Caribe; y Región III – Sudamérica, estuvieron representadas por 5 países. Lo más destacado del evento fue tener la oportunidad de participar en la Convención Garden Club de este año, en un predio tan bello e histórico como The Greenbriar Hotel; donde nos reunimos con nuestros pares estadounidenses para trabajar y planificar futuras actividades del Garden Club.

Realizamos nuestra Reunión Anual de Directorio para despedir a Gloria Remedi (Uruguay), como Directora General y dar la bienvenida a María Regina Viau (Guatemala), como nueva Directora General para el período presidencial 2023-2025 de Brenda Moore. La nueva reunión administrativa de COMAAI fue una actividad híbrida, abriendo la participación a miembros presentes y a otros, quienes asistieron en línea desde las 3 regiones diferentes. Una de nuestras participantes de Zoom escribió, “El sentimiento de camaradería que se mantuvo durante toda la reunión me hizo sentir que estaba allí y me hizo desear asistir a una convención de NGC, Inc. en el futuro”.

Compartimos momentos muy emotivos cuando miembros de NGC, Inc. *International Affiliates* (COMAAI) recibieron premios y también reconocimientos de 4 y 5 Estrellas. La presidente saliente Mary Warshauer, entregó certificados especiales a miembros que participaron en la organización de las escuelas de NGC, Inc. en línea y a aquellos que participaron en la organización e implementación de una Convención Regional COMAAI completamente en línea.

Ahora que hemos regresado a nuestros respectivos países, volvemos llenas de información e ideas para compartir con nuestras socias en nuestras frecuentes reuniones virtuales. Agradezco a Sabina Arrieta por su gentileza en la realización del PowerPoint que acompaña esta nota y a Idalia Aguilar por ser mis ojos durante la convención a la que lamentablemente no pude asistir. Hasta el año entrante, me despido en nombre de COMAAI y le deseo a María Regina Viau el mayor de los éxitos en su mandato.

Pampa Risso Patrón, *TNG*, Editora Internacional, Garden Club Argentino – Grupo Hurlingham. [Ver más de COMAAI en NGC.](#)

Train as a future Flower Show Schools Instructor

Educate potential Flower Show Judges

Advance interest in horticulture and floral design

Communicate NGC goals and objectives

Help promote flower shows

TEACH– Future Instructors Development Program

Judy Binns

TEACH is an initiative to develop future NGC Flower Show School Instructors. Becoming an NGC Flower Show Schools Instructor takes time and effort - plus a certain skill set. The skills include communication, organization, creativity, time management, patience, leadership and technical skills. Instructors must also have experience in both judging and exhibiting in NGC Flower Shows. Instructors create course outlines, provide classroom instruction and visual aids plus interact with students. Do you know someone that fits that description? Do **YOU** fit that description?

Why **TEACH**? With **TEACH**, you can be part of a Team—the Team of NGC Flower Show School Instructors. Participants in the **TEACH** program will have the advantages of a standardized training program and the opportunity to share ideas via virtual and in-person seminars - but will have a deadline to complete all the program requirements. Participants will work on ONE course at a time. When they satisfactorily complete that course, they can move on to the next one.

The **TEACH** program accepts judges who have taken at least one refresher for credit, instead of two as required by the current application. This change allows judges who have more recently completed Flower Show School to apply for the program. Applications are accepted from now through October 31, 2023. Visit the [TEACH Program](#) webpage for more information or download the [TEACH Application](#). Apply today and join the **TEACH** Team!

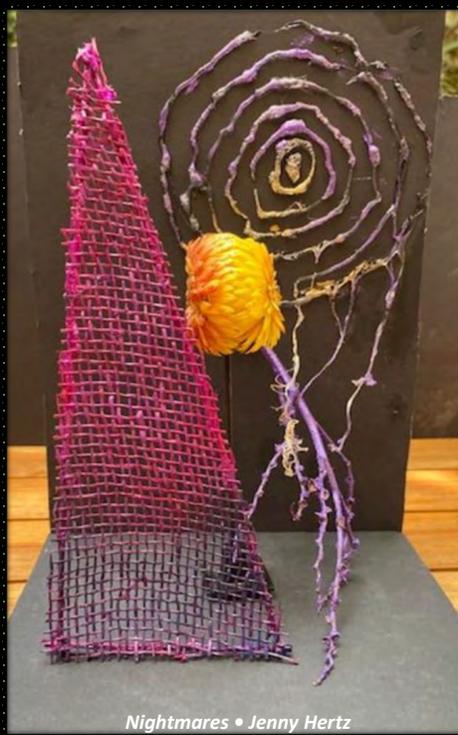
Handbook for Flower Shows--The 2023 list of changes, corrections and clarifications that are effective as of July 1, 2023, are on the NGC website Flower Show School Resources page. The revised 2023 digital version of the Handbook for Flower Shows is available to download for free.

Judy Binns, of Virginia, is the NGC Flower Show School Chair.

**Flower
Show
School**



Untitled • Lou Kent



Nightmares • Jenny Hertz



Untitled • Anonymous

Expression in **ABSTRACT** Floral Design

La Expresión en el Diseño Floral **ABSTRACT**

Pilar Medellín

Floral Design, as an aesthetic discipline, can be placed in the form of abstract art. It is an artistic expression that proposes a different concept from what is considered real. It is contrary to figurative or realistic art since it does not try to represent concrete forms but instead proposes, to the designer, a different look at things. Through an unusual language, regardless of whether we can recognize the plant material used, it is stripped of its known expression to be used creatively.

This type of design must be focused on the presence of elements to interpret color, shapes or lines, textures or spaces that are generated in harmony, with intuition and feeling. Organic geometry is used without any rational process; rather on the contrary, it is totally free and spontaneous. In this way, we can strip a flower of its real image, concentrating on recognizing only the characteristics of its elements.

In turn, this artistic expression prioritizes emotion and imagination over reason. In this sense, the interpretation in floral art is less obvious or logical and depends on the individual designer or viewer. Abstract works break norms and common sense and seek to approach the public from intuition and free thinking. This means that it is necessary for whoever judges a design to have an understanding that goes beyond the rational. They need to admire an abstract work; while finding in it the intention of the designer to express the theme in his or her proposal. Advancing in this manner makes us grow as designers or judges. Without established prejudices, while we open ourselves to all the possibilities of interpreting a design, that is not only creative but abstract.

Pilar Medellin de Miñarro, is a TNG international feature writer and NGC Instructor. She lives in Mexico. [Click to view more images of Pilar and Friends' Abstract Designs.](#)

El Diseño Floral como una disciplina estética puede situarse en forma de arte abstracto. Es una expresión artística que propone un concepto distinto a lo que está considerado como real. Es contrario al arte figurativo o realista ya que no intenta representar formas concretas sino, que propone al diseñador, una mirada diferente de las cosas a través de un lenguaje inusual, sin importar que podamos reconocer el material vegetal utilizado, al que se despoja de su expresión conocida para usarse de forma creativa.

Este tipo de diseño debe estar enfocado en la presencia de elementos para interpretar color, formas o líneas, texturas o espacios, generados en armonía con intuición y sentimiento. Se utiliza la geometría orgánica sin ningún proceso racional, por el contrario, es totalmente libre y espontáneo. De esta forma podemos despojar a una flor de su imagen real, concretándonos a reconocer solo las características de sus elementos.

A su vez, esta expresión artística prioriza la emoción e imaginación por sobre la razón. En este sentido, la interpretación en el arte floral es menos evidente o lógica y depende de cada diseñador o espectador. Las obras abstractas rompen normas y sentidos comunes y buscan aproximarse al público desde la intuición y desde pensamientos libres. Esto significa que es necesario que quien juzgue un diseño, tenga una comprensión que vaya más allá de lo racional para poder admirar una obra abstracta y encontrar en ella la intención del diseñador para expresar el tema en su propuesta. Avanzar en este sentido nos hará crecer como diseñadoras o jueces sin prejuicios establecidos, abriéndonos a todas las posibilidades de la interpretación de un diseño no solo creativo sino abstracto.

Pilar Medellín de Miñarro, es escritora internacional de artículos especiales para TNG e Instructora NGC. Ella vive en México. [Haga clic para ver más imágenes de Diseño Abstracto de Pilar y amigas.](#)



Gardening School News

Teaching Youth • PeopleImages

Why Take NGC Gardening School?

Sarah McReynolds

NGC Gardening Schools are more important than you realize. In a time when people are concerned about food and health, gardening has had a revival. As a garden club member, everyone is welcome to attend these schools for credit or just to learn. Nonmembers may take the schools as well. Check the [Gardening School](#) page for information and the [Course Listing](#) page dates, places and contact information.

Many chairs provide Gardening Schools information to the Master Gardeners, who use this program for their required credit hours. The local chair screens and chooses the school instructors to give the student the best educational experience and educational tools to use to have successful gardens.

The schools are about horticulture, gardening and related subjects. A focus this year will be on gardening for wildlife habitat and gardening for pollinators as well as gardening for food. When you take a course in your state or region, it is geared to local interest. Courses are in person and by Zoom. A student can take a gardening school in any part of the country. There are Gardening Presentations on the [Gardening School](#) page under “What Will You Learn.”

Gardening School courses study soil structure, pruning techniques, identifying plants, etc. Classes include basic botany, annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables, plant diseases and plant classification. Additional topics may include reconciliation ecology and creating backyard habitats to help endangered species such as pollinators and amphibians. The classes help the students learn how to make a pollinator-friendly garden and yard. Students will also learn how to make their yards a wildlife backyard habitat. Knowledge learned in the schools helps members work with youth to establish pollinator gardens or gardens for food. Students learn local information about what grows best in the area.

Consider taking these courses and becoming an NGC Gardening Consultant. They are easier than ever to take via Zoom from the comfort of your own home. Participants may attend in-person classes in any state as well, and have a unique experience all its own. The classes are constantly changing so there is always something new to learn.

[Sarah McReynolds](#) is the NGC Gardening School Chair. She live in Texas.



Growing • Oleh Malshakov

Grow Gardening Consultants' Councils

Linda Jean Smith

The purpose of a Gardening Consultants' Council is to promote the interest and love of gardening among our members. However, we first must have members. So how do we grow our councils and keep our current members interested? To interest other people in joining your state's council, they will want to know what the council does and what they get from belonging.

