



Keeping In Touch

May 2017



Sandra H. Robinson

*2015-2017 President
National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

In This Issue

- The President's Greeting and Travel Schedule
- President-elect Introduction
- National Garden Week
- NGC Schools News
 - Gardening Study
 - Landscape Design
 - Environmental Studies
 - 4 and 5 Star Program
 - 2017 Handbook for Flower Shows
- Membership Ideas
- Leap Into Leadership
- Bee a Wildlife Action Hero
- Million Pollinator Gardens
- NGC Website
- News from the Regions
- Dates and Free NGC Publications
- Growing "Social"
- In Memoriam

"True grit is making a decision and standing by it, doing what must be done." John Wayne

Two years, two incredible years filled with breathtakingly beautiful places, fantastic people, and treasured memories are the gift of a lifetime. A gift the members give to those who are fortunate to serve as National Garden Clubs, Inc. president. Thank you, to each and every one that made the journey possible through dedication and perseverance to the mission of garden club.

Words are inadequate to express the scope of work garden club members accomplish day in and day out. What makes them successful? Is it talent? Is it intelligence? Is it passion? Is it luck?

Angela Duckworth, author of *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* believes it is grit. She defines grit as a special blend of passion and persistence.

Grit is courage, resolve, a strength of character, bravery, pluck, backbone, mettle, spirit, nerve, fortitude, toughness, determination, tenacity, and endurance. Grit is the new buzzword for success.

Do you have grit? Is your club a gritty club? Angela Duckworth asks are you in for a sprint or a marathon? Are you dedicated to the mission and prepared for long-term perseverance to achieve your goals?

Create a culture of grit. Being gritty means, you have goals that are interesting and purposeful. It means continuously challenging yourself to improve. It means never giving up on your passionate interests. Angela maintains you can grow grit "from the inside out" through interest, practice, purpose, and hope.

Gritty clubs aren't afraid to fail, but willing to try again. As we work with children, conservation, the environment, habitat, and gardening, we hope for a better future. Hope is part of the equation, but more is required, we must **Leap into Action**.

"When we talk about grit, we are looking at a different kind of hope. This kind of hope depends on the expectation that your own efforts will change the future. Hence, the burden of responsibility lies on your shoulders. Gritty people do not bank on luck; they get up and change things." Angela Duckworth

The loss of garden clubs and members adversely affects communities. It is the loss of social capital and civic engagement. Is the structure of your club meetings an obstacle in attracting or retaining members? People gravitate to clubs that inspire them, make them think and learn. Ask "What is our mission?" "Where are we headed?" Instead of "Come do what we have always done," ask, "What are your interests and what do you want to do?" Allow prospective members to voice their concerns and passion. This doesn't mean you stop doing what is important to your faithful members, but be willing to listen and embrace new ideas.

Reflect on the reasons people join, how garden club improves and changes our lives, what benefits the community receives from a local garden club, and become "gritty" gardeners in every sense of the word.

Our work is not finished. We must continue to *Leap into Action* to make a difference and remain relevant.

Thank you for allowing me to share my love of garden club. I am thankful for all I have been given through my membership in one of the greatest organizations, and hope I find my “grit” and run a good marathon.

With grateful appreciation for the last two years,

Sandra H. Robinson

PRESIDENT’S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

NGC President Sandra Robinson

- May 1-4 Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri State Convention, Hannibal, MO
- May 5-6 Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Kansas City, KS
- May 17-21 NGC Convention, Richmond, VA
- June 5-7 The Garden Club of Ohio Convention, Perrysburg, OH

NGC President-elect Nancy Hargroves

- April 19-20 Pacific Region Convention, Seattle, WA
- May 22 Rededication of NGC Friendship Garden, US Arboretum, Washington, DC
- June 3 Nevada Garden Clubs Convention, Las Vegas, NV
- June 7 Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Convention, Westford, MA
- June 8 The Garden Club of New Jersey Convention, Bridgewater, NJ
- June 9-10 Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Convention, Colorado Springs, CO
- June 12-14 The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs Convention, Medford, OR
- June 15-16 Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa Convention and Flower Show, Fort Dodge, IA
- June 23-24 Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Convention, Butte, MT
- July 11-13 NGC Headquarters, St. Louis, MO
- July 29 Alaska Garden Clubs Convention, Anchorage, AK

AN INTRODUCTION TO NGC PRESIDENT-ELECT NANCY L. HARGROVES

Nancy L. Hargroves, President-elect of National Garden Clubs, Inc., is a native of Franklin, Virginia and now lives in Richmond, VA. Horticulture and floral design have always been a significant part of Nancy’s life, as she grew up on her family’s vegetable plant farm and in her grandmother’s florist business.



Nancy is a graduate of Virginia Tech, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and a Master of Science degree in Food Service Management. In her professional career, Nancy was an Assistant Dietitian with Virginia Tech Dining Services; the owner of Colonial Catering in Blacksburg, VA; an Assistant Food Service Supervisor with Roanoke City Schools; and Adjunct Faculty Member in Food Science at John Tyler Community College in Chester, VA.

Her love of gardening brought her to her first garden club meeting in 1986 when she moved into the Westham neighborhood in Richmond, VA. She served as the President of the Westham Garden Club from 1987 to 1989 and is still a member today. She was a member of the Thomas Jefferson Garden Club from 1993 to 2007 and served as its President from 1995 to 1997. Additionally, Nancy has been a member of the Salisbury Garden Club since 2009.

At the club, district, state and region levels, Nancy has held various positions, including President of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs from 2005 to 2007. Her administration established the Keys to the Future Youth Project Grants Program to help and encourage clubs with new or existing youth-centered projects. During those two years she was also President of the Board of Trustees of Nature Camp, Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs); a member of the Jamestown 2007 Beautification Task Force and a member of the America’s Anniversary Garden™ Committee.

In addition to her duties as Fourth, Third and Second Vice-President of National Garden Clubs, her roles have included Organization Study Chairman, Scholarship Chairman, Award of Excellence Chairman, Finance Chairman, NGC

Website Development Chairman and Future Planning Committee Chairman.

