



Keeping In Touch

February 2017



Sandra H. Robinson

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

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We make resolutions for the year and work to make them a part of our daily life. What do you want to change in 2017?

How productive were you as a volunteer last year? Did your club achieve the goals set for membership, fund-raising, community involvement, or youth-related projects, or any number of other challenges our members accept? Let's cheer for those accomplished and applaud for those still active.

Did you resolve to take a new office, chairmanship, or project? Do you have what it takes to mentor a new member or a youth/club? Is it your desire to complete one or more of the NGC schools or become a four or five-star member?

Garden clubs often take a well-deserved break from many of their monthly projects and programs while planning for the new year. Thankfully, this time allows us to renew our energy and enthusiasm for our club work. The need for those who care, and the list of issues that affects us daily, is growing. With the warmer days of spring and longer daylight hours, we find our desire to garden, nurture our creativity, and kick start our community improvement projects returning.

Does the work matter? Do you matter? YES! Volunteers are vital. The Points of Light Philanthropy's (CECP) Valuation Guide lists the current independent sector rate at \$23.56 per hour (2015) and pro bono work as calculated using the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy's Calculation Guide. The Corporation for National & Community Service reports 36.29% participation in group/organizations, 7.8 million volunteers, for an estimated value of \$184 billion.

The valuation of annual contributions made by NGC's members would reveal the dedication and passion of men and women who are committed to education, their communities, and the objectives of garden clubs. Do NGC and garden clubs matter? Ask the student who received a scholarship, the community who could not pay for beautification projects, the school that is strapped for money and resources, the youth who needed someone to guide and work with him, or the recipient of garden therapy who felt renewed from the connection with nature. Local garden clubs make a difference.

It is easy to find excuses for not joining an organization, for not participating in projects and programs, for taking the easy path. We are proudest of the things that require the most of our time, resources, and passion. The challenge for 2017 is to continue talking the talk and walking the walk, to **Leap into Action** with renewed energy and drive. I hope to cross the finish line with you!

Sandra H. Robinson

PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

February 2	Flower Show, Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Denver, CO
March 4	Utah Associated Garden Clubs
March 17	Philadelphia Flower Show
March 19-20	The Garden Club of Illinois State Convention
March 26-28	South Atlantic Region Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WV
March 28-30	West Virginia Garden Clubs State Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WV
April 3-4	Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Convention, Charlottesville, VA
April 9-11	The Garden Club of North Carolina Convention, Greensboro, NC
April 12-13	The Garden Club of Kentucky Convention, Barren River, KY
April 18-19	Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs State Convention, Gatlinburg, TN
April 20	Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs State Meeting, Dagsboro, DE
April 21	Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs Convention, Phoenix, AZ
April 23-25	Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Convention, Poconos, PA
April 27-29	The Garden Club of South Carolina
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



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NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

GREG POKORSKI, ES, GS AND LD SCHOOLS
COORDINATOR

NGC's Schools Committees thank all those who conducted, attended or promoted school courses or refreshers in 2016. We hope your experience was rewarding and informative. We welcome your feedback. Congratulations to those who became Consultants in 2016. We hope that those students who have begun schools will complete them. We hope that Consultants will participate in Consultants Councils, use information from the schools to the benefit of your clubs and communities, and continue to expand your knowledge base by attending refresher courses and events.

Gardening Study School recently launched a Consultants newsletter. See the bottom of the GSS page on our website. And, don't forget to read Newscape, the Landscape Design School newsletter, available at the bottom of the LDS page on the website. Thanks to Cathy Felton and Caroline Carbaugh for providing useful information to our students and Consultants.

In the last issue of KIT (page 7), we told you that we would provide suggestions for observing **National Consultants Day** – during National Garden Week (June 4 – 10, 2017). Here they are:

Things that a Consultants Council can do during National Garden Week:

1. Organize an educational program open to the public
2. Promote an environmental, gardening or landscape workshop for consultants and members of the state garden clubs
3. Collaborate with a school (young or older students) - either teaching some aspect of good environmental, gardening or landscape practices, etc., presenting a program, or giving plants or information sheets away to students & teachers
4. Have a program and invite other gardening-related organizations to participate in a program
5. Have an open garden day of members with teaching at each garden
6. Plan a work day (outdoors) at a non-profit center - Audubon, land trust, AMC/Sierra Club, etc.

Things that an individual Consultant can do during National Garden Week:

1. Volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity house (or similar non-profit) to do some outdoor cleanup/planting

2. Present an environmental, gardening or landscape program at a school or nursing home
3. Give a program/workshop at your local library
4. Invite gardening friends - (not necessarily NGC members) to your garden and teach them about how your garden works - or does not work - problems and good environmental, gardening and landscape solutions, etc.
5. Write an article on any of these NGC school subjects for your local newspaper and your club, district, council, state or region newsletters and provide us with information about your activities so that we can share your ideas in NGC publications
6. Help a neighbor/friend who needs guidance or help in their garden or yard

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and its Tri-Council will be considering a plan to contact its NGC Schools Consultants to set up a program with county library systems for children's workshops to be presented by Consultants on pollinators. It will include a slide show and some simple crafts with a take home for parents about garden club membership. Local newspapers, TV, social media, as well as the public library newsletter network, will be used to advertise. Additional ideas from Florida: public workshops on water issues and fracking, present children and parents information on bee-keeping, pollinators, and wildlife refuges. Utilize BEE a Wildlife Action Hero! using NGC themes. Provide programs on summer gardening challenges.