A good way to show this is to have programs within your state's federation on gardening. Your council can join with your state to have a program or series of programs open to all your state's garden club members on gardening topics. Pick something timely from native plants, invasives or other local concerns and find a speaker, on that topic. The council pays for the speaker and the state federation organizes and publicizes it, being sure to say that the Gardening Consultants' Council is sponsoring it. The presentation could be an in-person lecture or offered through Zoom to get to a broader base and save money. This might allow you to offer more than one program. The Zoom format allows more people to attend. At the beginning of the lecture, take a few minutes to explain what your council does and how people can join by becoming a consultant.

The council could also consider covering the cost of a gardening speaker for a state meeting. They may have a display at that meeting on both Gardening Consultants'

Council and Gardening School with someone from the council available to answer questions.

If your state has a newsletter, ask someone from the council to write a gardening article for different issues. They could write on favorite plants or low maintenance plants or any number of topics. Remember that you are reaching out to not just the experienced gardener, but the newbie. Be sure the articles work for both types of readers. Include pictures to attract readers to the article.

Encourage people to go to Gardening School to become a consultant so they can join the council. This means council members need to volunteer to organize or help run the school. In-person schools are fun but expensive. Try to be flexible in your school's format. Working with a botanic garden, a college with greenhouses or other plant venues may help. The people you are instructing are the people who will use the facility so the owners may be willing to lower the space rental fees. Instead of a full day, see if a half day or evening class would be less expensive as it will lessen space and staff time. Work on their schedule if you can. You might also use and pay someone on their staff to do one of the lectures as well. If someone in your Federation belongs to a fraternal organization, you can often use their building during the day for much less cost.

Zoom is also an option for the school as it does not need a facility which is the biggest expense and will save on travel and overnight costs. Splitting the day and only doing half days is probably easier than sitting in front of a computer for eight hours. Consider all your options and be flexible.

(Continued on page 23)



Garden Learning • Hero Images

Expenses to attend these schools can sometimes be too much for some people. Consider having state scholarships, and encourage applications, to cover the cost of the school registration fee. This means the school will not bring in as much money, but will help increase the number of people becoming consultants.

Finally, what do you do once they have become consultants? How do you keep them interested and wanting to remain a member? Lectures are always interesting, and having some that the council sponsors for its membership both in-person or using Zoom is always a good thing. Trips to nearby gardens are also good programs, but be sure you have a guided tour or someone there providing information to make it informative. Workshops can be fun on topics like seed propagation, starting woody cuttings, pruning and other topics. You can help with expenses if you join with Landscape Design or Environmental Councils on speakers and trips, and it introduces members of other councils to what your council is doing. (Some states have bi- or tri-councils combining the different disciplines.)

Staying in contact with members during the year is also helpful. There are lots of free webinars on gardening topics. Local libraries often have both in-person and Zoom speakers on gardening ideas. Perhaps the membership chair or someone on the council can check these out and email the information to the other Council members. You will also find many other similar organizations such as native plant trusts and local extension services offering programs, some of which

are free. If you keep checking, you can send out links regularly to members.

Some program suggestions include Janet Macunovich, an educator, horticulturalist and landscaper in Michigan. Check out her website [Garden A to Z](#). She and her husband have a series of webinars on gardening, some of which have a charge, but some are free, and all are very informative.

Jana Milbocker is a landscape designer. She works with Joan Butler, a horticulturist, at [Enchanted Gardens](#). Jana has written several books on gardens, one of which is *The Garden Tourist*. She gives tours and lectures on gardens around the USA and overseas. There is a charge, but she does do Zoom lectures. If the weather is such that you cannot garden, what is better than virtually touring beautiful gardens?

Online magazines contain information you can sometimes share. One is [Flower Magazine](#). It has floral designs along with articles on gardening and landscaping and other related topics. You can get the online version for free, and if you find an interesting article, share it with your members.

It would be great to share ideas for programs, online information and other ideas for Gardening Consultants' Councils that your members enjoy. Send me suggestions, and I will gladly share them with the councils

Linda Jean Smith, of Massachusetts, is the NGC Gardening School Consultants' Council Chair. Contact [Linda](#) for more information or to share your ideas.



PLANT AMERICA: Plant for Pollinators

Virginia Schmidt

As gardeners, we all love beautiful flowers and have our favorites. It is the same for bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators. Most of us are aware that the monarch butterfly only lays eggs on milkweed. These leaves are the only thing that monarch caterpillars eat. Many species have one specific host plant while others have a range of plants that they prefer.

A common trait of all pollinators is that they thrive when surrounded by native plants. The term “native plant” has several definitions, but a broad definition is: “They are plants native to your geographic area and not altered for bloom, leaf color, or size.” That double-bloom coneflower may be attractive to you, but it is confusing for pollinators that are looking for what is hard-wired into them - the unaltered *Echinacea purpurea*.

It is ok to have some non-natives and beautiful annuals in your garden, but pollinators are looking for nutrition for themselves and their young. Take time to research what is indigenous to your geographical area. You will find plants that are attractive to look at as well as excellent food sources. Some native perennials support dozens of species of insects, and some trees and shrubs support hundreds! As you add new beds or expand existing ones, think about what native plants and shrubs to incorporate into your landscape to help feed pollinators.

Previously, it was more difficult to find native plants. Increasingly, native-only nurseries are sprouting up and established local garden centers often have a native plant section. If they do not, ask them to stock natives for next season. Your state and local clubs may have resource lists for plant selection and NGC will be compiling information as well. Watch for it on the website.

Make your garden a “Garden with a Purpose” - a garden that is beautiful to view and provides food and shelter for our pollinators!

[Virginia Schmidt](#) is the PLANT AMERICA - Plant for Pollinators Chair. She resides in Ohio where she serves her local and state clubs.



Down the Garden Path
Landscape Design
School News
Carol Yee

Garden Path • Anonymous

“On October 7, 1958, NGC established a series of four courses on landscape design to develop a greater appreciation of the environment, both natural and manmade...”

The enjoyment of scenery employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it; tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration to the whole system – Frederick Law Olmstead

“On October 7, 1958, NGC established a series of four courses on landscape design to develop a greater appreciation of the environment, both natural and manmade...” - *NGC Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools Handbook* p.49 (The Schools’ Handbook is available on the NGC website)

Thanks to Greg Pokorski, former NGC Landscape Design School (LDS) Chair, for his leadership during the many changes and revisions to the NGC Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools’ Handbook and forms during his terms. Thanks also to former LDS Accrediting Chairs, Alexis Shafer, Nancy Fulk, Linda McLendon and Jane Bersch, who are helping the new LDS Accrediting Chairs learn their responsibilities and duties.

Upon completion of or scheduling a Landscape Design School, please contact the following new LDS Chairs for your region.

[Barbara Campbell](#) – Accrediting Chair, Central Atlantic and New England Regions

[Anna O’Kelly](#) – Accrediting Chair, Central and South Atlantic Regions

[Marty Bowers](#)- Deep South and Rocky Mountain Regions

[Terri Ewers](#) - Pacific and South Central Regions

See the [Landscape Design School Directory](#) for LDS chairs in your state or region.

Going forward, all Landscape Design schools MUST follow the Landscape Design School Curriculum that was to begin after

July 2019 but was interrupted by COVID. Schools operating under the previous curriculum have almost completed the last of their courses. New curriculum objectives include:

“We will include a segment in each course aimed specifically at redesigning a home landscape. Many of our students live in suburban homes with existing landscapes. They want to make modest changes that do not require the services of a professional designer. This will not encroach upon professional services and if more extensive design work is involved, it will allow the student to better communicate and understand the process.

We will emphasize the goals of NGC that relate to landscape design. Fundamentally, we need to be aware of the environmental burdens the typical suburban landscape places on the national level. Even moderate changes in planting choices and cultural practices can make significant impacts on the ecosystems around us.” (*NGC Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools Handbook* p. 50)

Reading material from *The National Gardener* is no longer included as required reading for each series course. There is no reading material exam. [Newscape](#) (Caroline Carbaugh, editor), which was originally a Landscape Design School newsletter, is now a combined Schools newsletter including Environmental and Gardening School articles.

[Carol Yee](#) is the NGC Landscape Design School Chair. She lives in Illinois and is a Five-Star member. Contact Carol for your LDS questions or visit the [LDS webpage](#).



El Cerrito del Carmen Play Area, Inset: Aerial View of El Cerrito del Carmen • Norton & Viau

El Cerrito del Carmen: Clean air in a Historic Center

Blanca Niño Norton, Architect
Maria Regina Viau, Designer

El Cerrito del Carmen is a hill dominated by a Catholic sanctuary, located in the historic center of Guatemala City. It covers an area of approximately 60,000 square yards that currently serves as a nature haven in a modern and urban city. At the top is the small church that was built in the 17th century and dedicated to Our Lady of Carmen. Its history dates to the founding of Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción on January 2, 1776.

This sanctuary suffered severe damage throughout its history, especially during the earthquakes of 1917 and 1979. Its interior houses pieces of colonial art of priceless historical value. Originally the gardens had many eucalyptus trees. However, despite their beauty, they have been replaced by less brittle trees that require less water for their growth and survival.

María Regina Viau, designer of the Cerrito del Carmen Gardens and General Director of COMAAI – International Affiliates Activities Committee, shares her experiences.

"We started by selecting and changing diseased trees for trees and plants suitable to the climate, soil and low maintenance. Paths have been designed on its slopes,

benches for rest; lighting has been added and waterfalls that harmonize the walk while attracting various species of birds. The gardens have been designed to be cost effective and low maintenance.

Thanks to an agreement between the Teoxché Foundation and the Municipality of Guatemala, they have, over the past 15 years, been the leading forces of this project to recover Cerrito del Carmen from its eroded soil and poor environmental and social conditions."

The artistic community has found in Cerrito del Carmen an open space surrounded by nature to inspire them and aid them to express their creativity. Performing artists, with the support of the Municipality of Guatemala, have discovered a way to promote culture by offering a "Legends of Guatemala" tour on the newly created trails. The Cerrito del Carmen park offers the public a pleasurable location that is extremely valuable for cultural development, an important support for the needs of a modern city.