Nancy is a National Garden Clubs Accredited Judge. She is currently on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the American Horticultural Society; the Advisory Council of Seed Your Future; and is also a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia; the American Hemerocallis Society and the American Azalea Society.

Nancy's personal gardening interests include creating gardens at her home with a four-season interest and an emphasis on collections of azaleas, daylilies, conifers, hydrangeas and Japanese maples. Her other gardening passion is fall and winter container gardening – an often requested program by those who know her.

In addition to Nancy's interests in cooking, gardening, floral design, needlework and travel, she is a passionate football fan. Nancy and her husband, Herbert, have two sons and two daughters.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK, JUNE 4-10, 2017

MARSHA ALEXANDER, CHAIRMAN

Leap into Action and make plans to celebrate National Garden Week. Be creative! Share the value and efforts of garden clubs with your community! Promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, and gardening. Encourage citizens of your community to be involved in the efforts of garden clubs. This week is an opportunity to promote pride in our community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

Publicity is the key to the promotion of National Garden Week. Download the National Garden Week Proclamation from the NGC website. By inviting the mayor to sign this Proclamation, you have a photo opportunity to submit to the local newspaper to kick off the week. Share a photo and information of your National Garden Week activities with your local newspaper and/or local radio or television show and with your Facebook friends--another great way to spread the news of club activities.

Find the beautiful National Garden Week poster on the NGC website. It is nice to place the poster in public places in your community along with a plant or arrangement of flowers. This is an easy way to promote this special week while thanking our public workers.

During National Garden Week, NGC Landscape Design, Environmental and Gardening Study Consultants are encouraged, as a Council or individual, to plan a program, workshop or activity to share their knowledge. If you have ideas to share, please email me at marshaalexander@charter.net.

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

GREG POKORSKI, ES, GS AND LD SCHOOLS

NGC's Schools Committees will meet on May 17 at the convention in Richmond. Please let us know of your questions, concerns and suggestions.

Multiple Refresher Chairman Lana Finegold is thrilled to report six Multiple Refreshers this year, three of them coming up in Gainesville, Florida, Albany, New York, and the Wisconsin Dells. That makes 112 since these events began with the Bermuda Cruise Convention in 2002.

This is your final reminder before this garden club year ends to take a day or a week to celebrate and recognize the NGC Consultants in your state on the first observance of **National Consultants Day** during National Garden Week, June 4 to 10. See the articles in the last two issues of *Keeping in Touch* and the last two issues of *The National Gardener*. What are your Consultants doing for you? And what are you doing for them? We encourage special programs and events in June where our Consultants will utilize what they have learned in our schools and refreshers to educate garden club members and the public, as well as to promote NGC and our schools and their own garden clubs and state organizations. Let us know how you are observing this day and week.

As one garden club year draws to a close, it is time to be planning your state and club events, projects and programs for the next garden club year. Why not include NGC School courses and refresher events in your schedule? You may find the experience rewarding and do it more than once. My garden club has held three complete Gardening Study Schools and a Flower Show School. As you make plans, consider referencing and incorporating Nancy Hargroves' theme for the 2017-2019 NGC administration: **PLANT AMERICA**.

Information is available to you on the Schools pages of the NGC website, in every issue of *Keeping in Touch* and *The National Gardener*, in *Newscape* (Landscape Design Schools web page), in the Gardening Consultants newsletter (Gardening Study Schools web page) and by reaching out to NGC Schools chairmen (listed in these publications and on the website) and Region and State Schools chairmen.

Many thanks to all who have leapt into action this term to sponsor, conduct or attend NGC School courses and refreshers, and to all who served on the 2015-2017 NGC, region and state schools committees. **Incoming 2017-2019 state presidents and/or state schools chairmen are asked to provide current NGC Schools chairmen with names and contact information for your schools chairmen for the new term so that we can update our records.**

This ES, GS, LD Educational Schools Committee will not exist in the same format next term, but there will be a Policies for ES, GS and LDS Committee, which will be chaired by Patricia Rupiper. Patricia will also continue to serve as Environmental Studies Schools Chairman. Barbara Hadsell will continue to serve as Gardening Study Schools Chairman. I will replace Jane Bersch as Landscape Design Schools Chairman.

Don't let there be a vacation from learning! *Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.* Henry Ford

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

BARBARA HADSELL, CHAIRMAN

Attention incoming state presidents, region directors and incoming club presidents. As you meet with your new officers and board members, please consider the important role Gardening Study Schools can play in **PLANT AMERICA**, our National Garden Clubs' theme for the next two years. With the focus on gardens and gardening, our NGC Gardening Study Schools are an excellent avenue for your members and potential members to learn all aspects of gardening which, by the way, is the main reason folks are joining our garden clubs.

GSS has knowledgeable Accrediting Chairs who will help you organize a Gardening Study School and give you guidance on locating instructors and facilities to aid in holding courses easily and inexpensively. As of May 21, 2017, they are listed by NGC region as follows:

- Bonnie Dinneen, Accrediting – Central, South Central, New England, Pacific bonni.dineen@gmail.com, 978-455-0875
- Brynn Tavasci, Accrediting – Central Atlantic and South Atlantic brynn-tavasci@comcast.net 253-813-9678, cell 253-632-9678
- Inger Jones, Accrediting – Deep South and Rocky Mountain mjinger@att.net 964-942-9310, cell 954-649-9310

Linda Jean Smith serves as the new GS Consultants Council chair and can be reached at lindajean.smith@comcast.net 978-256-3101, cell 978-771-1099. Articles for our Gardening Consultants Council newsletter may also be forwarded to her. Idalia Aguilar is our International Affiliates chairman and will publish electronically any news from our IA GSS and GS consultants. idaliaaguilarv@hotmail.com 979-778-5672, cell 979-229-8281. Carol Yee continues as vice-chair and Greg Pokorski as our advisor on the GSS Committee. And many thanks to Judy Pitcher, Cathy Felton and Patricia M. de Nasrallah who have served GSS for several years.