How about launching a new school during National Garden Week? ***Leap into Action!***

Please advise us of the results of your brainstorming. What activities are you planning? By all means, let us know how they turn out. We want to recognize you and appreciate you and share your knowledge during National Garden Week.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK, JUNE 4-10, 2017

MARSHA ALEXANDER, CHAIRMAN

National Garden Week offers many possibilities to promote the NGC objectives of beautification, gardening, and environmental efforts. It is also an ideal time to share the service of garden club members in the community, and encourage new members, as well as the general public, to join in those efforts. Use this special week to educate and inspire pride in your community.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

BARBARA HADSELL, GSS CHAIRMAN

Are you ready to ***Leap Into Action*** with springtime PLANTING and PLANNING? Do you have a Gardening Study School planned in your state? Is this consideration on your spring planning agenda? The differences between planning a Flower Show School Course or a Symposium and a Gardening Study School are many.

State presidents, district directors, and club presidents, please review again how easy it is to hold a Gardening Study School, as outlined by Greg Pokorski, ESS, GSS and LDS Chairman. "A presentation was made to state presidents and region directors to make sure they know that administration of Environmental Studies, **Gardening Study**, and Landscape Design Schools differs from (and in many ways may be easier than) Flower Show School (FSS). There are no time restrictions between our courses. The sponsoring club, district, council, state or region may hold one course per year or one per week or handle in any manner that you choose. *You use local instructors and do not draw from a limited pool of NGC instructors as is the case with FSS. You do not pay for their transportation and lodging (other than perhaps a mileage allowance).* Some subjects may be taught by representatives of cooperative extensions and agriculture departments with a minimal honorarium. Don't dismiss the thought of conducting a school, thinking that it may be too much work or too costly, without talking to our NGC Schools Chairmen." GSS contact info: barbarahadsell@cs.com, 561-635-8809 phone or text. Our "tuition" of \$65-\$75 per student for each of the four, two-day courses is usually more than enough to cover all expenses. **FUND-RAISING OUT—GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL IN!**

Regarding **National Consultants Day**—please see details and suggestions in this issue. It would help communications to all Consultants if our local databases contained the name of the garden club of each student. One line added to the local registration form with the information added by the registrar to the local spreadsheet could make this happen. Consultant information would now be available by district for not only National Consultant Day/National Garden Week activities but also sources for club programs, local landscape projects, youth activities, etc. Yes, there is life for Consultants after NGC Schools!

Please check out the excellent 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>.

And lastly, we are anxiously awaiting your article and photos to publish in our next Gardening Consultants Council newsletter found at <http://gardenclub.org/resources/gss-forms/ngc-gcc-newsletter-1116.pdf>.

Happy Gardening!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

JANE BERSCH, CHAIRMAN

Many states have chosen to *Leap into Action* in the spring, planning Landscape Design Schools for their members. After the cold wintry weather, planning of gardens will be most welcome.

A reminder to the State Landscape Design Chairman that the exams only require five multiple choice questions for each topic. In Courses I, II, III, there are nine topics, each with five questions, plus the TNG LDS article with its five questions. In Course IV, there are six topics, each with five questions, plus the TNG LDS article with its five questions. Each student may earn 30 points to cover the Evaluating the Landscape Designs of Residential, Public and Business Property tour.

Landscape Design Schools State Chairmen are urged to remind their Consultants and Master Consultants of their impending expiration of credentials should they not refresh. Waiting until the five years can easily result in possible loss of credentials. Consultants are also responsible for being aware of their requirement to refresh before five years.

A PATH TO BEAUTY -- MEMBERSHIP

JULIE SCHOENIKE

- After showing photos of your beautiful flowers as well as the ribbons you've won, offer your friends advice and encouragement as to how to accomplish these beauties.
- Spend some time looking through early catalogs and "wish." The "sky is the limit" while shopping and ordering plants.
- Pull together a group of interested friends to offer outlined steps to planting a specific flower. When the bed is prepared, all that is left to do is the planting. Help your friends follow the general rules that you provide.
- Spend time with the plants and water throughout the season. Enjoy the blooms.
- Enter a flower show and help friends prepare their exhibits. Hopefully, everyone will take home a couple of ribbons. Ask them to join your garden club!

You not only have planted new plants, but you have new members "hooked" on competing.

BEE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO COMMIT TO GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

BECKY HASSEBROEK, HABITAT CHAIRMAN

ARCTIC FOXES "GROW" THEIR OWN GARDENS, TOO!

We know that humans aren't the only gardeners in the world, but did you know that the little carnivorous Arctic Fox is responsible for beautiful oases in the arctic tundra?

They have been dubbed by scientists as "ecosystem engineers." In Northern Alaska, these six to 12-pound foxes prey mostly on lemmings and small game. They must take refuge in underground dens to stay warm and protect their young from the elements. The dens are re-used year after year and, beyond being beautiful, those areas around them add a boost to the Arctic environment, with the lush vegetation and greater plant diversity providing herbivores rich forage spots. It seems that their "organic waste supports almost three times as much botanical biomass in summer months as the rest of the tundra."

We may still think that there is so much natural area around us that we don't need to "garden for wildlife." But that's not true, especially around our major metropolitan areas. Let's learn from this little animal and become "ecosystem engineers," as well!



Photograph by Daniel J. Cox, Article By Adam Popescu, as published by National Geographic. For the entire article, please go to: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/05/160520-arctic-foxes-animals-science-alaska/>

MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

CLAUDETTE SMITH, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Milne House Garden Club in Toronto, Canada is one of NGC's International Affiliates. They like to mix it up to attract and keep members.

Milne House Garden Club was founded on April 11, 1967. It was named to perpetuate the historical association of the Edwards Gardens area with Alexander Milne, the original owner of the property which was part of a 500 acre Crown Land Grant given in the early 1800's. Mr. Milne was a poet and the author of Winnie-the-Pooh stories. The Milne House, built on the brow of the hill close to Lawrence Avenue, was destroyed by fire in 1964 and was replaced by a Tea House erected on the old foundation. A pink rose became the symbol of the club. To celebrate its 20th anniversary in 1987, a miniature pink rose was hybridized by Keith Laver of Springwood Consultants and named the Alexander Milne rose. Plans are underway to celebrate the club's 50th Anniversary in April this year.