Blanca Niño Norton, of Guatemala, is our *The National Gardener* International Affiliates Conservation writer. **Click here to see more images of [El Cerrito del Carmen](#).**



Sendero jardín El Cerrito del Carmen, Recuadro: Vista Aérea de El Cerrito del Carmen • Norton & Viau

El Cerrito del Carmen: Aire limpio en un Centro Histórico

Blanca Niño Norton, Arquitecta
María Regina Viau, Diseñadora

El Cerrito del Carmen es un promontorio dominado por una ermita católica, localizado en pleno centro histórico de la Ciudad de Guatemala. Tiene una extensión de 50,000 metros cuadrados que actualmente funciona como un refugio de naturaleza en una ciudad urbana y moderna.

En su cima fue construida una pequeña iglesia dedicada desde el siglo XVII a la Virgen del Carmen. Su historia se remonta a la fundación de la Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción, el 2 de enero de 1776.

Este santuario ha sufrido daños a lo largo de su historia, especialmente durante los terremotos de 1917 y 1979. Su interior alberga piezas de arte colonial de invaluable valor histórico. Antiguamente los jardines tenían muchos eucaliptos que, a pesar de su belleza, han sido sustituidos por árboles menos quebradizos que requieran de menos cantidad de agua para su desarrollo y supervivencia.

María Regina Viau, Diseñadora de los jardines del Cerrito del Carmen y Directora General del Comité de Actividades de Afiliados Internacionales – COMAAI – comparte con nosotros sus experiencias.

"Empezamos por seleccionar y cambiar los árboles enfermos por árboles y plantas aptos al clima, el suelo y de bajo mantenimiento. Se han diseñado senderos en sus laderas, bancos para el descanso, se agregaron

luminarias y también cascadas que armonizan el paseo a la vez que atraen varias especies de aves. Los jardines han sido diseñados buscando que su mantenimiento sea de bajo costo.

Gracias a un convenio, entre la Fundación Teoxché y la Municipalidad de Guatemala, hace más de 15 años lideran el proyecto de recuperar el Cerrito del Carmen de su erosionado suelo y mal estado ambiental y social."

La comunidad artística ha encontrado en el Cerrito del Carmen un espacio abierto rodeado de naturaleza para inspirarse y expresar sus ideales creativos. Los artistas de artes dramáticas, con el apoyo de la Municipalidad de Guatemala, han descubierto una forma de promocionar la cultura creando un recorrido de *Leyendas de Guatemala* en esos nuevos senderos. El parque del Cerrito del Carmen ofrece al público un espacio apropiado y valioso para el desarrollo cultural, un apoyo importante a las necesidades de una ciudad moderna.

Blanca Niño Norton, de Guatemala, es nuestra escritora de The National Gardener International Affiliates (COMAAI) sobre temas de medio ambiente. [Haz click aquí para ver más imágenes de El Cerrito del Carmen.](#)



ORGANIC

A natural in the garden since 1929.



ESPOMA ORGANIC AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS
WANT TO HELP YOUR CLUB

Plant America!



Your local garden projects and programs provide inspiring opportunities that bring neighbors, cultures and generations together to share the experience and joy of gardening. As recognition of the valuable resource that your club contributes to your community, up to 20 local garden clubs across America will be awarded grants. Recipients will earn up to \$250 of Espoma Organic Plant Foods & Potting Soils. So be inspired America! Join our effort to Plant America Together. Register your garden club today! Sign up at: www.espoma.com/garden-clubs.



Visit us at www.espoma.com and join our gardening community.





Become a Star!

Nancy Fulk

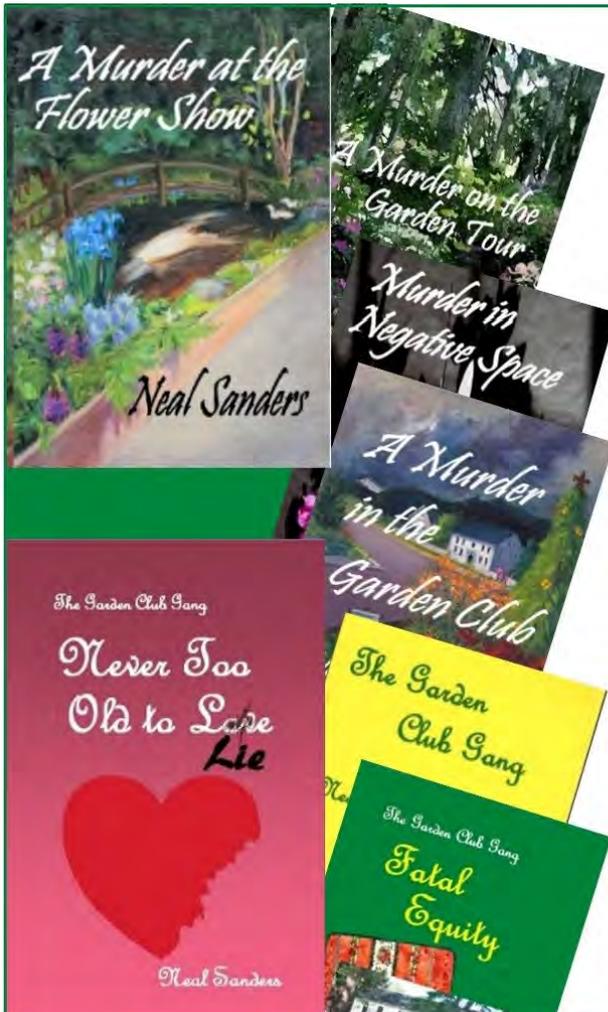
President Lois Dupre Shuster (2001-2003) created the Four Star Membership program in National Garden Clubs. The Four Star program encourages garden club members to complete all four National Garden Club Schools and achieve Consultant and Judge Status. One must become an Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultant as well as a Flower Show Judge to achieve Four Star status. President Kitty Larkin (2003-2005) created the Five Star Membership for those who achieve Master status in all four schools.

Congratulations to the 309 Four Star Members and the 144 Five Star Members across North, Central and South America. Click to see all of the [Members](#).

To join this elite group of individuals, apply today by completing the form on the [Four/Five Star webpage](#).

Nancy Fulk is the NGC Four/Five Star Chair. She resides in Pennsylvania. Pictured: NGC Four and Five Star Pins, order yours in the [NGC Store](#).

Stars • PeachPink



His books are page-turners. His talk is horticulture at its funniest.

Neal Sanders' 15 fast-paced, intricately plotted mysteries draw rave reviews from readers. 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 and fraudulent reverse mortgages. There's frequently a strong horticultural element. You can **order his books in print and Kindle formats on Amazon**. Or, you can go to www.TheHardingtonPress.com to explore his titles and read first chapters. You can also purchase books directly from the author at www.the-hardington-press.square.site.

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. This year he has addressed the **NGC Deep South Convention** as well as state conventions in **South Carolina, Connecticut, and Michigan**. To book him for your event this year or 2024, write Neal02052@Gmail.com.





Awards 2023

Award Background • Wow Designs

Awards and How to Apply Diane Harbin

National Garden Clubs continues to keep pace with our changing world. Remember that we have an updated Awards handbook and have incorporated electronic submissions for the award applications. When you are ready to complete an application, there are several resources available on the NGC website including the easy to download [Awards Handbook](#) on the Awards Page and the [Awards and Grants Page](#).

Keep in mind no individual, single-member club, group of member clubs, Council or District may make direct application to National Garden Clubs. All applications must come through your State Awards Chair and must include the appropriate NGC Application Cover Sheet. We have posted all the Application Cover Sheets, in fillable format, in the [Forms Library](#).

The members of the National Garden Clubs worked diligently this year. We recognize clubs around the world with awards, with the expectation that others will see the fruits of their labors. This awareness may encourage members to participate in more projects as well as attract new members.

We had a great time at the convention in West Virginia and encourage you to view all of the [2023 Award Recipients](#). Keep track of your projects, flower shows and other events in 2023 and apply for an award. Remember many awards include a monetary prize. Your state president just might be collecting something special for you in Colorado at the 2024 NGC Convention.

[Diane Harbin](#), of Georgia, is the NGC Awards Chair. Contact Diane with your awards questions.



NGC President Brenda Moore and Martha Hilton recently received the Distinguished West Virginian Award. CONGRATULATIONS!



Sunflower • Vladyslav Havrylov (Ukraine)

There Are No Coincidences

Rabbi Paul Plotkin

Three years after completing the first draft of my new book, “Wisdom Grows in My Garden” and before I found a publisher for the book, I wrote an addendum to a particular chapter because of something that happened in the world, and it made me wonder if there were not a greater reason for this delay all along.

The original chapter talked about one of nature’s special gifts called a volunteer. This is a plant that you did not plant but mysteriously sprouted and grew. It might be a tomato plant growing from a seed of a fallen tomato from last year’s crop. It may be a seed that fell out of a bird’s mouth as it flew over the garden which is why you should never fly and eat at the same time.

That year right next to the carrots and green beans, a plant began to grow. It did not look like anything I had ever seen before. It grew rapidly and ramrod straight. I had no idea what it was, but it grew and began to develop a round bulbous type of flower. While it was enclosed, I thought maybe it was an artichoke. I had never seen an artichoke grow, but something about the way the flower was wrapped

tight gave me the feeling that it would open and behold an artichoke would emerge. It did open and it was not an artichoke.

It was familiar, especially as the petals of the flower began to develop and become a bright yellow halo around a darker center. It was a sunflower. It grew and then dried out leaving fully developed black seeds in the middle. I uprooted the plant but kept the seeds.

As a child, sunflower seeds were a regular snack, a poor man’s potato chips. When visiting Israel in 1970, they were a poor country’s popcorn. People would go into a movie theatre and eat the seeds and spit out the shells. By the end of the movie, the trip to the exit was a crunch fest as the floors were littered with shells. I decided to try the seed, and for a raw, non-roasted seed it was not bad, but at this stage in my life potato chips do nicely for my snacks.

Rather than throw the rest of the seeds out, I decided to plant a few in a small empty strip of land between two

(Continued on page 32)

tomato plants and see if any of them would germinate. Over a month went by, and one day I noticed what I thought were a few weeds growing in the empty land. It was not surprising since I had been regularly watering the area, but these little seedlings did not look like weeds. A week later they developed into what I had earlier seen as the unidentified plant growing in my yard. They were the next generation of sunflower seeds.