National Consultants Day during National Garden Week—June 4 – 10- is fast approaching. Your last **KIT** and recent **TNG** have many terrific ideas for use by your NGC Consultants so please encourage all in your area to participate, invite the public and sign up new members!

Remember to check out the wonderful PowerPoint presentation on “Reconciliation Ecology” available to all for club programs and to use as a supplemental teaching subject for any of our four Gardening Study School courses. It is available at <http://gardenclub.org/resources/gss-forms/ngc-gss-reconciliation-ecology.pdf> or <http://gardenclub.org/resources/gss-forms/ngc-gss-reconciliation-ecology.pptx>

Help to **PLANT AMERICA** by holding a Gardening Study School in your area! Happy Gardening!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

JANE BERSCH, CHAIRMAN

National Garden Week, June 4-10, 2017, provides garden clubs, councils and garden club members with the opportunity to provide their communities with educational programs promoting the goals of National Garden Clubs, Inc. The NGC Educational Schools Committee hopes that many events have been planned as an observation of a National Consultants Day during that week. Landscape Design Consultants are urged to take a major role in this. Publicity about the event will promote a large attendance. Consider an educational lecture at the local library on native plants and their advantages, or plantings to help pollinators, and/or sensory gardens. Plan a planting at a Habitat for Humanity house. There are many possible activities from which to choose. Share your knowledge and love of gardening.

Caroline Carbaugh, the editor of **Newscape**, the Landscape Design Schools newsletter, always welcomes articles about the activities of garden clubs and primarily Landscape Design Councils. State presidents are urged to ask their LD Council president to consider sending a write-up on any

event which takes place during National Garden Week or as observation of National Consultants Day. Photographs add to the article. Information on Refreshers and Multiple Refreshers are of interest to all. Share the details of these happenings.

Garden clubs throughout have chosen to **Leap into Action** and have provided many Landscape Design Courses this spring. Quite a few are already scheduled for the fall. If the state LDS chairman or the state LD Council president is not continuing in that position during Nancy Hargroves term, state presidents or current LDS chairmen are requested to notify the 2017-2019 NGC LD Councils/Directory chairman, post the May Convention in Richmond, of any changes. The new LDS Committee roster will be posted under LDS Forms on the NGC website.

It is hoped that state presidents will forward **KIT** to their LDS chairman and LD Consultants President who will share it with the LDS students and LD Consultants.

As this is my final **KIT** message as Landscape Design Schools Chairman, I want to thank all the state presidents, the LDS Chairmen, the LD Council presidents and their committee members who have dedicated much time and effort in promoting the objectives of the Landscape Design Study program. It has been my joy to work with you as we provide outstanding learning opportunities for gardeners. My appreciation to all of you.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOL

PATRICIA RUPIPER, CHAIRMAN

This is a study of the world around us and how we can make a difference in our communities. The courses are based on scientific fact, not assumption. Each session deals with a different subject (in the majority). It starts out with Biomes, where do they interconnect and what are some threats, and supports offered for each. Then on to Land, Air, and Water.

It is wonderful to obtain professors for the science base, especially in unique settings. Here in Ohio, we have been on a science cruise on Lake Erie, seined for indicator species, seen a Glacial Ridge, gone behind the scenes in Zoos and Aquariums. Have you been able to touch or feed creatures that intermingle with humanity? ESS helps you do that. It is so much fun to reach out to different experiences all in the name of science. I have seen solar panels and gotten an understanding of how the energy transfers, received explanations of fracking and a greater understanding of the impact of same. We have examined decomposers, used micro-

scopes to see the indicator species in the water, been given charts along with explanations of what the results indicate. Do you know what a fen is, do you have access to a wetland and the people that can explain their importance? I have seen replanting after a devastating tornado, examined the prototype of a raised garden bed in a parking lot, learned about toxic algae, colony collapse and Mason bees.

This information and much more is then shared with the home garden club members. Community and/or personal changes are made reflecting the new knowledge. I have found that ESS pulls in segments of Landscape Design and Gardening Study Schools, knitting them together in personal choices.

Council members often incorporate projects to affect those community changes. This year for the very first time, National Garden Clubs, Inc. is proposing a National Consultants Day in which all three of the councils are encouraged to promote education (and change). This day is to be held during National Garden Week. (June 7th is targeted, but anytime that week is acceptable.)

Hopefully, participation will show the value of the education provided.

FOUR AND FIVE STAR PROGRAM

JULIE SCHOENIKE, CHAIRMAN

Congratulations to all members who have helped to make the 4 and 5 Star Program the outstanding success that it has become! So many states have been progressive in sponsoring the schools. Taking a school is the prime object of National Garden Clubs!

To have accurate and timely records, I ask each state president to request a copy of the list which is sent to National directly after each school is completed listing the members who have completed a course. It is apparent that presidents are not aware of members' standings when they are asked to sign the 4/5 Star applications. Consequently, duplicate applications or lack of credit standings have been submitted. Supplying the state presidents this list of members who qualify would save time and allow for accurate records.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

2017 HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

DAVID ROBSON, HORTICULTURE INSTRUCTORS
CHAIRMAN

The *2017 Handbook for Flower Shows* offers some changes as well as more options in exhibiting Horticulture, and the new Botanical Arts Division which contains a Horticulture section.

In the Horticulture Division, exhibitors have the new Hanging Gardens section of Combination Plantings. These can include vertical gardens, hanging baskets, mailbox saddles, living wreaths, and Kokedama balls. However, thought must be given by the Staging Committee for the best way to display these exhibits. On the staging front, you can weight bottles and vases with pebbles or clear marbles to add weight, provided the stem isn't wedged by the marbles. Exhibitors can also provide their own staging for collections, provided it's unobtrusive.

Arboreal specimens (trees and shrubs) can now be shown as container-grown specimens, though all arboreal specimens must have been grown by the exhibitor for six months instead of 90 days. The same applies to troughs.