Milne House Garden Club meets nine times a year (excluding December, July, and August). Meetings include speakers, slides, films, panel discussions, workshops and flower and horticulture shows judged by accredited judges. Activities include workshops in horticulture and floral design, flower shows open to the public, and volunteer and financial support for activities and projects of the Toronto Botanical Garden. Field trips are taken to destinations that provide members with great garden experiences.

Several of the members are instructors of classes and workshops presented at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, as well as being accredited judges who are constantly in demand at many horticultural and flower shows.

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECTS

BECKY HASSEBROEK, COMMITTEE MEMBER

Remember that the NGC President's Special Projects Awards deadline is March 15th. To view the available awards, go to the NGC website, click on Projects, then President's Projects, then "Service in Action." Sections four and five will explain the available awards and how to apply. Incredible monetary awards are available, as well as beautiful Certificates of Participation signed by President Sandy for each participant. Let's show our NGC President that we support her and the special projects she holds dear to her heart by applying for these awards – and "bringing home the money!" Questions? Contact Becky Hassebroek, beckyhasse@aol.com.

PLANT IT PINK

CARCILLE BURCHETTE, CHAIRMAN

Now is a good time for planning your spring gardens. Consider having your club members commit to planting a **Plant It Pink** garden where they live. It could be a ground planting or a pot overflowing with vibrant pink flowers. Can you imagine the impact on our communities if each club made such a commitment?

As you drive through your community, 'Think Pink' and look for places where you can install a **Plant It Pink** garden. Libraries, schools, tourism centers, city parks, city halls, courthouses, nursing homes, community centers, churches, and even businesses are all potential spots for **PIP** gardens. Please remember that a beautiful pot of pink flowers can be THE garden.

October is breast cancer awareness month, but there is no need to wait until then to promote breast cancer awareness through **PIP**. Contact your local American Cancer Society and make plans to participate in their walks and runs. Often there will be several in your area since school groups have them for ACS. The race organizers will do the behind-the-scenes organization. A small table with pink flowers will give your club an opportunity to share **PIP** with others, as well as to meet potential new club members. Active clubs draw civic-minded individuals.

And don't forget to contact local schools, especially high schools. Many high schools require community service hours for graduation, and many school clubs require service hours as well. The club sponsors would welcome a **Plant It Pink** project!

You are probably aware that NGC did not approve the sale of **Plant It Pink** markers and tee-shirts. We had hoped these markers would designate a private or public pink garden as a **PIP** garden. Passersby would know the purpose of the pink flowers -- promoting breast cancer awareness AND National Garden Clubs. Please contact me if you are interested in getting information about how to purchase a **PIP** marker and/or tee-shirt.

Continue to 'Think Pink'! Awareness and education are essential to minimizing the effects of this dreaded disease. Thank you for all your pink gardens!

PLEASE SHARE THIS ISSUE WITH A CLUB MEMBER

NGC WEBSITE

POSS TARPLEY, CHAIRMAN

Many of us keep records for our garden clubs, districts, regions, you name it. Nothing is more distressing than to have some event (power surge, cat walking on keyboard, etc.) suddenly wipe out files that are current and are needed when updates occur. Sometimes the files can be retrieved by consulting the whiz kids at Office Depot, Best Buy or an independent business, but more often, when the files are gone, they are gone forever.

Putting all files for a particular subject or task on a dedicated flash drive can help keep track and keep safe important material. For instance, all documents, reports and such for a school in progress can be put on a flash drive.

Backing up files is important for peace of mind at the very least and for reference when necessary. Please consider using an external hard drive to back up your files. Do it regularly, if possible, and certainly back up a file every time it is updated.

FOUR AND FIVE STAR PROGRAM

JULIE SCHOENIKE, CHAIRMAN

Increase your gardening knowledge and expand your interests. Now is the season to take advantage of NGC Schools! Begin your "claim to fame" with a Four or Five Star Certificate.

Check the NGC website for further instructions as to how you can accomplish this. NGC Schools offer a wealth of learning, and refreshing keeps you updated as to new procedures and products. Learning about gardening, landscaping, horticulture and floral design, and the environment can indeed be a "fun activity". Join the group and make your club or state stronger with the information offered by the NGC Schools.

Check your credits as you might already have taken the required credits to earn a Four or Five Star Certificate. The Five Star requires that you hold master status in all four schools.

This is a proud honor for a National Garden Club member as these members are a distinguished few!

HORTICULTURE

—SOME APPS AND SOME BOOKS

JANE SORENSEN

Here's a short list of some horticulture applications (apps).

Leafsnap: This is a free, electronic field guide, developed by Columbia University, University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution, which allows you to identify trees from photographs of their leaves. The guide contains pictures of tree leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds and bark. This app is for Apple devices. There are also middle school curricular materials available at https://www.cny.cuny.edu/education/unifying_life_site

Audubon Trees: This app contains 716 North American tree species. It has information on leaves, bark, fruits and seeds, along with many photographs. This app is available for Apple and Android devices and costs \$4.99.

Audubon Wildflowers: This app contains information on thousands of wildflowers of North America, searchable by name, shape, type, and more. Available for Apple and Android devices and costs \$4.99.

Great Smokey Mountain Wildflowers, version 2.0: This app covers 178 of the most common wildflowers in the GSM, mostly herbaceous plants, with a few small shrubs and woody vines. It includes pictures and descriptions, covering approximate size, flower color, leaf type and arrangement, flowering period, and more. This is available for Android and Apple devices and costs \$2.99.

