



Keeping In Touch

FEBRUARY 2018



*Nancy L. Hargroves
2017-2019 NGC President*

Spring is just a few weeks away. It brings thoughts of gardens and gardening and beautiful blooming flowers and plants. As garden club members know, it's always a learning process whether it is trying new cultivars or different processes and practices. Flower and Garden shows are abundant in February, March and April all over the country. They are a great source of gardening information, just as the NGC schools are. It is a real honor for our organization that the Philadelphia Flower Show is honoring the volunteer time that garden club members give each year by my serving as the Honorary Chairman at the Preview Party on Friday evening, March 2. Please take advantage of gardening educational experiences and events in your community and in the NGC schools being held in your state.



www.gardenclub.org

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

4401 Magnolia Ave.,

St. Louis, MO 63110-3406

(314) 776-7574

headquarters@gardenclub.org

There is a new deadline for applications for AMES Tools for your club's gardening projects - **APRIL 15**. The application and details of the grant process will be available on the NGC website by March 1.

March will also bring another new venture for National Garden Clubs. P. Allen Smith has generously offered to provide an opportunity for NGC to raise funds for the **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grants. Several types of plants (see photo of *Impatiens hawkeri*), including a gift item, will be available for purchase from P. Allen Smith using a code that will be given to NGC members. Final details will be emailed to each state president to send out to all of the clubs, as well as being posted on the NGC website and NGC's Facebook page. If your club would like to be added to the email blast that will be sent to all of the states, please send your club's email address to Katie Roth at NGC Headquarters, kroth@gardenclub.org.



Sunpatiens®



The Philadelphia Convention Committee will sell the iconic LOVE necklace during the NGC meeting May 20-24. A perfect memento!

Nancy

President's Travel Schedule

- March 2 – Philadelphia Flower Show, Honorary Chairman for Preview Party, Philadelphia, PA
- March 18-19 – South Atlantic Region Convention, Covington, KY
- March 26-27 – Maryland Annual Meeting, Ellicott City, MD
- April 2-3 – Arkansas Convention, Little Rock, AR
- April 8-10 – Alabama Convention, Tuscaloosa, AL
- April 11-12 – Georgia Convention, Rome, GA
- April 13-14 – Nebraska Convention, Kearney, NE
- April 17-18 – Louisiana Convention, Alexandria, LA
- April 20-21 – Kansas Convention, Topeka, KS
- April 22-24 – Florida Convention, St. Augustine, FL
- April 24-26 – Indiana Convention, Michigan City, IN
- April 28 – South Dakota Convention, Mobridge, SD
- April 29-30 – Illinois Convention, Lisle, IL

In This Issue

- The President's Greeting and Travel Schedule
- **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grants
- NGC Schools News
- Wildflower Symposiums & Workshops Grants
- Membership
- Take a Byte - Websites of Interest
- Committed Volunteers
- "Around the Town" Stories Featuring Our Clubs

Phyllis White, KIT Editor, gardens@bresnan.net
Jan Sillik, Assistant Editor, gluegunjan@aol.com

Joyce Bulington, Gerry St. Peters and
Gerianne Holzman, Editorial Review

Submissions for KIT are due April 1, 2018

THE CHECKS ARE IN THE MAIL!

You've heard that saying before. However, this time it applies to the recipients of the **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grants. That's correct. The checks awarded to winning applicants for **PLANT AMERICA** grants are in the mail!

Garden club applications arrived in amazing numbers in response to President Nancy Hargroves **PLANT AMERICA** Community Projects Grants opportunity. The interest in this NGC project was overwhelming, and over 400 applications were received.

The **PLANT AMERICA** Community Projects Grants Committee, Betty Cookendorfer (Ohio), Shane Looper (California), Ellen Spencer (National Capital Area), and Betsy Steele (South Carolina), had quite a job printing, reading, judging and scoring the applications. Awarding the grants took much thought and many hours of deliberation.

What a heartwarming experience for the **PLANT AMERICA** Grants Committee to read about all the contributions garden clubs make in every state. From the mountains to the sea and everywhere in between, garden clubs contribute to communities, large and small.

Engaging classrooms of children to explore the world of gardening, partnering with assisted living facilities to share continued gardening experiences, honoring those who have served our country and beautifying entire towns are just a few examples of Garden Club service. All of the garden club members garden with enthusiasm and ask for very little in return.