Accessories used in combination plantings, when allowed, must be naturalistic. Little garden gnomes, ceramic frogs, and tiny wishing wells will not be allowed. (Don't fret! Keep reading.)

The Botanical Arts Division Horticulture allows greater flexibility on exhibiting horticulture specimens, which can greatly expand the dynamics of an NGC Flower Show. Schedule writers, especially for autumn and winter shows, might consider including a Botanical Arts Horticulture section and several classes in the flower show. Fall-colored and winter-interest deciduous branches now have a location in the flower show. So do dried specimens from ornamental grasses to gourds to preserved specimens including glycerinized leaves and limbs. Have an ornamental branch that looks better when it's longer than 30"? Botanical Art Horticulture is the place. Container-grown miniature gardens including Fairy Gardens (those little tiny gnomes, frogs, furniture, etc.!) and dioramas can be exhibited in this Division. Gardens have moved from the old Special Exhibits Division to Botanical Arts. All those manipulated plants such as grafted cacti, topiaries, and trained specimens, such as Lucky Bamboo, are Botanical Arts Horticulture possibilities.

Finally, NGC Flower Shows now include a Horticulture Specialty Show, where there is nothing but horticulture exhibits, though there is a minimum number of classes (10) and exhibits (40). This might be an option for those clubs with more of an interest in plants than designs. All horticulture awards are available for these shows.



Vertical garden exhibit photos courtesy of Emelia Luna, International Affiliate Horticulture Instructor.

2017 HANDBOOK (CONT'D)

DORTHY YARD, FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS CHAIRMAN

The **2017 Handbook for Flower Shows** is available from NGC Headquarters Member Services. Although the effective date is July 1, requirements for Judges refreshing anytime during 2017 will be grandfathered in to allow them to use the credits garnered prior to July 1. However, judges refreshing in 2018 must meet the guidelines found in the **2017 Handbook**.

Students who have completed the four courses, the schedule writing assignment, and planning to take the Handbook Exam in October 2017 can rest easy because this exam will be based on information which is the same in both the 2007 and 2017 Handbooks. Please note: The Handbook exam in April 2018 will be based entirely on information found in the **2017 Handbook**. Minimum scores for passing point scoring exams, schedule writing assignment and Handbook exam will be seventy-five (75) after July 1.

Flower shows in the latter half of 2017 may follow either the old or new Handbooks. The schedule must be consistent with one or the other. The schedule writer cannot arbitrarily choose what he/she likes best from both! An exciting expansion to the awards program is the unlimited number of Top Exhibitor Awards which may be offered in a show. For instance, depending on the time of year, the show may want to offer ten Awards of Merit or five Growers Choice Awards or whatever number and configuration meet the club's needs. Design Top Exhibitor Awards are also unlimited, so now the show can offer as many of each as desired for all categories. It could have three sections for all fresh plant material and four sections of Designers Choice, for instance.

With the introduction of the **2017 Handbook for Flower Shows**, garden club members are offered a broader array of possibilities for planning flower shows. Horticulture Specialty Shows and Design Specialty Shows may appeal to clubs which have a particular fondness for one or the other. A Botanical Arts Division allows for additional types of horticulture and designs. Artistic Crafts offers additional opportunities for crafters specializing in certain arts including jewelry, ornamental accessories and wearing apparel.

The Flower Show Schools site on the NGC website will soon feature a FAQ section, where frequently asked questions and answers will be posted and updated monthly. If you don't see your question answered there, please contact the Flower Show Schools Chairman for a more timely response.

MEMBERSHIP

LINDA LAWSON, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ideas to increase membership -

- Pass out national materials at different events.
- Make events and programs fun and enjoyable.
- Emphasize educational programs.
- Plan workshops of interest to your target groups.
- Invite people to workshops on floral design.
- Have a membership drive.
- Host a garden tour and have members explain why they have planted what they have and where they have planted.
- Let them join National Garden Clubs before they find a local club.
- Involve youth school gardens and flower beds.
- Contests for young and old, advertise!

Ideas for Keeping and retaining members

- Prepare a questionnaire asking members why they joined a garden club and share the results.
- When a club wishes to disband find out and work to fix the problem.
- Network with plant societies and have flower shows together and join each other's clubs.
- Do not exclude members for lack of email.
- Remind members what works for one club may not work for all clubs.
- Be flexible in forming relations with older clubs.
- Be creative when working with members.
- Make members feel wanted and needed.
- Show them how important their club is.

LEAP INTO LEADERSHIP

ROBIN POKORSKI, CHAIRMAN

NGC's Leap Into Leadership Workshops were presented in 13 states with five states scheduling return visits. Feedback received indicates that the workshops have encouraged potential but hesitant members to take on leadership roles. Incoming President Nancy Hargroves has asked this Chairman to continue to offer the Leadership Training Workshops during the 2017 – 2019 administration.

So if your clubs, districts, and state have too many members lined up for leadership positions, stop reading now, but if that isn't exactly the case, then consider a Leadership Training Workshop as an investment in your organization's future.

Workshops in Illinois in September and Rhode Island in late October are scheduled. Do you think this might be a good idea? Then let's chat about a workshop for your members! Contact Robin Pokorski, CGCIRobin@gmail.com or 818-361-7873.

BE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO COMMIT TO GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

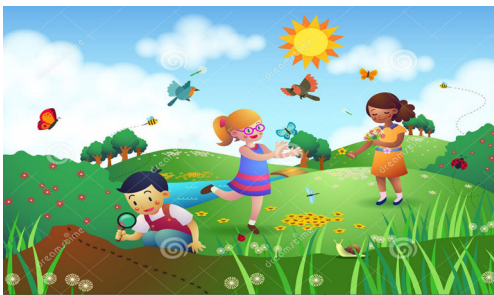
BECKY HASSEBROEK, HABITAT CHAIRMAN

How Do You BENEFIT FROM GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE?