Plants Pedia: This app covers over 40,000 common plants, including photographs, scientific and common name, growth habits, fruit and seed, leaves, states where they can be found, etc. It identifies plants based on information you enter. It also allows you to browse plants by name and state. This app is available for Apple and costs \$5.99.

Garden Answers: This app allows you to identify a plant based on a picture you take. It also includes information about specific plant care requirements. It also offers the option to send a question to a horticultural expert, for a fee of \$1.99 per question. This app is available for Apple and Android and is free.

Garden Compass Plant: This app allows you to search a database based on certain features, or to pair a photograph you have taken with its closest match. The app is free.

And for those who have no interest in apps, here are a few books for the long cold winter.

The Botany of Desire, Michael Pollan (This one has been around a while, but it's a good read.)

The Triumph of Seeds, Thor Hanson

Flower Confidential: The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful, Amy Stewart

Editor's Note: This timely article is reprinted from the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs' Old Dominion Gardener. Jane Sorensen may be reached at jhsfarm@aol.com.



GARDENERS ACROSS OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY ARE BEING CHALLENGED TO PLANT A MILLION POLLINATOR GARDENS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

WON'T YOU HELP?

PLEASE SHARE THE CHALLENGE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND REGISTER YOUR POLLINATOR GARDENS! It can be a new garden or an existing garden to which you've added plants for pollinators, your own garden or a community garden or a public area.

Find this logo on our website www.gardenclub.org and it will take you to the Pollinator Partnership SHARE map where you can register your gardens. Be sure to tell them you're part of NGC!

Questions? BeckyHasse@aol.com.

NEWS FROM THE REGION DIRECTORS

NEW ENGLAND

Vera Bowen, Director

<http://www.ngcner.org>

Many of our states have snow, and the temperatures are very, very cold! This is the time of year that we take the time to snuggle up by the fire with a hot drink as we start pouring over the seed and plant catalogs that have started to arrive. Filled with the latest plants, they bring a promise of warmer weather and a chance to watch the wonders of our gardens transform for yet another season.



This director continued to visit clubs. In late November two clubs had Holiday Design Demonstrations that were both fun and filled with new ideas for holiday designs.

The New England Region held its Annual Meeting in Milford, Massachusetts in October. What a wonderful event. Diane Bullock, along with Helga Frazette and Nancy Donaldson were an amazing team. Thank you.

The main topic of the meeting was deciding as to the continuation of the New England Region. We talked for quite some time. Everyone was given a chance to ask questions and provide comments. We brought it to a vote, which was almost unanimous. So, once we receive our 501(c)3, we will be New England Garden Clubs, Inc (NEGC).

This shake-up has proven to make us take a look at what the Region means to us and reaffirm our desire to remain together. Things will be different, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. As we move forward, we will continue to grow and promote the goals and objectives of NGC.

May the New Year bring a new beginning for us all.

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

CENTRAL ATLANTIC

<http://www.ngccar.org>

Anne M. Bucher, Director

The past three months have been a very productive time for The Central Atlantic Region. In September the Region obtained their EIN number, became incorporated, and applied for and received their 501(c)3 status which has enabled it to become financially independent from National Garden Clubs, as requested. The Region will now be known as The Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs.



In October, the Central Atlantic Conference was held at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs, New York. It was a beautiful setting for a well-attended meeting. Tours of the historic area going back to the American Revolution were visited as well as the famous Saratoga Springs Race Track and Spa. There was lots of participation in the workshops and at the vendors' tables. The programs presented featured "Hunting the Elusive Orchid," a Floral Design Show "Surrounding Symphony of Flowers" given by On Thai a designer from New York, and a very special program featuring former CAR Directors who spoke lovingly about their job as a Director. Six of the past and one present Director presided. It was a celebration with music, balloons, and fun for all the members to enjoy and remember wonderful memories of The Central Atlantic Region.

All seven states participated in the Region project of holding Leadership workshops during the past 18 months. A total of 17 workshops were held, and over 850 members attended. Attendees received booklets with information to help them encourage and develop other members to become leaders in garden club activities. I am very proud of our CAR Presidents and their workshop chairmen for doing such an excellent job encouraging garden club members to become leaders and mentors to help grow National Garden Clubs.

During the winter months, this Region Director attended the Executive Board meeting in Atlanta in January and will work on an update of the Bylaws and insurance for the Region. No dull moments!

SOUTH ATLANTIC

<http://www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org/>

Sarah Ann Parler, Director

The coastal areas of South Atlantic Region states of South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia have suffered the wrath of hurricanes during the fall of 2016. Kentucky and West Virginia, no strangers to the devastation from storms themselves, also suffered from the effects of tornadoes and flooding. Businesses will rebuild, and lands that were flooded will eventually drain off and be able to grow much-needed crops in the spring, but lives that were lost cannot be replaced. Those who were lost will be remembered for all they contributed to this nation during their time on this earth.



All of our garden club members in this Region are nurturers of this earth and will be valuable rebuilders of our damaged towns, cities, and states. So many times, we have planted our gardens, and the waters came, or the drought hit. Then we replanted as best we could. Operating large farms is a challenge during the best conditions. Sometimes the growing season has passed, and the losses are immense. To all of our members, I wish for you God Speed in overcoming difficulties and know if we are given time, we will return to where we began years ago.

I appreciate all of the work the SAR Officers, State Presidents and the members of the SAR Board have done since this term began in the fall of 2015. Read their reports in Key Notes and KIT publications and be grateful that we have all of them to keep you abreast of the work they have contributed with their chairmanships.