Helping to support these efforts with monetary funds is a privilege for NGC President Nancy Hargroves and the **PLANT AMERICA** Community Projects Grants Committee. We appreciate all the applications submitted and congratulations to the garden clubs that have been awarded funding. Good luck with your projects, and we look forward to hearing more about them.

- Betty Cookendorfer, **PLANT AMERICA**
Community Project Grants Chairman

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

State Presidents and Local and State Schools Chairmen, we need your help!

For all Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design School administration, ***please use the most current forms – the online fillable forms available on the NGC website.*** NGC Schools Committees listened to your requests for simplification and made these forms available online so that you can maintain records on your computer and avoid the time and expense previously required for making and mailing copies. But we find that many state and local chairmen are not utilizing these tools, making school administration more difficult than it needs to be.

Why have so many schools and consultant records fallen into a “black hole?” Too many state schools chairmen tell us that these records do not exist or they never received them. NGC Accrediting Chairmen and the NGC Schools Secretary continuously send records regarding completed courses to state schools chairmen or state presidents. What happens to this information? Someone in each state needs to take responsibility for it. Please make an effort to find the records in your state, get them to current chairmen, and have those chairmen accurately maintain and update them. It's the least we can do for our members who attend these schools. This points out the sad problem that all too often (at all levels of the garden club - regarding any number of chairmanships or offices) there is inadequate communication and transition of information, files, and records when there is a change of administrations or a change in those holding various garden club positions. We all owe it to the organizations we serve to be good stewards of the information and records we have dealt with in our positions and to pass that along to our successors on a timely basis.

Remember to access information about NGC Schools on the Schools pages of the NGC website, in The National Gardener, Keeping in Touch and Landscape Design School's Newscaper. We are always available via email to answer questions and provide information.

Environmental Schools – Patricia Rupiper – PatRupiper@gmail.com

Gardening Schools – Barbara Hadsell – BarbaraHadsell@cs.com

Landscape Design Schools – Greg Pokorski – GregPokorski@earthlink.net

Keep attending NGC schools and refreshers. "The top experts in the world are ardent students. The day you stop learning, you're definitely not an expert." Brendon Burchard

WILDFLOWER SYMPOSIUMS & WORKSHOPS GRANTS

A grant of up to \$500 is available to be used towards direct expenses for an educational program on wildflowers. State Garden Clubs, districts, councils and individual garden clubs may co-sponsor a symposium with state agencies, arboreta, native plant societies, or similar organizations. Gardeners are eager for information on native plants; state highway or transportation departments need publicity and support for their planting programs. Try to schedule the date when wildflowers are in bloom in your location.

Subjects to be covered:

- One or more topics on native flora: endangered species, plants for butterflies, plants for special habitats, identification using keys, invasive species management, etc.
- Public planting: state highways, rest areas, preservation of community natural areas.
- Propagation of wildflowers.
- Designing native plant gardens or developing natural trails.

To Apply:

- At least two months in advance send two copies of the tentative program and a copy of the proposed budget to this Chairman.
- If approved, half of the grant requested will be sent by NGC.
- At the conclusion of the workshop, within two months, send a short report, including a financial statement and number of people in attendance, two copies of the final program, and any publicity.

Download complete information and the grant application form from the NGC website.

Nancy Harris, Wildflower Symposiums & Workshops Grants Chairman
Nancyharris1190@gmail.com

HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

Emma pushes through the heavy doors. She rushes down the stairs red-faced and heart pounding. She was relieved to have entered the room with a little time to spare. She exchanged smiles with other gardeners as she quickly found a seat. Charlotte, a longtime member with a friendly demeanor, stopped by to greet her. As the gavel sounded, Charlotte scurried off to sit with her friends. Emma was left sitting alone at the table.

Emma was the newest member of the garden club. It was her second meeting, and Emma was anxious to be involved and gain new friends. After several more meetings, Emma stopped attending. The club members couldn't understand why she left. Emma couldn't understand why she wasn't accepted. Maybe Emma had the responsibility to be more assertive, but club members certainly had a greater responsibility to integrate Emma into their garden club.