All gardeners derive enjoyment from their gardens – that's why we garden. But wildlife gardeners experience a whole new dimension of enjoyment from the color, life, movement and interest our wildlife brings, and from the knowledge that we are doing what we can to help nature. Understanding how gardens 'work' as ecological habitats helps us to be better gardeners, grow better produce and save money. But gardens are also often where our children first learn about nature and living creatures, as well as how food is grown. We are beginning to understand the many important ways in which getting close to nature helps people's mental and physical health and happiness, quite apart from the general exercise benefits of being an active gardener. This extends beyond individual gardens, and we now know that whole communities benefit from gardens and green spaces full of wildlife.

All gardens have wildlife in them. Looking after your garden wildlife is one of the best ways that you can help nature thrive by your own efforts.

**BEING A WILDLIFE GARDENER MEANS
YOU CAN STILL GROW THE FLOWERS YOU LOVE,
HARVEST FOOD,
INDULGE YOUR DESIGN IDEAS, OR
HAVE A PLAYGROUND FOR THE KIDS (AND THE DOG).**



Won't you
join us in
Gardening
for our
Wildlife?

(Thanks to www.wlgf.org Wildlife Gardening Forum for sharing their thoughts and to clipartfox.com for the graphic.)



MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE

THE MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE (MPGC) IS A NATIONWIDE CALL TO ACTION TO PRESERVE AND CREATE GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES THAT HELP REVIVE THE HEALTH OF BEES, BUTTERFLIES, BIRDS, BATS AND OTHER POLLINATORS ACROSS AMERICA.

WE HAVEN'T YET REACHED THE MILLION MARK!

PLEASE
PLANT FOR OUR POLLINATORS
AND BEE COUNTED!

Register your garden at:

Millionpollinatorgardenchallenge.org

Contact Becky Hassebroek beckyhasse@aol.com for more information.

NGC WEBSITE

POSS TARPLEY, CHAIRMAN

A new administration is starting, and chairmen are being contacted to update their "page" or, in some cases, to start a new "page." Gather your information and send it along so that you are among the up-to-date chairmen and your committee members are in the know! Committee chairmen who have a "page" on the NGC website should make a practice of checking the information there to make sure it is current. Information sent to the webmaster is forwarded to the web company for posting within 24 hours of receipt, but if new material is not sent...mind-reading is not a skill of this webmaster.

Occasionally the webmaster must contact a chairman to check information. It is frustrating to have the email returned because the webmaster's email address is not on the "permitted list" of senders. Please make sure my email (posst@aol.com) is acceptable to your email account.

NEWS FROM THE REGION DIRECTORS

NEW ENGLAND

<http://www.ngcner.org>

Vera Bowen, Director

As the 2015-2017 term nears its end, it's easy to look back and delight in the accomplishment of our state presidents and see how much our organization has come together as a group.

The reorganization of the region has taught us much. The first thing is that we value the relationship that we have with our sister states within the region. We are lucky we are geographically close, and the ties that we have run deeper than perhaps we imagined. Secondly, we have so much to offer, and together we can accomplish much.

The environmental project that I had in mind never really got off the ground. It is my hope that our new director will allow me to continue with it. Our environment is at a critical stage, and unless we start to be proactive, we may not have the wonderful earth that we as gardeners so cherish.

The Blue and Gold Star dedications have brought such a sense of pride to our region. We thank every club who went the extra mile to make these dedications happen.

Going forward the New England Garden Clubs, Inc. (NEGC) will continue to grow and prosper. We hope to offer a Scholarship that will further our goals and objectives, and our new NEGC Director Susan Hinkel will be a wonderful guiding light. Sue's theme, in keeping with our new NGC President's theme of **PLANT AMERICA**, will be **NEGC PLANTS FOR EVERYONE**.

This Director was delighted to serve on the NGC Scholarship Committee as well as the Award of Excellence Committee. I, like so many of you, worry about our future. However, after seeing the applications from the bright, intelligent, driven scholarship applicants, I am pleased to know that these young people are aware of the problems that we face and many of them are working to find solutions.

We look forward to renewing and reinventing the region as we celebrate the first annual meeting of the NEGC Oct 30 and 31st in Rhode Island.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC <http://www.ngccar.org>

Anne M. Bucher, Director

Another quarter has gone by, and the Central Atlantic Region has been busy with traveling and piles of paperwork. In January we traveled to Atlanta to attend the executive board meeting and the instructors' symposium. It was a very busy trip with meetings and touring the Atlanta area. One of the highlights was visiting the Honorary President Dean Day Sanders' home in Atlanta. We had a lovely visit, lunch and tour of her beautiful home. We also visited Athens, Georgia where the original first headquarters of garden clubs was established. There is a beautiful building there that is used by the Garden Club of Georgia and is open to all National Garden Club members to visit. The symposium was excellent and dealt with the new Handbook for flower show judges. A number of judges that worked on the Handbook were available to explain the new changes in the book. The book can now be purchased from NGC member services.

In March, the eight region Directors are charged with the job of reading and ranking the college applications of students from the fifty states as well as the National Capital Area that apply for the scholarships National Garden Clubs offers. It is an honor to work on this project.

During the rest of March and April, I will be visiting several states and installing the incoming officers for 2017-19. In May, we will attend the convention in Richmond, VA. The new Region Director will be Regina Brown from Delaware. I want to thank my region officers, my seven state presidents and my board for all their help and support during these past two years. It has been a privilege to serve with you and to be part of Central Atlantic Region. The new name of the Region will be the **CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION-STATE GARDEN CLUBS INC.** effective June 1, 2017.



We invite you to explore the NGC information available on the Internet and promote your club, state and NGC on social media.

When the Garden Club of South Carolina elected me to serve as the South Atlantic Region Director, my first thought was the selection of members to serve on the SAR Board. Over the years, so many of you from SC and our other four SAR States had served with me on NGC and SAR committees, so I looked to many of you to fill positions on the board.