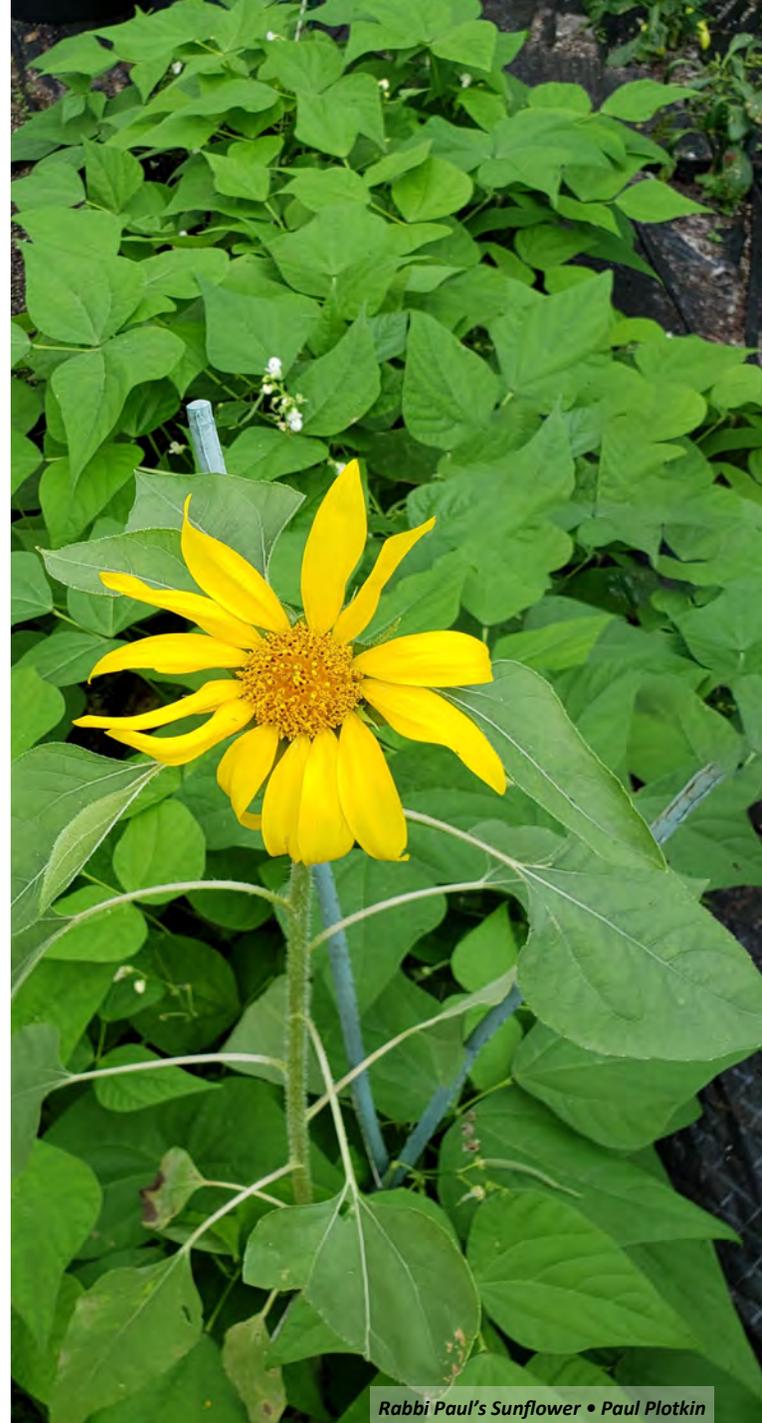
I transplanted them in different areas of the garden. They did well, and I got to enjoy their full growth and their majestic yellow collar, looking up to the sun and following it as it traveled the day sky from east to west. I saw them as a message of hope because the world was into week three of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine.

The liberty that we daily take for granted, the freedom of expression and the ability to engage in disagreements while respecting each other's right to disagree, are what thousands of Ukrainian mothers and fathers and children die for every day. Like my volunteer sunflower that popped up out of nowhere, the tenacious spirit of the Ukrainian people has seemingly emerged out of nowhere.

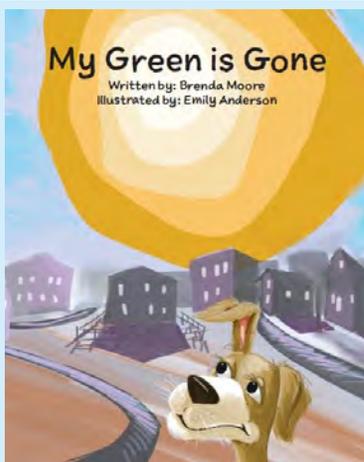
Sunflowers look up to the sky for nourishment and direction; the Ukrainians look up to the sky for faith, inspiration, and determination. Regardless of the outcome, like my sunflower that somehow showed up, the Ukrainian people will always show up and will grow straight and tall and will look up and one day glow in the presence of the sun as does their national flower.

I have no idea where my volunteer came from, but it cannot be a coincidence that that flower arrived that year in my garden. After all, as Carl Jung once said when talking about synchronicity, "There are no coincidences."

Rabbi Paul Plotkin recently released his second book, [Wisdom Grows in the Garden](#), with 25 life lessons that will inform, make you laugh but most of all teach important lessons to help you get through life. Find it on Amazon or at your favorite book seller.



Rabbi Paul's Sunflower • Paul Plotkin



Just Released!

My Green is Gone is available for purchase in the [NGC Store](#). The last in a series of children's book, written by NGC President Brenda Moore and illustrated by Emily Anderson, explores what the world would look like without the color green. From Brenda's Forward, "So often, we take 'green' for granted. Only when something is gone, do we often realize its importance."

While written especially for children, the entire book series provides great lessons for everyone. *The Frightened Frog* teaches about environmental hazards. *The Saved Seeds* tells the story of how huge pumpkins begin as tiny seeds. *Network with Nature* reminds us to put down our devices and explore our outside world. Consider buying the entire set of books for a friend, family member, local school, library or for yourself. They are all available in the [NGC Store](#). Order yours today!

NGC NEWS



TNG SPRING 2023 CORRECTION

We inadvertently missed the photo credit for the garden gate image on page 4 that goes to Jill Lang. On page 25, we missed Doris Jackson's biography. Doris Jackson was the 2021 - 2023 NGC Wildflower and Native Plants Chair. She gardens and makes her home in New Mexico. Doris currently serves as the Organic Gardening Chair. We apologize for any problems caused by these omissions. - *Editor*



KEEP INFORMED

To be the first to know about future NGC virtual events, [subscribe](#) to *The National Gardener* to join our mailing list. You can subscribe all the members of your club (with their permission) by sending an excel spreadsheet with their first and last names and email addresses to [Emily Kiske](#) at NGC Headquarters.



CONGRATULATIONS

To the members of Ye Accawmacke GC of Virginia. They donated to *Penny Pines* to restore forests in **all 50 states and Puerto Rico!** This is a first-ever accomplishment.



[GARDENCLUB.ORG](#)

The NGC website contains a plethora of information for garden club members and others. Use the tabs on the homepage to find the topic of your choice, or use the handy search feature to explore many options. If you get lost, just click on the NGC logo, on the top left of every page, to return directly to the homepage.



SCAM ALERT

Genuine NGC merchandise is **ONLY** available through [Our Store](#). Do not be scammed by ordering through other sites who illegally use our logos. Please report these sites to our [Headquarters Staff](#). Thank you.



CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Due to the large number of NGC Clubs, we do not have space in *TNG* to honor all anniversaries, except 100 year clubs. Thank you for understanding.



Left: Blue Star Memorial Marker, Veterans Freedom Park, Cary, NC

Below: Blue & Gold Star Byway Markers, Redmond, OR

Right: Gold Star Memorial Marker, Pilsen Cemetery, Pilsen, KS (all photos: Candace Wells)



Markers Cross the Country

Candace Wells

National Garden Club members are committed to honoring members of our armed forces and their families across our country. Club members facilitate outreaches in their communities by partnering with veterans' organizations, civic clubs and local governments to provide a unified societal impact to support our military. Members purchase, install and dedicate Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers through collaboration and innovation with other community organizations.

Blue Star Markers honor those who are serving or have served in any of the US Armed Forces. The dedications of these markers provide an opportunity for Americans to take a moment to honor and show appreciation for their service. Gold Star Markers pay tribute to those who lost their lives in service to our country through the United States Armed Forces. These markers show support for families of those fallen and pay tribute to the lives of those they lost. At the core of the United States military lies the selfless desire to serve and a willingness to sacrifice one's life to defend and promote our country's ideals.

Let us accelerate the establishment of Memorial Markers. There are former battlefields all over the world: in the deserts of Iraq or Syria, in the jungles of Vietnam, in the islands of the Pacific and on European soil. Establishing these markers helps tell the stories of soldiers' sacrifice and helps families heal. Garden club members are creating a cohesive community by honoring the United States military and all those who served to protect our freedom.

Recent dedications across the United States have been magnificent. Some have featured flyovers with vintage airplanes as attendees cheered, saluted and waved flags. At the Hood River, Oregon, dedication, twenty floral arrangements stood near the podium. Many different U.S. military groups attend dedications plus others such as Blue Star Mothers, Gold Star Mothers, and DAR chapters, to mention a few. The willingness of American soldiers and their families to serve in the armed forces has earned them our lasting gratitude.

President Harry Truman said, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service to our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices. Because of these sacrifices, the dawn of justice and freedom throughout the world slowly casts its gleam across the horizon." Honor, Hope, Healing, Duty, Country - let us always remember.

[Candace Wells](#), of Tennessee, is the NGC Blue Star/Gold Star Chair.

Current Blue/Gold Star Pricing from Sewah Studios (Pricing effective May 1, 2023 - May 1, 2024)

Marker, post, shipping	\$1995
Byway Plaque	\$665
Replacement Posts	\$375
Refurbishment	\$1200
Refurbishment with Cap Repair	\$1450
Extra shipping (western states)	
Memorial/Highway markers only	\$100

Allow 16 weeks for the manufacture of each marker after Sewah Studios has received the order form and check. This ensures that the marker will arrive promptly.

Sewah Studios guarantees the paint on the markers for five years. If a marker needs refurbishment, Sewah Studios must receive a picture of the damaged marker to determine the cost of repair.



Floral Foam & Flowers • LightStock

OASIS[®], A GOOD THING OR BAD THING?