Attracting new members to your garden club may be a frustrating and challenging process, but then losing a new member through neglect is truly an "unforced error" and a very common pitfall of many clubs! The following are tips to prevent member loss through neglect:

- The Club President should send a welcome letter to new members. A questionnaire inquiring as to their interests and expertise should accompany the welcome letter with a self-addressed envelope for easy return. The information may reveal interest and aptitude for club projects that new members would find interesting;
- A Fellowship Committee should develop strategies for members to develop friendships. Good fellowship will discourage the development of cliques within the club;
- The Courtesy Chair should link a new member to a club member who will be their "Garden Club Buddy." That person's assignment would be to contact the new members to see how they are doing, and to remind them to attend the next club meeting, event or activity. The "Garden Club Buddy" may even ask if the new member would like to go together to the next club activity;
- All club members should wear permanent name tags that are easily readable. Often people, both

new acquaintances and long-time members, are reluctant to keep asking one another for their names. They are embarrassed that they didn't remember the other person's name from prior introductions. Sadly, instead of asking one more time, they often just ignore each other. New members should receive their name tags at the second meeting. Take this opportunity to reintroduce the newer members to the club;

- Give a small gift (bulbs, packet of seeds or a small plant) to welcome new members at the first meeting and introduce them to the club;
- Give new members a club yearbook on their first day as a member. This reinforces to new members that they do belong to the organization! The yearbook will allow new members access to club information, member addresses, and phone numbers;
- Ask new members to join a committee and/or ask them to help with a project. The task can be small, but it will give new members a feeling of ownership and involvement in the club;
- Send out birthday cards to club members and cards for other occasions. It reminds all members that they are a part of the garden club family who cares for them.

Alex Schulz, VP Growth, Facebook.com states, "Retention is the single most important thing for growth."

Remember, it takes months to find a new member and only seconds to lose one.

- Donna Rouch, Membership Chairman



Planting for our pollinators is fun! Not only will you be rewarded with a dazzling display of color in your garden, but you will be introduced to an amazing variety of new "friends"!



Take A Byte JAN SILLIK, KIT ASSISTANT EDITOR

A column devoted to reviews of websites, with recommendations for those of interest to garden club members.

WWW.LONGWOODGARDENS.ORG

Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania is one of the tour selections during the NGC convention. Their beautiful website is a joy to view and relax with on a chilly winter day – a real treat for avid gardeners! A visit to the site will reveal gorgeous orchid photos. An Orchid Extravaganza event is underway now through the end of March, and there is a world of information on the topic of orchids on the site. OrKID DAYS is a part of the Orchid Extravaganza, and there are subheadings on Discovery Stations, Interactive Story Reading, and a Family Seek-and-Find to be held in the “orchid-filled conservatory” – all are sure to be a hit with children visiting Longwood Gardens. Topics on the website include: Membership, About, Dining, Shopping, Events & Performances, Education, Hours, Tickets, Maps and much more to make planning a visit a cinch! The site is well laid out and easy to navigate. The topics of History and News yield valuable information. Directions, Hours and Parking offer help, especially for first-time visitors.

Longwood is renowned for its extraordinary fountains, and there is a Festival of Fountains scheduled this summer featuring “more than 1,700 fountain jets and streams for the viewing pleasure of visitors.” This alone makes me want to visit the gardens as soon as time and circumstances permit!

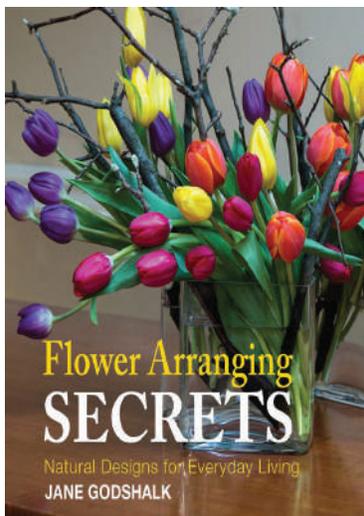
The site has a vast and comprehensive list of classes and workshops available during the year, although many have a waitlist. These include vegetable gardening, floral fun, wedding design, identifying winter woody plants, botanical illustration and sketching, fabric to dye for, performance pruning, inside the hive (bee information), Hogarth designs, and on and on. Jane Godshalk, a featured floral designer for the NGC Convention (see the website at left), is a frequent and popular instructor at Longwood. “Learn the old English tradition and ecological benefits of coppicing” is one of the more interesting topics to be found, and there is even a workshop on wattling.