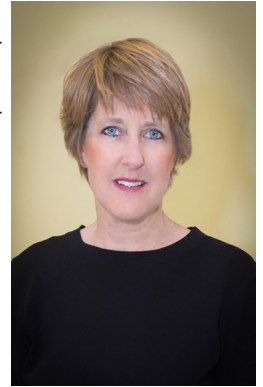
Next a theme was needed, and I chose "Inspire Conservation through Education," "Think about our A (air) W (water) E (earth) SOMENESS = AWESOMENESS." All of these elements became so very important to our states as each faced the ravages of Mother Nature, from hurricanes and terrible droughts to the 1000-year flood, as well as fires that destroyed timberlands from the mountains to the coast. Our dedicated members rolled up their sleeves and joined other civic organizations and neighbors to rebuild their communities and their lives. As gardeners and stewards of the land, we will rebuild; we know there are better days ahead.

During this term, many changes have taken place that affected each of our eight regions as well as NGC, Inc. following the NGC mandate that all regions' funds will be removed from the NGC account by May 31, 2017. The SAR, as well as our other seven regions, applied for and received 501(c)3 status and independent EIN numbers. The SAR funds will be transferred into the South Atlantic Region Association account before May 31, 2017. The other seven regions will have their transfers completed from NGC by then as well.

My heartfelt thanks to the SAR Officers, the five state presidents and all of the 2015-2017 chairmen who accepted the responsibility of their positions. I can say, "Job Well Done." You have been very supportive in all of the changes that have taken place in these two years, and I thank each of you for doing such an excellent job.

This administration will be available to assist our new 2017-2019 Region Director Judy Barnes and her administration as they assume the responsibilities of moving South Atlantic Region Association forward.

The 56th Annual Convention of the Deep South Region (Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.) was held in March in New Orleans, hosted by The Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. Highlights included a region flower show, DSGC Awards, workshops on birds, pollinators, going green, humor in the garden and a delightful floral design program by Sylvia Deck. Ann McCormick of Tennessee will serve as 2017-2019 Director.



Alabama is very proud of the Chunnenugee Public Garden Club of Union Springs, Alabama. They celebrated the club's 170th Anniversary on March 9th. The Historical Society researched the club and determined it to be the oldest garden club in America. The Alabama State Convention held in April in Huntsville had a country garden theme. This Director was the honored guest.

Georgia has promoted native plants throughout the state. They honored the district that accomplished the most in advancing native plants for last two years at the 2017 convention at Callaway Gardens in April. This Director was honored to install the new board. Members are working on awards submissions and scholarships for students interested in the environment. Plans are underway for another Gold Star Memorial Marker honoring the families of our veterans that have served our country. Georgia is still sowing seeds of knowledge and reaping conservation with unbelievable beauty.

Education continues in Florida. A 2017 Flower Show Handbook workshop and spring symposium were held. Gardening Study School and Flower Show School are in the process, and a new Landscape School had a very successful beginning. Flower shows abound through the state at this time as well as garden walk events. Dedications for Blue Star Memorial Markers and our first Gold Star Marker were held this spring. Each of Florida's nine National Cemeteries has markers as well as other locations. The FFGC Convention was held April 26-28, and this Director was the honored guest. FFGC is proud to announce Claudia Bates as the 2017-2019 President.

The Garden Clubs of Mississippi held their 88th Annual Convention in Greenwood recently. Among one of the highlights was a dessert reception honoring our incoming 2017-2019 state president held at the historic, beautiful state headquarters. Downtown historic Greenwood offered good shopping, good food, and good fellowship.

Louisiana Garden Club Federation was proud to host the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. convention at Harrah's Hotel in New Orleans in March. Following the DS convention, the 2017 LGCF Convention was held at the same venue. Carol Bullard, the Deep South Director, established the Natural Disasters-Louisiana fund. Our "sister" Deep South states have donated over \$21,000.00 to the fund to be used to restore landscaping in public areas destroyed by the Great Flood of 2016. The money truly is a godsend for our local clubs. Thanks to everyone who donated.

The 2015-2017 Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs administration accomplished great feats this term. In 2016, TFGC held the first State (large) Standard Flower Show in 20 years; each of the four districts held a large District Standard FS; held 24 other Standard Flower Shows; eight clubs dedicated Blue Star Memorial Markers and TFGC's first Gold Star Memorial Marker; participated in "Penny Pines" for the first time; donated \$10,776 to Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail (Land Trust project); held first Gardening Study School in many years; hosted two FS Symposiums and two FSS courses; produced two successful annual Conservation Camps devoted to environmental studies; gained five "official" dues-paying member youth clubs (first ever); granted six \$1,500 Scholarships; TN applicant received an NGC \$4,000 Scholarship; TN applicant received a DSR \$5,000 Scholarship; held eight "Fun with Flowers" educational design programs for members and the public (two in each district); sponsored the Grand Prize winner in the NGC Smokey Bear Poster Contest as well as other winners; held a Tri-Refresher; held sixteen district meetings (four in each district); and hosted two well-attended and successful conventions that followed themes and projects of NGC, DSR and TFGC.

CENTRAL
<http://ngccentralregion.org>

Judy Newman, Director

The 2015-2017 Central Region theme has been "Cultivating Connections" and the Region project involving all states was "Increase visibility of NGC and State Garden Clubs, Promote schools, Connect State Chairmen with NGC Chairmen, Increase awareness of the opportunities available from NGC." Each state and every club was challenged to increase our visibility by using the state and NGC logo on all signage, publicity, brochures, displays etc., and create business cards for members with the NGC, state logo, and pos-



sibly the club logo. In order to promote schools held within the region, the Local/State Schools Chairman will send notices to the Central Region webmaster and magazine editor. In addition, this information was sent to other state webmasters and magazine editors in the Central Region. The goal is to promote and provide more opportunities for our members to attend the schools, symposiums and refreshers held within our region. Additionally, the CR increased awareness regarding the NGC opportunities to apply for awards, grants and scholarships.