Frances Thrash

Oasis[®] is a brand name that we commonly designate for all floral foam, but certainly should not be. Oasis[®] brand floral foam has been around since 1954, and the Smithers-Oasis company has been constantly perfecting it since then. You can count on Oasis[®] Floral Foam MaxLife to support your designs with ultra-consistent floral foam made for maximum flower life. It is available in a wide array of bricks and shapes to help you get the most from your designs. MaxLife contains flower food to help sustain your flowers longer.

Why use Oasis[®] brand floral foam? Because it:

- keeps stems perfectly placed
- is scientifically formulated to maximize flower hydration
- is meticulously researched and consistently crafted
- maximizes flower life
- has individual attributes based on foam type
- **Degrades by 75% within 1 year in an anaerobic environment (ASTM d5511)**

No other foam can make all these claims and be truthful.

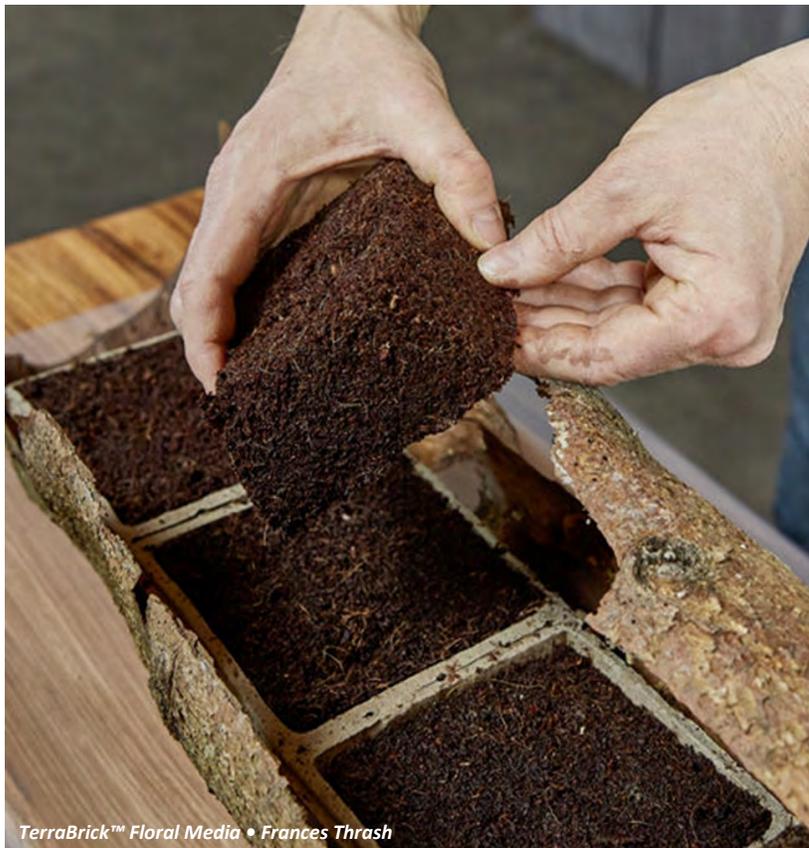
Oasis[®] brand floral foam is available in green and Midnight which becomes nearly black when saturated. It is available in standard green foam, instant green foam, instant Deluxe green foam, springtime green foam, Midnight deluxe,

Midnight standard, Midnight foam sheets, Midnight designer block, Midnight designer sphere, Midnight grande brick and Midnight event block. Plus, Oasis[®] foam comes in a wide array of crosses, hearts, etc., used primarily for funeral work. Using the Midnight Oasis[®], one will probably use **LESS** as the black color disappears into the design, helping the designer to use less greenery and flowers to cover the mechanics.

Smithers-Oasis recently introduced another product that is even more exciting! It is TerraBrick[™] Floral Media. They make it with plant-based, renewable, natural coir plus a compostable binder. As a stable design base, it delivers a very good flower life with excellent water absorption. Designers may re-water it to extend flower hydration and reuse it for plants. A patent is pending.

Even though it may appear as compacted potting soil, the new TerraBrick[™] Floral Media is NOT just a brick of potting soil but rather is coir and a binder - not potting soil. Potting soil does not give the same performance of flower life or stability. Smithers-Oasis tried and tested it to find out. There is no peat in the TerraBrick[™] Floral Media either. It is only plant-based, renewable, natural coir and a compostable

(Continued on page 36)



TerraBrick™ Floral Media • Frances Thrash

binder. It is ok to compost at home and/or industrially. The [TUV Austria](#) authorized the certification of compostability which is valid globally. TUV Austria is a third-party certifying agency. Smithers-Oasis tested TerraBrick™ Floral Media via an independent laboratory and provided those results to TUV Austria for review and certification.

Why is this new product not considered an excellent floral medium for a very good flower life? Oasis® Brand MaxLife floral foam offers longer flower life, considered **excellent** flower life in the marketplace, thus the best choice. The non-foam mechanics' options for incorporating a water source - chicken wire, various stems crunched together, tape, etc, - all require a daily change of water. This makes them far less than excellent for flower life. Floral industry professionals rate the new TerraBrick™ Floral Media as good for flower life rather than excellent.

TerraBrick™ Floral Media also differs from the traditional bricks in that you pour water **OVER** them rather than float-saturating them. This method keeps the workspace cleaner, and saturated bricks may be more difficult to cut cleanly than dry bricks. Bricks are best cut with a serrated knife. If you prefer, they may be float-soaked by removing them from their packing tray and soaking them as one

would the usual floral foam. You may reposition stems without greatly harming the structure of the brick. As with regular floral foam, holes will remain when one removes stems which may affect the integrity of the block. Bricks are smaller than the usual floral foam, measuring 4.33" x 2" x 3.35" and come in a recyclable tray.

So, is Oasis® a good thing or a bad thing? You decide, but Smithers-Oasis is certainly trying to make it become a good thing. Their standard MaxLife bricks are compostable, but this new product is very good for the environment and certainly worth a try! When your design fades, you may use the brick as a medium for your plants.

Frances Thrash, of Virginia, is the NGC Floral Design Coordinator. Frances is not affiliated with the Smithers-Oasis Company.



NGC Permanent Home (HQ) • NGC

Welcome Life Members

Gail Corle Manna

This year, we accepted and welcomed to this prestigious group 70 new Life Members from 29 States, all eight Regions and one International Affiliate. During the 2021 – 2023 term, there has been a total of 100 new Life Members accepted.

The \$200 donation is designated in the following manner. One-half goes to the NGC PLANT AMERICA Community Grants fund, and the other half to the Permanent Home and Endowment fund which aids our states, clubs and members.

We recognized two states who each received certificates and \$100 this year. The State Garden Club with the greatest increase in NGC Life Memberships is Georgia. The State Garden Club with the greatest per capita increase in NGC Life Memberships was Nebraska. Congratulations! Thank you to all the new life members. YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

[Gail Corle Manna](#), of Florida, is the NGC Life Members Chair



Allelopathy: Plant Communication

Ana Calegari

Leeks • Matthias Böckel, Carrots • Rumpel,
Garlic • Manfred Richter, Basil • Leopictures,
Tomato • Joseph Den

Allelopathy is the ability that plants have to communicate with each other and interact through chemical compounds that they release. This interaction can be positive or negative with regard to the growth of other plants. It can provide protection to attract beneficial insects or to repel pests and weeds.

This has been a known fact since at least 300 B.C. Indigenous farmers in the Americas observed that many plants, including barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), inhibited the growth of weeds in their environment and in nearby crops. The term was coined by Hans Molisch, a Czech-Austrian biologist, in 1937 and comes from the Greek language: *allelon* = each other and *pathos* = suffering. It is used for both beneficial and harmful effects.

Allelochemical is what the released compound is called. The best known are the Terpenoids. These can cause beneficial or detrimental effects on receptors. They are natural and biodegradable products with effects ranging from inhibiting the growth of plants and seeds to stimulating their growth. This can also prevent the presence of insects and other pests such as snails, slugs, bacteria, fungi and viruses.

The association of crops by allelopathic principles is done by means of companion plants, repellent plants or trap crops. These mechanisms are continuously investigated to help find the allelochemicals involved, and the variants that allow the development of a profitable and environmentally friendly agriculture. These biological methods will gradually lead to the disuse of agrochemicals in the production chain.

Dr. Ana Calegari is an international writer/editor of feature articles for *TNG*. Ana lives in Uruguay. [Click to view more on Allelopathy](#)

Alelopatía es la capacidad que tienen las plantas de comunicarse entre sí e interactuar mediante compuestos químicos que ellas liberan. Estos, actúan positiva o negativamente en el crecimiento de sus congéneres, así como en la protección que brindan para atraer insectos benéficos o repeler plagas y malezas.

Esto se conoce al menos desde 300 a.C. Los agricultores indígenas de América observaron que muchas plantas, entre ellas la cebada (*Hordeum vulgare*), inhibían el crecimiento de malezas en su entorno y en cultivos cercanos. El término fue acuñado por el Biólogo checo-austriaco Hans Molisch, en 1937 y proviene del griego: *allelon* = uno al otro y *pathos*: sufrimiento. Se utiliza tanto para efectos benéficos como perjudiciales.

Los aleloquímicos son los compuestos liberados, siendo los más conocidos los terpenoides que causan estos efectos beneficiosos o perjudiciales en los receptores. Son productos naturales y biodegradables con efectos que van desde inhibir el crecimiento de las plantas o semillas hasta estimular dicho crecimiento. Esto puede evitar la acción de insectos y otras plagas como caracoles, babosas, bacterias, hongos y virus.

La asociación de cultivos por los principios alelopáticos se hacen por medio de plantas acompañantes, plantas repelentes o cultivos trampa. Estos mecanismos son continuamente investigados para encontrar los aleloquímicos involucrados y las variantes que permitan el desarrollo de una agricultura rentable y amigable con el medio ambiente, por métodos biológicos que paulatinamente lleve al desuso de agroquímicos en la cadena productiva.