This is a perfect site to visit and to dream about incorporating landscaping ideas into your garden. The beautiful photographs will lift your spirits, and you are sure to be motivated to plan a visit soon. We are fortunate to have an excellent website to introduce us to the magic of Longwood, whether it is new to us, or, if not, to re-introduce us to an old friend and all it has to offer.

WWW.JANEGODSHALK.COM

Jane Godshalk is an internationally renowned floral designer serving on the faculty at Longwood Gardens in addition to presenting workshops around the USA and the world. She has exhibited designs at the Chelsea Flower Show and numerous WAFAs shows. NGC members are lucky to be able to hear her presentation at the annual convention in Philadelphia on May 24. This site includes thumbnails and slideshows with fantastic floral design photos.

The website contains an informative article on Roots to Blooms that is an enjoyable read. The article covers “adventures in eco-friendly and sustainable floral design, gardening, nature, and photography.” There are excerpts on the site from Jane’s topical book, “Flower Arranging Secrets — Natural Designs for Everyday Living.” As the site states, “At the heart of Jane’s book is the idea that floral design is for everyone, and the book aims to demystify the process of arranging flowers for your home.” In the book, Jane shares many of her secrets, and you are sure to want to order a copy!



I found the site to be an excellent introduction to Jane Godshalk and a fountain of information about her work. As a fan, I especially enjoyed seeing the fruits

of her talents, and wish I could be in her classes/workshops at Longwood Gardens on a regular basis.

WHAT HEROES ARE MADE OF!

I was returning home from a delightful tour of the Hudson River Valley with my NGC friends and was feeling extremely social. So instead of just saying a quick hello to the older gentleman sitting beside me on the plane, I inquired about his trip from Chicago to Seattle – you know, the regular “Why are you going to Seattle – is that home?”

He pulled an object out of his shirt pocket and placed it in my hand.

The item he had placed in my hand wasn't immediately recognizable to me – there was a piece of metal attached to a pale blue ribbon. It wasn't very large, and it looked like it was made to be worn around the neck. Upon a closer look, I realized that it was a Medal of Honor and that I must be sitting next to a decorated war hero. (The Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest and most prestigious personal military decoration that may be awarded to recognize U.S. military service members who distinguished themselves by acts of valor.)

I looked at him again, paying closer attention. He appeared to be in his 80's, neatly dressed, a proud man holding himself tall, with hearing aids, a friendly smile, a fancy worn leather flight jacket, and alert eyes. The flight attendants seemed to know him, so I assumed he must fly quite a bit.

I had to know more about him. He didn't mind at all telling me, but I had to lead with the questions. He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush at the White House in 2007 for his actions as a helicopter pilot in 1965 in South Vietnam. During the Battle of Ia Drang, on November 14th, he flew 22 missions into the enemy fire that day in unarmed helicopters (changing to another one after they were damaged so severely that they couldn't fly any further). He evacuated more than 70 wounded and brought badly needed ammunition and supplies to U.S. forces. He saved many lives that day! But that was only one day in his life as a soldier. He served two tours in Vietnam. During his second tour, his helicopter was downed, and he spent five months in the hospital recovering from a broken back and other injuries. He served in the Army for 24 years, finally retiring in 1977 as a Lieutenant Colonel and was later promoted to Colonel. But, someone like him doesn't really retire. He went back to school to earn a Master's Degree and spent the next 20 years working in public service.

So, why was he in Chicago? He now travels around the country, whenever he's invited, spending his own money to visit with and give a message to school children. He tells them how important they are to their communities and tries to make them understand that they need to take an active part in what's going on around them. He takes his service dog, “Huey”, along with him – a little 7-pound ball of fur who is perfectly (and hilariously, I might add) trained. Huey also “hears” for him and, I'm sure, leaves a lasting impression on the kids.

He honors the medal that he was given, and feels a great responsibility to the United States to make them proud for awarding it to him. He tries to live every day with that mission in the forefront.

That's what heroes are made of!

But, you don't have to be a war hero to be a hero. A hero is also known as “A person who, in the opinion of others, has special achievements, abilities, or personal qualities and is regarded as a role model.” The decorated Medal of Honor recipient believes this. He doesn't strive to talk the children he meets into going into military service, but instead, **he wants them to be active in their communities and make a difference there.** Does that sound familiar? That describes many of our National Garden Clubs members, as well.

Many of you work tirelessly in your communities on a continuing basis, educating those around you, sharing your talents and specialized knowledge, and striving to sustain and beautify your world.