Region Scholarships: Central Region awarded two - \$500.00 scholarships in 2016 and will award one - \$500.00 scholarships in 2017. We have 304 Central Region Life Members as of 12/31/16. The \$50 Life Membership fee supports the scholarships - one half of the money goes into a designated scholarship fund and the other one half for the annual scholarships. A Gold Star donation of \$25, plus monies from Central Region membership pins, memorials, honoraria, donations and investments all go toward the Annual Scholarship Operating Fund.

Central Region's new name is Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc. The Central Region became a 501(c)3 as of July 2016. Necessary amendments were approved to the Central Region Rules and Procedures with the insertion of a Mission and Dissolution Statement.

The Central Region Newsletter is now in an electronic format, emailed to Central Region officers and chairmen as well as published on the Central Region website. State presidents are directed to forward the Central Region Newsletter to state chairmen and club presidents. Central Region was awarded two tools from Ames Tools for the most Ames Tools Applications. The tools were distributed during the 2016 Central Region convention.

Best wishes to Fran Stueck the 2017-2019 Central Region Director and Loretta Daisy the CR Alternate Director from Iowa.

Central Region has Cultivated many new Connections during this administration.

The four states within South Central Region are on the migratory path of the Monarch butterfly. Each issue of **The Communicator** has featured articles about habitat protection, the importance of planting milkweed and networking with National Wildlife Federation on establishing Monarch Waystations and the Mayors Monarch Pledge. We have also networked with North America Butterfly Association, Million Pollinator Garden Challenge and NGC Bee a Wildlife Action Hero project.



More than \$3000 was presented from the Director's Youth Butterfly Project to youth groups in recognition of their butterfly programs and projects, and a \$1000 college scholarship was awarded.

Greetings from **Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs!** We are happy that garden club is alive and well in Arkansas. It was a great pleasure for all of us to entertain Sandy Robinson, NGC President, and Barbara Baker, SCR Director, as we hosted the SCR Convention in 2016 in Bentonville.

In August of 2016 and again in March of 2017, AFGC was privileged to have Leadership Forums lead by NGC Corresponding Secretary Robin Pokorski. Our members were delighted and motivated to serve by Robin's dynamic presentations.

Our State Flower Show "Art-rageous, Celebrating Local Roots" held in February 2017 was a great success with 48 wonderful designs and 277 horticulture specimens. Thousands of visitors enjoyed the show and the presentations by County Extension Service and local nurseries.

We completed Course IV of NGC Flower Shows which produced six NGC accredited judges. In addition to our State Flower Show, several local flower shows were held by garden clubs in Camden, Dardanelle, Arkadelphia, Hot Springs and Little Rock. Sales of donated items and memorials resulted in substantial funds to benefit future Flower Show Schools and Symposiums. Two scholarships totaling \$4000 were awarded to very deserving students. Our sale of note cards continues to bring in funds for scholarships. - Rose Knight, President

New Mexico Garden Clubs is busy getting ready for spring and a new administration term. All chairmen have been busy getting ready for the annual convention with end-of-year and term reports. District directors and club presidents are preparing notes and ideas to turn over to the next administration and hold installations of new officers. Award applications have been submitted, and our state awards chairman Debra Sorrell is very busy preparing for the big awards ceremony.

We are in the planning stages for the next Flower Show Schools series. We are planning to start a new Environmental School Series and possibly a Gardening Studies Series. We have three youth garden clubs (Pecos Valley Garden Club, Ponderosa Pines Garden Club and the Blooming Gardeners) that continue to grow.

The adult clubs are planning the final stages of their participation in the NM Garden Clubs President's project for this term: plant a butterfly garden, a Plant It Pink pocket garden, a habitat garden or a Monarch Way Station.

Plan a club flower show and receive help with planning, writing the show schedule, entry cards, ribbons, rosettes, and judges to come and judge the show! Lots of clubs have taken advantage of one of these great President's projects!

All executive board members, district directors, chairmen and club presidents are preparing their new NMGC Notebooks, with all the wonderful leadership information and all other pertinent information needed to pass their notebooks forward to the next person who will perform that duty.

But, the biggest project we had was planning and preparing to host the SCR annual convention last month in Albuquerque. We had a great tour to Los Alamos and Bandelier National Park, programs on container gardening and pollinator plants for our region, and a "Design Challenge" program by eight designers to support our SCR Scholarship! - Suzy Andregio, President

Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. has been more than busy this winter and early spring planning numerous events. Our Monarch Butterfly Celebration in April at the state Capitol brought together more than six Oklahoma organizations dedicated to "Saving the Monarch." The program included special speakers including SCR Director Barbara Baker. The highlight of the celebration was the proclamation from Governor Mary Fallin calling on all communities and their leadership to foster preservation and proliferation of the Monarch.

In May we held our Annual Wildflower Workshop hosted by Central District in Ponca City; the workshop rotates around our six Districts which gives us different wildflowers every year and lots of fun. Flower shows were also held recently. Patio Garden Club of Marlow staged a Standard Flower Show for the first time. In the past they have done display shows of only design; they are branching out! Tulsa Garden Club stages an annual show which is always beautiful and award winning. Many members participate in plant society shows such as iris, daylily, and orchid.

We have our State Convention in June this year in Norman. The incoming Director of SCR Isabel Olsen will be our guest, and installation of new officers is always an exciting time.

On July 10 and 11, we will host Flower Show School Course I followed by a Symposium July 12 and 13 both in Tulsa. And, in between all of this, we will be holding regular club meetings, doing our various civic projects and promoting youth gardening. Whee! I am tired. Time to sit on the patio and sip a glass of tea. - MaryAnn Holman, President

Texas Garden Clubs is delighted to have four NGC sponsored schools: Gardening Study, Landscape Design, Environmental, Flower Show Schools and Symposium. We are also pleased to announce that six Blue Star Memorial Markers have been or will be placed this administration with two more on order.

Our projects have focused on recycling, efficient use of water, maintaining bird feeders at nursing homes, establishing a butterfly garden along a nature trail, and celebrating National Garden Week.