On behalf of the SAR Board, I wish all of the South Atlantic Region members and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. members a belated "Merry Christmas" and "Happy and Blessed New Year." We look forward to meeting for the SAR Convention on March 26-28 at the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

DEEP SOUTH

Carol M. Bullard, Director

<http://dsregion.org>

The Deep South Region Convention, "Naturally New Orleans," will be hosted by The Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. at Harrah's Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 26-28, 2017. The Convention will feature a regional flower show, garden tours, informative speakers, workshops and lots of good food and fun. A Tri-Refresher will follow the Convention on March 29th. Details are on the Region website (above).



The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. is looking forward to sponsoring ESS Courses III and IV on February 7-10, 2017 at Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, MS. Crosby Arboretum is the premier native plant conservatory in the Southeast. The 104 acre Native Plant Center serves as the focus of Arboretum activities and development. It has become a resource for education in the region and the world. Crosby Arboretum is open to the public and offers many educational activities. More information can be found at crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu.

All six of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. Fall District Meetings were informative and entertaining. The seven district directors did a great job planning and presenting the meetings. Veterans' Day celebrations were held around the state. I attended the Baton Rouge ceremony, then drove to Hammond for their Veterans' Day program and dedication of a Blue Star Highway Marker at Zemurray Park. These programs make us proud to be Americans. LGCF thanks DSR Director Carol Bullard for establishing the Natural Disasters – Louisiana 2016 fund. Over \$18,000 will be used on refurbishing areas that were damaged or destroyed by the Great Flood of 2016. Thanks, too, to everyone who contributed to the fund.

Georgia has been promoting native plants throughout the state and has sponsored Environmental Schools as well as Flower Show Schools. Plans are underway now for another Gold Star Memorial Marker honoring the families of our veterans that have served, are serving and will serve this great country. The Garden Club of Georgia Convention, to be held at Callaway Gardens April 18-20, will be a fabulous event. This Director will install the 2017-2019 officers. The Awards and Scholarship Committees are evaluating awards submissions and scholarships for students interested in our environment. Georgia is still sowing seeds of knowledge and reaping conservation with incredible beauty.

The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. membership is currently concerned and focusing on helping our friends, neighbors and fellow Tennesseans who have suffered great losses of life and personal property in East Tennessee. The wildfires that ravaged a part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and parts of Sevier County, Tennessee, are responsible for 14 deaths, 191 injuries, damage or destruction of more than 2,400 structures, and more than \$500 million in damages to date. TFGC has set up a Sevier County/Gatlinburg, TN Disaster Fund under the direction of Dixie Seaton, a member of the federated garden club in that county, and our Natural Disasters Chairman Larry Wilson. We are awaiting contact with county and city officials to see where TFGC can help most with the great need of replacing horticulture (mostly trees and shrubs) in the devastated areas. In the fall, TFGC clubs dedicated three Blue Star Memorial Markers and the first Gold Star Memorial Marker in the state. Our "Greens Tea" held at TFGC headquarters in Ivan Racheff Park and Gardens in Knoxville had a record number of attendees and made a record profit from sales of greenery, holiday items, and baked goods. Proceeds are used for upkeep of this 1902 house and gardens. The Winter Board Meeting will be at the Tennessee Executive Residence where a "Freedom Tree" will be dedicated in the recently completed Level II Arboretum. In February, TFGC will host a Gardening Studies School, Course III, in Chattanooga and a Flower Show Symposium in Memphis.

In November, the Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. held its first "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" at the American Village where patriotism is never forgotten. Thanks go out to Tom Walker and his family for developing such a project with a beautiful setting to honor so many veterans. With the New Year, Alabama hopes to put plans in place that will better the organization -- plans that will improve efficiency in certain areas. Standing still does not accomplish anything except to make one stiff and state garden clubs need to be flexible moving forward.

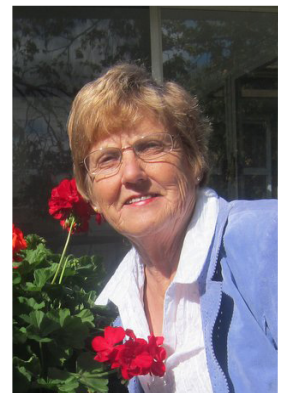
CENTRAL

Judy Newman, Director

<http://ngccentralregion.org>

It is time to look forward to 2017, but also to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of 2016.

The Central Region is planning the 2017 Convention to be held in Wisconsin Dells the first week in October. More information to follow on the Central Region website, Facebook page and CR Newsletter.



The Region Directors are a vital communication link between the states, districts, clubs and members with National Garden Clubs. As Director of Central Region, my focus has been “Cultivating Connections” on all levels. Garden Clubs and their members have and continue to do so much to beautify their communities and homes.

The monthly club programs serve to educate the public of all ages. I encourage all of the state presidents and Schools chairmen to promote the NGC Schools. Sponsoring more schools is a way to ensure the regions, states, districts and clubs can maintain the 501(c)3 status. Invite neighbors and members to attend the schools.

It has been a joy to see the NGC and Central Region logos on so many publications, brochures, signs, letters, etc.

The best part of serving as Central Region Director is creating new and maintaining gardening friendships. Let us continue to “Cultivate Connections” throughout 2017.

SOUTH CENTRAL
<http://ngcscr.com>

Barbara S. Baker, Director

The South Central Region has adopted “Protecting the Migratory Path of the Monarch Butterfly” with habitat protection, planting milkweed and networking with National Wildlife Federation on establishing Monarch Waystations - and with North America Butterfly Association, Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, and NGC Bee a Wildlife Action Hero project. In March our clubs will be applying for 12 \$300 grants for youth butterfly projects.



We have promoted the NWF Mayor’s Monarch Pledge. Municipalities can provide habitat at public parks, median strips, community gardens and municipal buildings, schools, and businesses. Simple changes can be made in landscaping ordinances, school grounds policies and educating citizens about how and where to grow milkweed.