We need to make an individual effort to include our children in our activities. We know that they are our future. We can't make a lasting difference in our world without them. Let's each be the best role model that we can be! Let's do what we can to help educate them to be good stewards of our land, to care for all life around them, no matter how small, and to help make them better citizens and leaders in our communities.

For us, for our future, and for their future!

That, indeed, is what heroes are made of!

- Becky Hassebroek,
Wildlife Gardening Chairman

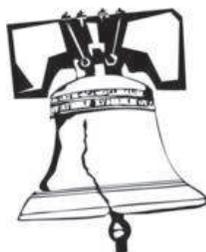
Around the Town



We hope to see many of you in the City of Brotherly Love to celebrate **Love Blooms in Philadelphia**. The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Board members, pictured below in their colorful **Love Blooms** T-shirts, are planning to excite and inspire us. Read about the speakers and tours in the winter issue of *The National Gardener*. Here are some of the sights and programs to enjoy while you're in Philly.



Chanticleer, Bartram's and Longwood Gardens, the Philadelphia Mint, and designs by Jane Godshalk



CURBS & COBBLESTONES GARDEN CLUB

Lowell, Massachusetts



Bonni Dinneen

As you're all well aware, National Garden Clubs offer accredited education in the fields of gardening, flower shows, landscape design and the environment. So many have asked, "What do you do with this information? Is it just for self-knowledge and interest? Of course, self-knowledge and interest is the general impetus to become a consultant, but why not use it to make a difference!

I do and did!

*Members, please don't think for one moment being a member of a garden club is sociably fanciful and singularly productive. As members, we should all be proactive in the protection of our environment. Don't be timid to use the fact that you are National Garden Clubs members, and state your environmental concerns to the local officials. **We have the responsibility to protect our land, resources and wildlife.** "It's a good thing!"*

~ Bonni Dinneen

The Curbs and Cobblestones Garden Club was created in 2005 to beautify the community and to educate the members and local residents. They've done that with a bang! Initially, they revitalized landscaping around McDermott Reservoir high atop Christian Hill with the help of a large grant and the city's Park Department. Next, they created a Blue Star Memorial garden connected to the existing Riverwalk. Under the guidance of club members, a butterfly garden containing natural milkweed plants was saved near the Blue Star area.



Recently, Five Star* club member Bonni Dinneen used her knowledge gained at National Garden Clubs schools to help her community. A property owner, near Bonni, stripped an abutting property of its natural wildlife habitat



A view of the affected wetland area from Bonni's screened porch.

usurping a protected wetland and wildlife sanctuary in preparation to turn it into a lawn. After an unproductive discussion with the recalcitrant neighbor, Bonni knew the right action plan and took her concern to Lowell's Conservation Commission. The Commission issued a Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and City Wetlands Ordinance Enforcement Order demanding the homeowner immediately undertake restoration of the area. As an added bonus to the town, the Lowell city manager invited Bonni to serve on the Commission! She and her club members are community "heroes" like those described on page 6.

**The Four Star program is designed to encourage garden club members to complete all four National Garden Clubs Schools and achieve Consultant and Judge Status. In order to achieve Five Star status, one must acquire Master status in each of the four National Garden Clubs Schools*

BOCA RATON GARDEN CLUB

Boca Raton, Florida

Color our Canopy



For over 35 years, the Beautification Committee of Boca Raton has been improving shade canopy, planting trees, and recognizing local entities for maintaining exceptional landscaping. Currently, trees are offered in 15 gallon containers at a price subsidized by the City of Boca Raton. The city has qualified as a TREE CITY USA awarded by the National Arbor Day Association for more than 37 years. Members of the Boca Raton Garden Club are partners with the Beautification Committee. The club's long commitment to this program is demonstrated through the sale of 54 yellow Tabebuia (*Tabebuia impetiginosa*) in 2015, 46 Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) in 2016, and 25 Hong Kong Orchid (*Bahinia arborea*) and 25 orange Geiger (*Cordeia sebastiania*) in 2017. They also sell Bulnesia (*Bulnesia arborea*) and Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). In this way, the Boca Raton Garden Club teams with other civic groups to *Color our Canopy*.



Photos by Eve Reed, Liaison to the Boca Raton Beautification Committee

THE GARDEN CLUB OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

Durham and Raleigh

To students at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, a flower isn't something you arrange in a vase. It's a keyhole that leads into the outside world, a curiosity you turn over in your hands to feel the smoothness and moisture. It's something you bring to your nose to understand the difference between sweet and bitter.