One club donated 100 care bags to the Dallas VA CLC unit containing diabetic socks, books, puzzles, small pillows, pens, United States flags, and 79 beanies. They decorated 40 poinsettias for the Dallas VA and donated 75 care bags with toiletries to Meals on Wheels shut-ins. One of our clubs recycles plastic grocery bags to a lady who crochets them into sleeping beds for the homeless. - Carol Moore, President

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Darlene Skari, Director

<https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/>

The Rocky Mountain Region has seen changes and progress during the years 2015-2017. Perhaps the most significant change has been becoming incorporated in Wyoming as a non-profit corporation. With that change, and the application and acceptance by the Internal Revenue Service as an official non-profit 501(C) 3, the region can manage their finances saving NGC work and time. Because the treasurer's job became more complicated with all bookkeeping related to NGC, and now with control of our finances, the group voted to remove the treasurer position from the rotation and elect a treasurer from any one of the eight states. The current treasurer who is from Montana has served through two administrations with the awareness that this is a job that has to be learned. Lynette Jeffres, an accountant, was elected to become the new treasurer.



With the members of RMR facing changes that would have eliminated many of the activities, such as annual meetings, the newsletter and visits to the states by the region director, the state clubs rallied to the cause. Many expressed the feeling that RMR was where friendships developed outside their own clubs. There were some dissenting voices, but members also looked at the fact there all eight states have much of the same gardening conditions: dry, windy, cold in winter, and hot in summer. People also expressed their interest in attending the region meetings which are much more affordable than the NGC Convention (and much closer to home).

Region awards chairman Donna Rouch revised the awards to make them clearer and add interest from the clubs. Our Award of Excellence application well documented activities by individual clubs to implement the Director's theme: "Advancing Our Horizons" through new ways of communicating our mission to the places we live. Following the rotation schedule, Jackie Watts from Kansas will become the 2017-2019 Director.

PACIFIC

<http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org>

Kristie Livreri, Director

Some say the only constant in life is change. I tend to agree with that statement. Things are forever changing. Some of us have yet learned to embrace change and would be willing to remain status quo. Garden club has changed, and we need to face that reality. With the onset of technology, we changed for the better in so many ways. We no longer communicate by postage, but can reach someone around the world with the tap of a key on our computers or telephones. We can YouTube almost anything, including how to plant a vegetable garden, landscape design and how to create a butterfly garden. Virtual meetings can be held and, as we have learned recently, the e-mail vote is critical.



However some things never change, nor should they. The smile and warm hug received at a convention. No emoji can take the place of that. The feeling you get when you view and examine the perfect design cannot happen on a YouTube video. The spontaneous brainstorming of ideas rarely happens in a telephonic or virtual meeting. The comradery you feel with members from around the region and the entire country, and the friendships and memories made are irreplaceable.

It is our hope that as National Garden Clubs move forward, we will never change in the ways that have built this organization into what it is today. We must respect and learn from the past and move forward, embracing change as we go, as difficult as it is for some. We must never change our love for this beautiful world around us and our commitment to make it a better place by instilling in generations to come the importance of making changes for the good.

Pacific Region is determined to move forward hanging on to the strings that tie us together. We look forward to promoting the goals and programs of National Garden Clubs and our new President Nancy Hargroves.

Now it gives me great pleasure to announce the new Pacific Region Director Peggy Olin of the State of Oregon. Our commitment and support for her term will never change.

FLOWERS BLOOMING

BY JOHN GINTER

FLOWERS BLOOMING

IN MY HEART

AND IN MY LIFE.

IN MY MIND AND IN MY SCHOOL.

FLOWERS BLOOMING EVERYWHERE

LIKE IN YOUR HOUSE AND

JUST OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR.

SO JUST GO AND LET

YOUR IMAGINATION FREE

AND LET IT GLIDE.

Author's note: "Flower's Blooming" means to me possibilities. For example, you could be rich, famous, and have good memories.

John is a member of the Third Grade Driggs Dragon Gardeners and has fallen in love with his school garden at H.R. Driggs Elementary in Salt Lake City, Utah. The youth club is lead by Connie MacKay, President-elect of the Utah Associated Garden Clubs, and Alison Jueschke, teacher and coordinator.

IMPORTANT DATES

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention
May 17-20 in Richmond, Virginia



National Garden Week

June 4-10

National Consultants Day

June 7

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Fall Board in St. Louis

September 12-16

**AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS
FOR FREE DOWNLOAD AT
GARDENCLUB.ORG**

The National Gardener Online

**Newscape, Landscape Design Schools and Councils
Newsletter**

**Reconciliation Ecology, a Gardening Study
PowerPoint presentation, also in PDF**

**Pollinator Power, Facts about bees, butterflies,
bats, birds, beetles, flies, moths and wasps and their
mission as pollinators**



**Ecological Warriors Workbook, Creative learning
centered on the natural resources of planet earth**



**Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
Information**

**This publication -- *Keeping In Touch* --
to be shared with all NGC Members**

**Watch NGC grow "Social" as we expand
our reach, membership and partnerships.**

**Keep in contact via
Facebook, Pinterest
Twitter and Instagram**

IN MEMORIAM

We must once again share the sad news of the passing of **George McNabb, husband of Marian McNabb** on January 15th.

Marian McNabb is currently serving on the National Board of Directors as Butterflies Chairman and has previously served as Bird Chairman. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Marian McNabb, 311 Sweet Street, Linn Grove, IA 51033-7702.

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of **Veva Schreiber** on February 22 at the age of 91. Veva was a member of the NGC Golden Circle Committee and served in many capacities on the NGC Board of Directors over the years. She served as President of the Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. from 1985-1987, Central Region Director and editor of Garden Glories. Veva was a nationally accredited flower show judge. She enjoyed floral design and writing about all things gardening.

Notes of condolence may be sent to her daughter, Ellen Hodge, 403 Northgate Rd., Lindenhurst, IL 60046-8542



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