In Texas, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price signed the Mayor’s pledge, and NWF helped organize the “Fort Worth Pollinator Ambassadors” with members from Fort Worth ISD, US Fish & Wildlife, FW Zoo, FW Botanic Garden, Tarrant County College, Master Gardeners, garden clubs, etc. Great networking!

The North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas planted a Monarch Waystation at a community swimming pool, and the Native Prairies Association of Texas celebrated the fall migration with the 2nd Annual Great Seed Bomb. Adults and lots of kids met at the Zoo to make 5,000 muddy seed balls filled with milkweed and nectar seed and threw them from bicycles and cars. www.texasprairie.org and www.greatseedbomb.org. For 19 years, the Grapevine Garden Club has co-hosted the annual “Butterfly Flutterby” with the City of Grapevine. Each October citizens celebrate the fall migration from Canada to Mexico with events that include a Butterfly Costume Parade, butterfly crafts, exhibits and a scavenger hunt. Members have displays of plants, caterpillars, and a much-anticipated plant sale.

With an initial donation of \$25 Bella Vista Garden Club members in Arkansas received seed and began propagation of *Asclepias* seed. One of their many projects included setting up a large Monarch display at Benton County Master Gardener Expo in April 2016 with hand-outs, photos, caterpillars and *Asclepias* plants and nectar plants for sale. In fall 2016, members gathered and packaged their own seeds and gave them away at Bella Vista Farmers Market; 300 more packages were given away at the October Fall Plant Sale. The Garden Club of Rogers adopted a study program “The Effects of Native and Invasive Plants on Insect and Bird Life in the Ozarks.” In October 2015, the club’s Youth Committee gave a program on Monarch butterflies to 120 4-5-year-olds with caterpillars, chrysalis, and butterflies. Each classroom was given a butterfly habitat with chrysalis and caterpillars to feed and release. Planting pollinator container gardens are planned for Pre-K students this March. The club has maintained two flower beds in Tower Park since 1997 and replanted them totally in native plants for pollinators.

Although not on the major Monarch migratory path, New Mexico volunteers tag and study Monarchs that overwinter in Arizona through Southwest Monarch Study. More than 300 other species abound in New Mexico. NM Bird/Butterfly Chairman Jo Ann Layden attended the Texas Butterfly Festival in Mission, Texas held with the North American Butterfly Association biennial meeting. She spotted 64 different species the first day! In June 2015, NMGC participated in the “Butterfly Education and Awareness Day” sponsored by Wings of Enchantment Butterfly Farm, an Albuquerque company. Members in District I taught pollinator and Monarch projects at the annual Sunflower Youth Summer Camps in July of 2015 and 2016. The Blooming Gardener Youth Club created Monarch butterfly workbooks and wrote poems about pollinators. In 2015, Morning Garden Club and Home Garden Club helped plant 25 large concrete planters with colorful native annuals and perennials up and down Main Street in Roswell. Morning Garden Club also planted two butterfly gardens in Cahoon Park.

Oklahoma Garden Clubs held a Monarch butterfly art contest and created note cards to sell. The 2015 youth contests included butterfly posters for the Monarch butterfly and the milkweed for their wildflower posters. OGC will sponsor a Monarch Butterfly Celebration on April 21, 2017 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Governor Mary Fallin will present a Proclamation for promoting the preservation of the Monarch butterfly and its pathway. Both the Oklahoma City and Muskogee Mayors have signed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. The Honor Heights Park in Muskogee hosts a teaching display garden with hundreds of host and nectar plants and a seasonal open-air butterfly house displaying 20+ native butterfly species.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Darlene Skari, Director

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

Here we are in the middle of winter, taking the time to read garden catalogs (where the plants always look perfect---no diseases, insects, or hail storms), and planning the coming garden season. Winter is when we have time for education---for great programs in our meetings, for reading, and for attending home and garden shows. This is also the time of year when many states and clubs search for new officers. The tried and true officers are so valuable, but new leadership mixed in will add enthusiasm, plans, and interesting outlooks. Rocky Mountain Region is starting 2017 as a brand new 501(c)3 organization!



Among activities in Wyoming are two new Blue Star Markers and community service projects. Those projects bring not only benefits to the community but great publicity.

Nebraska recently completed the Gardening Study School series and has begun the Landscape Design Schools. Organizing schools in small membership states with long distances is not easy, but this example shows us that it is realistic. A small club that hosted a district meeting using its skilled members for educational programs reminds us that any size club is to be treasured.

Utah member Barbara Kendall received the Bronze Medal of Honor from the Rose Society. Their fall meeting included a presentation from a person working with a group that plans to restore the seven streams that once flowed through the Salt Lake Valley to a natural state.

North Dakota has ordered a Blue Star Marker to be placed in a Veteran's Garden. They have their state meeting to plan for June and the Region meeting in late August.

Colorado will once again present a Standard Flower Show at the Colorado Convention Center in February. NGC President Sandy Robinson will attend and be one of the judges. Colorado is, as usual, holding NGC schools. They held a Gardening Study School in the fall, will have another one in the spring, and an Environmental Studies school, also.

Olathe, Kansas, held a Standard Flower Show during a community Old Settlers weekend. A rummage sale and a plant giveaway attracted friends to garden club in Hays, Kansas.

South Dakota clubs decorated street planters for the holiday season.

Montana clubs have participated in local holiday bazaars selling wreaths and swags. Members of a group made designs in holiday mugs, inviting friends as well. They are ideal for giving to shut-ins who don't have much room. One club sold calendars made from the local garden of the week photos. Montana has ordered both a By-Way Marker and a Blue Star Marker. They are holding Course IV of Flower Show Schools in Belgrade this March.

PACIFIC

Kristie Livreri, Director

<http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org>

I have been thinking a lot about unity recently. You know the saying, "United we stand, divided we fall." Unity doesn't mean we always agree, but to me, it means that once a decision has been made, we can all get to work to accomplish a goal.