The garden began, accidentally, with Helen Keller. In 1935, the Alabama activist had long since overcome the deafness and blindness that left her almost without language as an infant and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Radcliffe College — then a women's annex for Harvard University. By the time she came to Raleigh that year, Keller had blossomed into a celebrated lecturer and writer, speaking nationwide on behalf of women's suffrage, worker's rights, and aid for the disabled.

Martha Franck, a garden club leader from Durham, heard Keller's halting voice. Keller planted a seed in Franck's brain. She would create a new garden for the blind, a place that would let the sightless experience the natural world through scents, sounds, and textures.

Garden visitors see Franck's enthusiasm today, chiseled on a black wall in the garden that shares her name:

The garden continues to grow through a partnership between the Governor Morehead School and the Garden Club of North Carolina. As the project chairman to relocate the garden from Butner to Raleigh, Sara Brooks recalls visiting similar gardens all over the country. The goal was clear: create a feast for all five senses. The garden was dedicated at the Morehead School in 2001, and Brooks' most precious memories came from people rather than plants.



"I was sitting on the grass with some of the kids," Brooks recalls, "and I said, 'We're the ones who fixed the garden for you.' They said nothing and took my arm. They couldn't see me, but they could feel me. They'll get next to your heart."

The world takes shape inside the **Martha Franck Fragrance Garden**, inviting a curious mind to take inventory of its variety. What if you had never seen a tree and had to learn its qualities by hand? What would you make of a thick trunk as you wrapped your hands around it or the ruts in its bark as you traced them with your finger?

A poem by Louis, age 14, describes his experience in the garden.

A lot of leaves fall on me,
While I'm standing under an oak tree.
I hear birds chirping up in the sky,
I wish I could see them with just one eye.
I hear the leaves all falling down,
I touch the grass and plants.
I feel something crawling on me,
I think it may be ants.

continued on page 11

Louis can't see the trees, the sky, the leaves, or the bugs, but they speak to him inside the garden — ambassadors from a larger, richer world.

Excerpted from "A Sense of the World" by Josh Shaffer, *Our State* magazine, January 2011.

Reprinted by permission of the publisher.



Raleigh Garden Club, NC. A gazebo in the Martha Franck Fragrance Garden.

To feel the leaves, to smell the flowers, to be a part of the cycle of life and growth is to give the gift of hope and a reason for tomorrow.



The Lucille B. Carloftis Garden is a healing garden at the cancer wing of Baptist Health-Lexington, KY. It is intended to be a place of solace and beauty for all who visit.

Please send pictures of your club's Healing or Sensory gardens to [Carcille Burchette](#), Chairman of Healing Gardens for Hope & Awareness. These pictures will be used in NGC publications and on social media.

Healing Gardens



(Above) A "Plant It Pink" garden installed by the Garden Club of Elizabethtown in Elizabethtown, KY. It has been described as beautiful, inspiring and comforting. One of the members was experiencing cancer for the fourth time, and the garden became her chance to give something special to cancer survivors and bring honor to those that had not survived.

(Below) a "Plant It Pink" garden at a church in Raleigh, NC.



A sensory garden installed by the Gallatin Empire Garden Club at the Gallatin County Rest Home, Bozeman, MT.



DELAWARE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Center for Families of the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base



Inspired by an article in 2010 about the new Center for Families of the Fallen (the CFF) at Dover Air Force Base, Alice Witterholt, then President of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs (DFGC), proposed installing a private garden for the families who come to Dover to participate in the dignified transfer of their loved one.

DFGC raised money for this garden, often in very creative and inspired ways. Major support was offered by Renee Blaschke, President of NGC at the time, sister garden clubs from across the nation, The Longwood Foundation, and the Crystal Foundation. Many contractors and suppliers donated their services and materials. Members worked alongside military personnel to make the garden a reality.

On May 31, 2011, less than a year and a half after the idea was conceived, the garden was dedicated and "gifted to the Air Force." The DFGC also installed a Blue Star Memorial Marker in the garden - a very appropriate location.



The DFGC arranges for the garden at the Center for Families of the Fallen to be maintained and cared for. The Federation is deeply grateful for each gift that made this garden and its care possible .



Photos by Ken Arni.