La Dra. Ana Calegari es escritora/editora internacional de artículos destacados para *TNG*. Ana vive en Uruguay. [Haga clic para ver información adicional sobre Alelopatía.](#)

Fabulous Summer Frittata

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Summer is in full swing and that means it is time for Frittata with cherry tomatoes and greens. Start with the freshest eggs you can find. In my case, that is right out of the chicken coop. If you do not have chickens, summer is farm market season, so seek out your local eggs. I grow my onions too, and prefer 'Boretana Cipolini' and 'Ringmaster.' (Summer is also the time to get freshly-harvested onions from farm markets.) The operative word in this recipe is fresh! The eggs, herbs, cherry tomatoes and even the cheese can usually be found at farm markets which are at their peak in July-September. Consider growing some greens, herbs and cherry tomatoes yourself. Nothing beats fresh out of your garden. If you do not have a cast iron pan, any pan that can go from the stovetop into the oven can be substituted. Heat oven to 350°F. Preheat a 9" cast iron pan over medium heat on the stovetop.

Ingredients

- 6 eggs
- 1 3/4 C halved cherry tomato
- 1C chopped greens of choice (Swiss chard, kale, collard greens, spinach, etc.)
- 1/2 C shredded mozzarella cheese (or your cheese choice)
- 2 T chopped parsley
- Optional: 1/4 C cream or half and half
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/4 t pepper
- 2 T olive oil
- 1/2 diced medium onion
- chopped herbs of choice for garnish

Directions

In a large bowl, lightly beat eggs. Stir together with tomatoes, greens of your choice, mozzarella cheese, parsley, salt, pepper and optional cream. Add olive oil and onion to the hot pan. Sauté the onion until soft and translucent. Remove from heat, pour the egg mixture over the sauteed onion and stir to ensure that the egg mixture is evenly distributed.

Bake in oven, for 30 - 35 minutes until the top of the frittata has browned slightly and is set. Allow to cool for five minutes. Sprinkle with additional parsley, chives or preferred herb and serve.

Extra frittata can be stored in the refrigerator for several days and is delicious cold or reheated.

[Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich](#) is the NGC Food to Table Chair. She cooks and gardens in Ohio. [Click here for printable Summer Frittata Recipe](#)



Fresh Ingredients, Inset: Frittata • Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Memory Gardening

Hannah Karena Jones

It was May 2020, and the combination of cabin fever and months of social media feeds overrun with trending cottage core aesthetics found me ripping up the weed-invested “hell strip” that separates our property from a public alleyway. Then I stared at the bare, rocky 3’ X 50’ bed. Robins swooped in to pick through the overturned dirt as I pondered the question, “Now what?” My intense need for an all-consuming project had not exactly extended much beyond the initial, satisfying demolition and the vague idea to replace it with something...prettier.

With that much ground to cover, I researched garden themes to help me fill the empty canvas. My favorite color seemed filled with possibilities - an overwhelming amount. A kitchen garden would be impossible - too close to road pollution. A cut flower garden was a recipe for disappointment with the likelihood of the delicate stems falling victim to a stray tire occasionally a few inches off track. I needed something resilient.

Perhaps at another time I would have chosen natives, pollinators or fragrances. Perhaps a moon garden theme would have had the bonus of a protective glow when faced with advancing headlights. But in the spring of 2020, I was nostalgic. I desperately missed travel, my loved ones and the time before the pandemic. So the idea of a Memory Garden was born. I was going to build my language of flowers with each plant curated to represent a happy memory. Beyond beauty and blooms, the garden would give me cause to smile every time I looked at it.

With travel restrictions in place, I reminisced about my favorite vacations and far-off places. Mounds of ‘Mediterranean Pink’ heather reminded me of our honeymoon spent exploring the blooming Isle of Skye and other parts of Scotland. Memories of an anniversary trip to Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park inspired me to plant the *Rosa rugosa* ‘Rosalina’ we had seen everywhere.

I learned to love gardening from my mom, someone I had only seen on-screen for months. Her favorite color is purple, so I decided to weave shades of lavender and amethyst into the garden bed. I missed my dad, too, so I added ‘Ice Folly’ daffodils to match the ones planted at his gravesite.

What might work in **your** memory garden? Perhaps you can include childhood memories of wildflower meadows, crafting daisy chains or hollyhocks in your grandmother’s garden. Others could be scent memories, red poppies for military remembrance, state flowers of former homes and birth flowers of loved ones. Flowers are full of names. We might not all be lucky enough to have an Iris, Rose, Violet, Sage, Lily, or Fern in our lives, but what about more specific cultivars? The glory of a memory garden is that there is endless room for creative interpretation. Every new happy memory and vacation provides an opportunity to grow the garden. All gardeners relish a reason to fill their flowerbeds with more plants.

Hannah Karena Jones is an author, Penn State MGV and senior managing editor for St. Martin’s Publishing Group.



Garden Layout, Insets: Greenhouse Views • Rocío Contestin García



Jardín Botánico
de la Ciudad
Carlos Thays



The Botanical Garden of the City of Buenos Aires

“Carlos Thays”

Pampa Risso Patrón
Rocío Contestin García

From Pampa: *In January of this year Gerianne Holzman, editor of The National Gardener, stopped in Buenos Aires for a brief visit with her sisters on their way to Antarctica. I managed to show them many green spaces without leaving out the local folklore. One of our many stops was The Botanical Garden of the City of Buenos Aires which surprised our visitors, causing the request for this article you are about to read.*

Rocío Contestin García is a young, just graduated biologist, whom we met during our visit. She accepted the challenge to work with me on this article. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did learning about my own beautiful Botanical Garden.

This coming September the "Carlos Thays" Botanical Garden of the City of Buenos Aires (JBCT) celebrates its 125th anniversary. These years reflect major changes in the landscape and the city surrounding the Garden. Where before there were open spaces, few buildings and carriages on the streets, today there are high rises and hundreds of noisy buses that transport people in one of the busiest areas of the city. Somehow, the spirit of what Carlos Thays dreamed of and projected is still present.

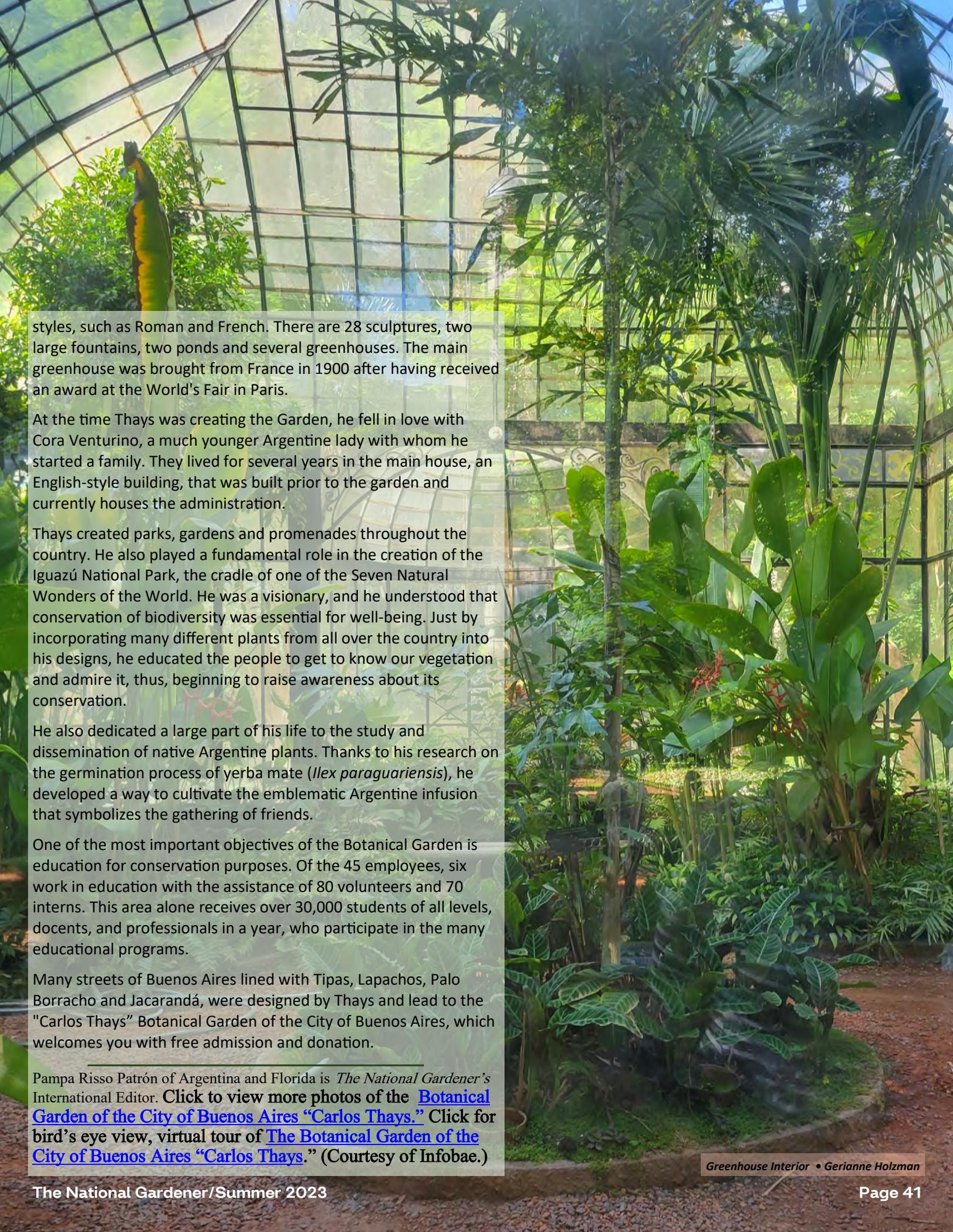
Carlos Thays was born in Paris, France. He did not have any

academic training; however, he worked for 10 years alongside the French landscaper Édouard André. It was he who suggested to Thays to travel to Argentina in 1889 to design a park in the heart of the country, the Province of Córdoba.

The success derived from this project brought him an invitation from Francisco Bollini, then Mayor of Buenos Aires, to create major public spaces throughout the capital of the country by designing popular corridors, squares and parks. Before accepting such a gracious offer, Thays requested a call for a public and open competition to ensure this project would be carried out by the most suitable candidate. The contest was held, and Carlos Thays won it. He became the General Director of Public Walks for the City of Buenos Aires, a position he held from 1891 to 1913.

On February 22, 1892, Carlos Thays presented to the city the need to create a botanical garden. This project was approved, conceived, and opened to the public on September 7, 1898. The Garden is approximately 20 acres of open space, designed and divided by continents. A large part is dedicated to Argentine flora, and there are garden designs of various

(Continued on page 41)



styles, such as Roman and French. There are 28 sculptures, two large fountains, two ponds and several greenhouses. The main greenhouse was brought from France in 1900 after having received an award at the World's Fair in Paris.