I have been grateful for the unified projects of the Regions of the National Garden Clubs. Although some winced at the idea, the eight states of the Pacific Region have supported the theme of "Looking to the Garden through the Eyes of a Child." Each state worked with children in one way or another, and it has been heartwarming to read the reports from the state presidents or state youth chairmen about the many activities involving youth that

have been accomplished during this term of office. This Director's unified project has unified the states as they have worked separately to bring about a change in attitude resulting in educating children of the importance of the world around them.

The unified project of the Pacific Region gave us all an opportunity to promote the goals and programs of National Garden Clubs, Inc. The Frightened Frog has been distributed to children, teachers, and librarians throughout the state. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Safe Nest Groups, Boys and Girls Clubs across the eight states have benefited from planting community gardens, participating in Blue Star Memorial dedications and flower shows. Youth are being taught the importance of leadership within their clubs, communities, and schools.

So it is with a great deal of gratitude I say thank you to all who supported this theme and unified project for the Pacific Region.

The events of the past year have unified the eight Region Directors. A bond has been created among all of us, and we will remain close forever. We love and support the National Garden Clubs, Inc., but most especially the members of all the clubs of our regions. Happy New Year to all of us. May 2017 find us engaged in bringing about a better, more unified world.



Pollinator Power

**An Educational Publication of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Pollinator Power is available for downloading on the NGC website at no cost!

Twenty-three pages of facts about bees, butterflies, bats, birds, beetles, flies, moths, and wasps – and their mission as pollinators. Information is provided on pollinator habitats, perils, plants and websites. (Located at www.gardenclub.org ≥ Youth Programs page > Bees and Butterflies > Resources.)

POWERful environmental resource for classrooms and garden clubs.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our friend, **Marilyn Oberti**. Marilyn passed away on December 14, 2016, just short of her 91st birthday.

Marilyn Oberti was currently serving on the NGC Board of Directors as the Publicity Chairman and has served in many other positions over the years. Marilyn was very active on the state level and in her local clubs as well. Marilyn was a life member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., the Pacific Region and NGC. She will be truly missed.

Notes of condolence may be sent to her home at 30 Warm Canyon Way, Hillsborough, CA 94010-6741. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

It is with the deepest regret that we must inform you of the passing of **Donna Pair** on December 26, 2016.

Donna was currently serving on the NGC Board of Directors as the Water Protection & Conservation Vice-Chairman and has served in many other positions over the years. She served as President of Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. from 2001-2003. Donna was a very active member in her state and district. She served as FGCNYS District VI Director from 1989-1991. She was also a Master Flower Show Judge and a National and FGCNYS Life Member. Donna will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

A Memorial Service will be held sometime in the spring.

Notes of condolence may be sent to her husband, Don Pair at 109 Cedar Heights Drive, Jamesville, NY 13078-9471.

It is with a heavy heart that we must pass along the information of the passing of **Jerry Shriver** on January 4, 2017, after a battle with cancer.

Jerry served as West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. State President for three years from 2006-2009. She served on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors for several years including serving on the Nominating Committee. She was serving as WVGC Historian and on the Past Presidents' Advisory Council at the time of her passing. She had served as the South Atlantic Region Finance Chairman and was currently serving as the SAR Treasurer and 2017 SAR Convention Chairman. She was a Master Flower Show Judge and has served as president of WV Judges Council and was a Landscape Design Consultant. Jerry loved flowers and was also an active member of her garden club, Country Road Garden Club, serving in many capacities. She also enjoyed reading, cooking, traveling and visiting her children and grandchildren. She will truly be missed.

Cards of sympathy may be sent to the family – George Shriver, 413 Woodlawn Avenue, Beckley, WV 25801.



VIRGINIA is for GARDENERS

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THAT "VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS," BUT VIRGINIA IS ALSO FOR GARDENERS, FOR HISTORY, FOR FLORAL DESIGN AND FOR HOSPITALITY. VIRGINIA WILL WELCOME GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES TO THE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS CONVENTION ON MAY 18-20, 2017 AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN RICHMOND.

PLAN TO COME TO RICHMOND EARLY AS PRE-CONVENTION TOURS WILL VISIT SOME OF RICHMOND AND CENTRAL VIRGINIA'S HISTORIC SITES AND GARDENS. DAY TOURS WILL VISIT WILLIAMSBURG AND MONTICELLO. HALF-DAY TOURS IN THE RICHMOND AREA ARE PLANNED FOR HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY, THE VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL, LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN, AND A HISTORIC RICHMOND HIGHLIGHTS TOUR.

A DESCRIPTION OF SPEAKERS AND EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS FOLLOWS.



The Keynote Speaker for the convention is **P. Allen Smith**, (pictured in his Arkansas garden above) an award-winning designer, gardening and lifestyle expert. Smith is one of America's most recognized and respected garden and design experts, providing ideas and inspiration. He is the author of the bestselling P. Allen Smith's Garden Home series and P. Allen Smith's Seasonal Recipes from the Garden, which is a nod to his love for organic, regional cuisine. His media company produces three national, award-winning television shows: Garden Home (which has enjoyed 14 seasons on PBS), Garden to Table, also on Public Television, and Garden Style, now in its 17th season of syndication.

The convention opens with **Peter Hatch**, Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello for 35 years, speaking on "Thomas Jefferson, Gardener." A celebrated author of four books on the gardens of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Hatch has lectured in 37 states on Jefferson and the history of garden plants. Hatch will discuss the themes that defined Jefferson's passion for horticulture, botany, and landscape design. He will also review the gardens of Monticello -- the fruit, flower, vegetable gardens as well as Jefferson's ornamental forest or Grove -- and reveal how they have been restored over the last 50 years.

Peter Hatch pictured on the right

The design banquet features **Ian Prosser** (pictured below). Prosser is the owner of Botanica International Design & Décor Studio and is a well-known producer and floral designer for one-of-a-kind events and the inaugurations of President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush. Born in Scotland, Ian started his career with three successful floral design shops in Glasgow. During that time, he was the youngest person to receive the honor of "Floral Designer of the Year" for all of Scotland and earned a "National Diploma of the Society of Floristry," the highest European honor in floral design. In 1989, Ian moved to Tampa and opened Botanica International Design Studio which has expanded to design events across the globe.





Bryce Lane, host of *In the Garden* on NC Public TV and NC State Horticulture Instructor, will speak at the Saturday luncheon on “Waterwise Gardening: A Sustainable Approach.” He hosted and produced a three-time, Emmy winning UNC TV public television show called “*In the Garden With Bryce Lane*.” Water conservation is on the forefront of everyone’s mind. This talk will consider all principles and practices associated with gardening to conserve and manage water, including plant selection, soil preparation, irrigation, and many other practices that will make you the “Sustainable King or Queen” of your neighborhood!

Julia Clevett, Flower Show School and Symposium Design Instructor, will present two floral designs—one in honor of Sandra Robinson, NGC President 2015-2017 and one in honor of Nancy Hargroves, NGC President 2017-2019, as well as her interpretation as to how these designs reflect the leadership and personality of the NGC Presidents honored. Julia is the recipient of numerous flower show awards. She had the honor to be invited to represent National Garden Clubs, Inc, at the 2002 Chelsea Flower Show in London and as a Floral Design Demonstrator at the Wafa Flower Show held in Boston in June 2011. She was the only NGC Design Instructor to be so honored. Julia’s creative designs can be found in several publications, from the cover of NGC’s *Designing by Types* to the Wafa book, *Flower Arranging the American Way*. Her designs and articles on floral design have been published in *The Flower Arranger*, an international flower arranging magazine published in the United Kingdom.

Plan to come early for the NGC Life Member Banquet on Wednesday, May 16. NGC Life Memberships support the NGC scholarship program, and a special evening has been planned to honor the NGC Life Members. This evening will feature a one-woman play, *A Sense of Wonder*, based on the life and works of Rachel Carson by **Kaiulani Lee**. The play is the story of one woman's love for the natural world and her fight to defend it. The play has been the centerpiece of regional and national conferences on conservation, education, journalism, and the environment. She has performed it at over 100 universities, dozens of high schools, the Smithsonian Institute, the Albert Schweitzer Conference at the United Nations, at the Department of Interior’s 150th anniversary, and in 2007 performed on Capitol Hill, bringing Miss Carson’s voice once again to the halls of Congress. Ms. Lee has more than 35 years of experience in theater, film and television and has starred in over a dozen plays on and Off- Broadway.



Julia Clevett pictured above

Educational Seminars are planned throughout the convention:

- **Restoring Pollinators:** Grow Organic - Learn why every vegetable garden and landscape must include flowers and eliminate chemical use to attract and maintain pollinators and other beneficial insects. **Lisa Zeigler** of The Gardener's Workshop will share her steps to gardening without chemicals and how to bring flowers back to the vegetable garden.
- **Mechanics of Design** - What are the mechanics of a floral design? Is it just floral foam and pin holders? Learn about new products, ways to use sculptures in your design and much more!
- **A Spring to Fall Cutting Garden** - You will go home with the knowledge to have non-stop fresh cut-flowers from spring until frost from your own garden. **Lisa Zeigler** of The Gardener's Workshop will share what to plant and how-to manage a small home cutting garden that will supply a weekly abundance of long-stemmed beautiful cut flowers all season.
- **What's New in the 2017 Flower Show Handbook** - Explore the new 2017 Flower Show Handbook and see what's new in Design and Horticulture. **David Robson**, chairman of the Flower Show Handbook Revision Committee, will highlight the exciting changes that will affect your club's upcoming flower shows.
- **New Ideas for Your Landscape** - **Jef Naunchik**, a landscape designer/horticulturist from the Village Garden Center in Fishersville, VA, showcases new plants and cultivars for your garden as well as how to use "old favorites" in new ways. Gardens designed by the Village Garden Center have been featured in Southern Living and The English Gardener.
- **Bulbs as Companion Plants** - Whether you are planning to plant bulbs in a fresh, newly prepared empty garden, or whether you are adding them to an already existing one, this seminar will have the answers for you. **Brent Heath** of Brent and Becky's Bulbs of Gloucester, VA will introduce you to the best of the best...the right bulbs for the right spots. You'll learn how to combine bulbs, perennials, annuals, ground covers and flowering shrubs that will create just the feeling you want to generate for four seasons in your garden.

- **Small Landscapes with BIG Attitudes!** - Do you have a small area to garden but want BIG results? **Kerry Ann Mendez**, garden author, consultant, designer, teacher and lecturer, will provide clever design and accessorizing tips for maximizing and extending color in smaller landscapes. Plants boasting three-seasons of beauty and neat habits are emphasized.

Tours include:

DAY TOURS TO VISIT WILLIAMSBURG AND MONTICELLO.

HALF-DAY TOURS IN THE RICHMOND AREA ARE PLANNED FOR HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY, THE VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL, LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN, AND A HISTORIC RICHMOND HIGHLIGHTS TOUR.

SHOPPING WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN THE VENDOR AREA AS WELL AS BOOK SIGNINGS WITH THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS.

For a complete schedule of all convention activities, hotel information and registration form, please visit www.gardenclub.org

Virginia is proud to host the National Garden Clubs Convention in 2017. Plan now to come and see that "Virginia is for Gardeners."