At the time Thays was creating the Garden, he fell in love with Cora Venturino, a much younger Argentine lady with whom he started a family. They lived for several years in the main house, an English-style building, that was built prior to the garden and currently houses the administration.

Thays created parks, gardens and promenades throughout the country. He also played a fundamental role in the creation of the Iguazú National Park, the cradle of one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. He was a visionary, and he understood that conservation of biodiversity was essential for well-being. Just by incorporating many different plants from all over the country into his designs, he educated the people to get to know our vegetation and admire it, thus, beginning to raise awareness about its conservation.

He also dedicated a large part of his life to the study and dissemination of native Argentine plants. Thanks to his research on the germination process of yerba mate (*Ilex paraguariensis*), he developed a way to cultivate the emblematic Argentine infusion that symbolizes the gathering of friends.

One of the most important objectives of the Botanical Garden is education for conservation purposes. Of the 45 employees, six work in education with the assistance of 80 volunteers and 70 interns. This area alone receives over 30,000 students of all levels, docents, and professionals in a year, who participate in the many educational programs.

Many streets of Buenos Aires lined with Tipas, Lapachos, Palo Borracho and Jacarandá, were designed by Thays and lead to the "Carlos Thays" Botanical Garden of the City of Buenos Aires, which welcomes you with free admission and donation.

Pampa Risso Patrón of Argentina and Florida is *The National Gardener's* International Editor. [Click to view more photos of the Botanical Garden of the City of Buenos Aires "Carlos Thays."](#) [Click for bird's eye view, virtual tour of The Botanical Garden of the City of Buenos Aires "Carlos Thays."](#) (Courtesy of Infobae.)



Las Características del Agua • Rocío Contestin García

Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires “Carlos Thays”

Pampa Risso Patrón & Rocío M. Contestin García

De Pampa: *En enero de este año, Gerianne Holzman, editora de The National Gardener, se detuvo en Buenos Aires para una breve visita con sus hermanas en su camino hacia la Antártida. Logré mostrarles muchos espacios verdes, sin dejar de lado el colorido local. Una de nuestras tantas paradas fue el Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires que las sorprendió tanto que provocó la solicitud del artículo que está a punto de leer.*

Rocío Contestin García es una bióloga joven, recién recibida, a quien conocimos durante nuestra visita y aceptó el desafío de trabajar conmigo en este artículo. Espero que lo disfruten tanto como yo al aprender sobre mi hermoso Jardín Botánico.

En septiembre cumple 125 años el Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires “Carlos Thays” (JBCT). En este tiempo el paisaje y la ciudad en el entorno del Jardín reflejan enormes cambios. Donde antes había espacios verdes, pocos edificios y carruajes en las calles, hoy hay cientos de edificios y colectivos ruidosos que transportan a las personas por uno de los sitios con mayor movimiento de la ciudad. Sin embargo, el espíritu de lo que Carlos Thays soñó y proyectó sigue vigente.

Carlos Thays nació en París, Francia. No tuvo una formación académica, sino una instrucción práctica por diez años con el

paisajista francés Édouard André. Fue él quien le propuso a Thays viajar a la Argentina en 1889 para realizar el diseño de un parque en la provincia de Córdoba, en el corazón del país.

El éxito de ese trabajo le trajo una invitación por parte de Francisco Bollini, el entonces intendente de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, a realizar importantes trabajos para la ciudad capital creando paseos populares, plazas y parques. Antes de aceptar el importante ofrecimiento, Thays solicitó un llamado a concurso público para que realmente ese proyecto fuese ocupado por la persona más idónea. El concurso se realiza y Carlos Thays lo gana, pasando a ocupar el cargo de Director General de Paseos Públicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, que desempeñó desde el año 1891 a 1913.

El 22 de febrero de 1892 Carlos Thays presentó a la Ciudad la necesidad de la creación de un Jardín Botánico. Este proyecto fue aprobado, concebido y se abrió al público el 7 de septiembre de 1898. El predio cuenta con aproximadamente 8 ha. de espacio, ordenado por continentes y una gran parte dedicada a la flora argentina. Hay jardines de estilo, cómo ser romano y francés, 28 esculturas, fuentes decorativas y 5 invernáculos. El invernáculo principal fue traído de Francia en el año 1900, luego de haber recibido un premio en la Exposición Universal de París.

(Continúa en la página 43)



Garden Entrance & House • Arcibel

Durante la creación del Jardín, Thays se enamora de Cora Venturino, una argentina con quien formó una familia. Ellos habitaron varios años en la casona, un edificio de estilo inglés que fue construido previamente al jardín, que actualmente es la administración.

Thays creó parques, jardines y paseos públicos y privados en todo el país. También cumplió un rol fundamental en la creación del Parque Nacional Iguazú, cuna de una de las 7 maravillas naturales del mundo. Fue un visionario ya que entendía que la conservación de la biodiversidad era fundamental para la vida de las personas. Al incorporar en sus diseños muchas plantas de todo el país, Thays brindó a los habitantes la posibilidad de conocerlas, admirarlas y así comenzar a generar conciencia sobre su conservación.

También dedicó gran parte de su vida al estudio y difusión de las plantas de Argentina. Gracias a su investigación sobre el proceso de la germinación de la yerba mate (*Ilex paraguariensis*), se rescató la forma de cultivar la infusión emblemática de Argentina que simboliza el encuentro entre amigos.

Uno de los objetivos más importantes del JBCT, es la educación en pos de la conservación. De los 45 empleados del Jardín, 6 trabajan en educación con la asistencia de 80 voluntarios y 70 pasantes. Se reciben anualmente más de 30.000 estudiantes de todos los niveles educativos, docentes y profesionales para participar en las propuestas educativas.

Muchas calles de Buenos Aires diseñadas por Thays con arboledas de Tipas, Lapachos, Palo Borracho y Jacarandá llegan al Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires “Carlos Thays” que los espera de martes a domingos de 8 a 18 h con entrada libre y gratuita.

Pampa Risso Patrón de Argentina y Florida es editora internacional de The National Gardener. Haga [Click para ver más fotos del Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires “Carlos Thays.”](#) Haga [Click para ver una vista a vuelo de pájaro del Jardín Botánico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires “Carlos Thays.”](#) (Courtesy of Infobae)

Looking Up - Dark Sky Districts Improve Stargazing

Karen Bowen

This summer, after enjoying your garden's beauty during the day, turn your gaze skyward in the evening to enjoy the universe. To have the best view possible, you may need to leave your garden and drive out of town to a location dark enough to see the stars. As Earth's population continues to increase, locations with low to no light pollution after dark are harder to find.

To minimize light pollution, many states are designating Dark Sky Districts. The [DarkSky](#) organization, founded in Arizona, is a non-profit organization encouraging cities and states to preserve the night sky by lowering the amount of light pollution. Cities can apply to DarkSky for designation as a Dark Sky City. The application verifies ordinances the city has in place to lower light pollution. At least nineteen states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico now have ordinances to reduce light pollution. This improves stargazing and promotes energy conservation.

Dark Sky District ordinances usually limit outdoor lighting fixtures installed on the grounds of state buildings or along public roads.

They also require the installation of shielded light fixtures outdoors that shine light only downward. This type of light fixture allows lower-wattage bulbs to be used, resulting in energy savings. Other ordinances regulate the amount of time certain lighting can be used at night.

Once you find a dark location for stargazing, give your eyes time to adjust. It takes about one-half hour for your eyes to begin noticing individual stars and a planet or two in the night sky. Begin with a good pair of binoculars that allow you to easily identify anchor planets and constellations in the sky. You can see the moon and all its craters with binoculars. As your hobby grows, consider purchasing a telescope.

Cold, winter evenings provide clearer skies than warm, summer nights, and a full moon's glow washes out the night sky. The best time for stargazing is before, during or after a new moon when the moon's light is at its dimmest.

(Continued on page 45)

smarter lighting

FOR HAPPY HUMANS
AND HEALTHY WILDLIFE



Circadian Rhythms

The natural cycle of day and night is key to your ability to sleep. When exposed to light at night, your body produces less melatonin, resulting in lower-quality sleep. Having your sleep schedule disrupted not only feels bad—it also increases your risk of serious diseases.

Navigating by the Stars



The stars serve as a visual map for diverse animals all over the world, such as moths, dung beetles, seals, and migratory birds. When starlight is obscured by urban glow, these animals become disoriented. If it's too bright, some birds won't fly at all!

Wavelength Matters



Short-wavelength light, such as blue and white light, is the most disruptive to circadian rhythms and night vision. Long-wavelength light, such as warm yellow or red light, is less disruptive and preserves night vision in humans and other animals.



Bright Ideas

With thoughtful outdoor lighting, we help ensure happier humans and healthier wildlife. Light pollution can be reduced by turning on the fewest lights possible, installing long-wavelength LED bulbs, and using full cutoff fixtures. Learn more at darksky.org!

Very Bad Bad Better Best

Purchase a star chart to help you learn where certain constellations and planets are located. Apps, such as *Stellarium*, *Star Walk*, *Google Sky Map* and *Exoplanet* help identify what you see in the night sky.

The website [Spot the Station](https://spotthestation.com) provides when and where the International Space Station (ISS) will pass above you at night. Go to the website and type in your city and state. A chart will appear with dates and times of when the ISS passes overhead for the current month and the degrees in the sky where it will be located. The space station travels 17,139 mph. and can be easily seen moving across the sky. Three good iPhone apps can help you locate the ISS: *GoISSWatch*, *ISS Spotter* and *Sputnik*. Another website, [EarthSky](https://earthsky.org), provides a picture of the constellations you can view in the night sky each evening. The site also posts information about space and our solar system.

Some of the best sites for stargazing around the world include Sedona, AZ; Natural Bridges National Monument, UT; Cherry Springs State Park, PA; Pic du Midi, France; Mont-Mégantic, Québec, Canada; Rhon Biosphere Reserve, Germany; Gabriela Mistral, Chile and Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, New Zealand.

With the help of Dark Sky cities and districts, you can take the first step in astronomy by simply looking up and asking, "What's that?" With less light pollution, the constellations are more easily seen and yours to enjoy and learn about. Begin gazing at the stars from your backyard. You will begin your journey toward a lifetime of cosmic exploration and enjoyment.

Karen Bowen is a master gardener and member of Moody Garden Club in Yuma, AZ. She writes a bi-monthly column for the Yuma Sun Newspaper called Yuma Desert Gardener. Smarter Lighting image courtesy of [DarkSky](https://darksky.org).

Smarter Lighting • DarkSky



2024

Vision of Beauty

Vision of Beauty Wants You!

Nancy Voyles

The *Vision of Beauty* calendar committee is accepting entries for the 2025 *VOB* Calendar. The deadline to submit an entry is August 15. The calendar highlights traditional, creative and botanical arts designs as well as pocket gardens. We invite and encourage all members of clubs affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. to submit entries. Click [Vision of Beauty](https://visionofbeauty.com) to download the requirements and entry form. Note the new email address on the form to send your entry and digital images. Thank you so much for your participation. Without your beautiful entries, we would not be able to produce such a lovely work of art enjoyed around the world. Shop for the 2024 *VOB* Calendar in [Our Store](https://ourstore.com).

[Nancy Voyles](https://nancyvoyles.com), of Arkansas, is the *Vision of Beauty* Calendar Chair.

Bumble Bees

Lorraine Johnson and Sheila Colla

Native, or “wild” bees - that is, bees that occur naturally within a region - are some of the most misunderstood creatures around. Popular misconceptions are that they all make honey; they are all black and yellow; they all sting and they all live in hives. But most of the region’s native bees do not live in hives (they are solitary), are not black and yellow (they are a variety of colors, including blue and green!), do not sting...and none of them make honey.

There are more than 4,000 different bee species in North America. Types of native bees include bumblebees, sweat bees, mining bees, cuckoo bees, leafcutter bees and cellophane bees. There is more to discover. In 2007, bee expert John Ascher found a species, in New York City, that had never been described to science: *Lasioglossum gotham*. Consider that for a moment: a bee species found...in the middle of the largest city in the country...described to science and named for the first time...just over a decade ago! Urban habitats are, in many ways, quite hospitable for bees with a diversity of plants for nectar and pollen and an array of habitats for nesting, mating and shelter. Anywhere we live can provide habitat, whether it is in a big city, small town, suburb or on a farm. However, some species of native bees are in trouble. Take the rusty-patched bumblebee, for example. As recently as the 1980s, it was abundant. It was one of the most common bumblebee species in its range. Its extensive historical range spans from the eastern United States west to the Dakotas, north to southern Ontario and south to Georgia. However, by the early 2000s, it had all but disappeared from Canada and much of the U.S.

The rusty-patched bumblebee had the unfortunate distinction of being the first native bee to be officially designated as endangered in both the United States and Canada. One of the authors of this article, Sheila Colla, was the last person in Canada to identify this bee in the wild, in 2009, by the side of a road in Pinery Provincial Park. Sheila had spent every summer since 2005 searching for the rusty-patched bumblebee in places where they had previously been recorded. On that summer day in 2009, she had found none. From her car, on her way out of the park, she spotted the distinctive rusty patch of a lone specimen. This sighting was the last known in Canada.



The causes of this bee’s rapid and catastrophic decline have not yet been confirmed, but speculation centers on several negative factors.

- ◆ Loss and fragmentation of habitat including nesting and foraging opportunities.
- ◆ Disease and competition from non-native honeybees and managed bumblebees in greenhouse and field crops.
- ◆ Pesticides.
- ◆ Climate change.

Given the dramatic speed and geographic extent of bee loss, conservation scientists believe a new disease brought in by managed bees is the main driver of the decline. In the United States some recent populations have been found in the Midwest and the Appalachians, but the species seems to have declined from most of the northeastern and central parts of its historic range.

The widespread loss of a formerly common species is a phenomenon echoing around the world. In Europe approximately half of the bumblebee species are in decline, and only a few are increasing. Of the 25 known bumblebee species in the United Kingdom, three are considered extinct and at least seven have undergone significant declines. In North America the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species assessments suggest at least one-quarter of the 46 native bumblebee species are at risk of extinction. For example, the relative abundance of the American bumblebee, a once-common species, has fallen dramatically - by 89%. Other once-common bee species now rarely seen through much of their historic ranges in the United States and Canada include the yellow-banded bumblebee, the yellow bumblebee and the bohemian cuckoo bumblebee.

Reversing this trend, and ensuring that common species remain common, takes committed action at all levels of government and by everyone. One important place for individuals to start is by creating and regenerating habitat gardens, connecting landscapes full of diverse native plants known to provide nectar, pollen and habitat for native bees and using practices that support the pollinators necessary for all life on Earth.

Lorraine Johnson researches and writes on environmental issues for three decades. Sheila Colla, a Conservation Scientist, conserves wildlife including native pollinators. Ann Sanderson attended the Science Illustration program at the University of California in Santa Cruz. Read more from their recent book, [*Northern Gardeners Guide to Native Plants and Pollinators*](#), available through Amazon and your local bookseller.



Let's Help Feed America

Suzanne Bushnell

It is gardening season across America, and many of our members dream of biting into that first ripe tomato harvested from their vegetable gardens! Have you ever thought of the many people in your town who may not have the resources to have their own garden or the money to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables for their family? According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 33.8 million people in America are food insecure and five million of them are children. With your help, we can help in the fight to lessen food insecurity across America.

NGC President Brenda Moore launched one of her President's projects which aims to help those in need of nutritious food to feed their family. Called **PLANT AMERICA, Feed America**, Brenda is asking those who grow fruit and vegetables to plant a little extra and donate your bounty to a local organization that helps to feed the less fortunate. Even if you do not have a garden, many of you may volunteer with a community garden that does donate to local organizations. You can let us know how much from your community garden is going to help feed the hungry. If you decide to help with a financial donation to a local food bank, soup kitchen, or other community organization, that counts as well.

We want to hear from EVERYONE who is helping in this effort! Go to the NGC website to [PLANT AMERICA, Feed America](#). Along with more information you will find the link to the donation page where we ask you just a few questions about your donation. It is easy to use and the information you provide helps us keep track of our efforts to help feed America. One of the first donations was from Brenda's own West Virginia federation. They donated baskets of fresh fruit, used as centerpieces at the first 2023 – 2025 Board meeting, to local organizations that help feed the hungry. The *Feed America* project chair's club in Maine also made a recent donation. Catered food left over from the club's annual meeting was immediately taken to a local homeless shelter where families enjoyed a nutritious meal. The possibilities of what you can donate are endless.

[Suzanne Bushnell](#) is the PLANT AMERICA, Feed America President's Project and NGC's Community Gardens Chairs. Suzanne gardens on the coast of Maine. If you have any questions about what you can do to help **PLANT AMERICA, Feed America**, contact Suzanne.



President Brenda's Travels

- ❖ July 25: Fargo Garden Society Centennial, Fargo, ND
- ❖ October 10: New England Region, Plymouth, MA
- ❖ October 15: Central Region, Des Moines, IA
- ❖ October 24: Central Atlantic Region, Corning, NY

Looking for Events?

- ❖ Search the [NGC Calendar](#) for upcoming in-person and virtual events near you or across the globe.

Coming Soon

- ❖ August '23 - March '24: [Environmental Schools](#)*
- ❖ July '23 - March '24: [Flower Show Schools](#)*
- ❖ August '23 - November '23: [Gardening School](#)*

- ❖ Sept '23 - November '23: [Landscape Design School](#)*
- ❖ July '23 - October '23: [Multiple Refreshers](#)
- ❖ August '23 - November '23: [Symposiums](#)*
- ❖ [International Events](#)*

*Clicking on the above links takes you directly to the most up-to-date course listings and details on the website. Looking for a specific course? Click on Course 1, 2, 3 or 4 or Month on the course listing chart.

[Subscribe to TNG](#) to assure email notification of future NGC events including webinars.

NOTE: Throughout TNG click on ads to go directly to our advertisers' webpages and click on blue, underlined links to get more information, contact a committee chair or author.

Write for *The National Gardener*

TNG Staff

We welcome ALL NGC Members across the Americas to submit articles for publication in *The National Gardener*. We attempt to publish all submitted material as space allows. This edition of *TNG* is especially large due to the wonderful and plentiful articles that you submitted; thank you. In the future, we will limit the number of pages to 40 or less so we may have to move proposed material to the next issue. We encourage you to visit [The National Gardener](#) webpage for more information, submission form and guidelines. Please keep the following in mind when creating your articles. Thank you!

- ❖ Try to limit text to 500 words to fit on one page.
- ❖ You **MUST** have permissions to use any images. Just because a photo is on the web does NOT mean it is free to use for publication, e.g., commercial use.
- ❖ Avoid images that can identify individuals. If someone is recognizable, you must obtain their written permission to publish their likeness. You can download the Publication Release Form on the bottom of the [Forms Page](#).

We look forward to hearing about your garden club activities, adventures and awesomeness!



Smoky Haze • Gerianne Holzman

Sitting on the Porch

Gerianne Holzman, Editor

We are all in this together - famous words, and what do they really mean in our every day life? For the past several weeks, here in the Midwest, we continue to be blanketed with smoke from the wildfires of Canada. The folks on the East Coast have experienced similar poor air quality conditions. Both of our areas of the country rarely suffer from wildfires as they do in the South and West. We now have a much better understanding of what they go through every single year...staying indoors, watery eyes, respiratory problems, etc. This reminds us of how much our world is entwined; something may not happen to us today, but just wait, our turn is coming. Of course the pandemic very much showed us how interconnected we all are. Early on, we thought, "Oh no, we cannot possibly go into lockdown as they did in Europe." Wrong!

So how does this all connect to garden clubs? Our individual clubs are all connected through National Garden Clubs. Most ALL of us are experiencing declining memberships and "aging out" of clubs. We all have gardening issues that others across the Americas may have already dealt with. As with the wildfires, we all experience some sort of environmental disasters. Being a member of NGC and reaching out to other members from around the world keeps us connected to like-minded individuals. In this issue of *TNG*, Pampa talks about a lovely garden that I had the privilege of visiting in January. In the heart of the very busy streets of Buenos Aires, the garden is a shining light of what others might start in their own communities. Think about an empty lot in your city that might be turned into a "Pocket Park." Yes, we get inspiration from everywhere because we are all in this together.

I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things. Mother Teresa

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