



Keeping In Touch

AUGUST 2014



Linda G. Nelson

2013-2015 President

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Summer has been worth the wait! The warm sun feels good to us and to the plants...making us all stretch and say aahhhh. Then, of course, after we weed all day, we say aawww.

I have just returned from a whirlwind of travel for the past two months, and I still have a couple more states to visit this summer. I am so encouraged by the many projects the states and clubs are accomplishing. I am pretty sure the bees and butterflies are happy that we are concerned about their dilemma and are embarking on projects to protect and conserve their habitats. We have joined with Monarch Watch to gather milkweed seed to save the baby Monarchs' food source. The New England Region states are all big on bees and New Hampshire President Michelle Mensinger even has a bee costume she dons as she presents an outstanding BeeGAP program. Look online at our site (www.gardenclub.org) to find more information about BeeGAP speakers as well as the monarch project.

The Ireland tour has just concluded. The WAFA show was spectacular; our own Marge McGoff did us proud with her six foot design in honor of the United States of America. All 62 of the tour attendees gave our tour chairman Mary Ann Bryant high praise for such a well-planned tour with beautiful accommodations. Our bus driver (he was amazing! – those roads are sooo narrow!) and the local tour guide gave us credit for the near perfect weather...nary a rain drop 'til the last day. We feasted on beautiful gardens and enchanting old castles and manor houses, from huge and wondrous to just fairly grand! In Ireland's National Botanic Garden, they have a site dedicated to native plants. They even show which plants have become invasive. They also have a large organic garden, and an enclosed portion where they are observing the plight of the honey bees. Europe has lost 50% of their bees. We can see that our choices make a WORLD of difference. This trip provided your president with a new experience. No luggage arrived – ever! However, garden club members to the rescue...well, the gals anyway...and we shared, or rather, I borrowed.

As I travel, I can see that opportunities are everywhere. There are opportunities to share information, opportunities to make choices that protect and conserve our natural resources, and opportunities for membership growth. I believe that we have great potential for positive impact on our communities. The civic beautification we do in our communities plus the many hours we donate in free labor plus the many scholarships given nationwide by clubs, states, regions, and by NGC is staggering. We need to toot our own horn, spread the word, and proclaim that garden club makes a world of difference in many ways -- financially to our communities and to our young scholars, and then ask others to join us in these efforts. This is what garden club does best – educating members and the community about gardening practices. I encourage us all to delve into the facts. Ask: Is what I am doing or my community doing, helping or harming our natural resources? It is at our own peril if we ignore the facts. Consider the different natural resources in your area. What is the need? Are you willing to make the choice to change to protect and conserve your resources? I urge us all to take a stand. **Choices Matter**

Love,

Linda

PS -- Don't forget to apply for the President's Project Awards. See the info on the last page.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT ~

Mary Sue Colvin - Water Chairman

Water issues abound locally and worldwide – too much, too little, too polluted, too inaccessible. Over 1.5 billion people do not have access to clean, safe water. Almost 4 million people die each year from water-related diseases! Horrifically, a child dies of a water-borne disease about every 15 seconds.

National Garden Clubs, Inc., as an organization, has been focusing on water-related issues for some time, but now we must increase our efforts to shift public perception of the value of water. We must prompt governing bodies and companies to view clean water – not as a commodity – but as an endangered resource. Additionally, we must educate and encourage garden club members to take a more active role in addressing water issues in their communities and states.

Globe Scan and SustainAbility conducted a poll of over 1200 international experts in 80 countries concerning the global freshwater crisis. This resulted in a list of key solutions to the question, **“What are the technologies or changes in behavior which show the most promise for addressing water shortages over the next 10 years?”** Utilizing these keys for addressing fresh water issues, as garden club members, *we can make a world of difference in our local regions because our choices do matter.*

Keys to Addressing Fresh Water Issues

- **Educate to change consumption and lifestyles**
- **Invent new water conservation technologies**
- **Recycle wastewater**
- **Improve irrigation and agricultural practices**
- **Appropriately price water**
- **Develop energy efficient desalination plants**
- **Improve water catchment and harvesting**
- **Develop and enact better policies and regulations**
- **Manage ecosystems in a practical, common-sense manner**, i.e. communities that operate sewage treatment plants while pursuing partnerships with clean energy producers to use wastewater to fertilize algae and other biofuel crops. The crops, in turn, soak up nutrients and purify wastewater, significantly reducing pumping and treatment costs.
- **Improve distribution infrastructure.** Pipes burst on a regular basis in the U.S., prompting boil alerts. Sewage treatment systems regularly overflow and malfunction, causing beach closures.
- **Shrink corporate water footprints**
- **Address pollution**

Source: www.circleofblue.org

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT ~

Phyllis Besch - Forest Chairman

In keeping with the NGC Conservation Pledge to protect and conserve our Natural Resources and promote education, our National President urges all NGC Clubs to consider a project that will promote and protect our precious environment. What can you do to accomplish this? Plan to complete a project that will bring your community's attention to just how important this is!

The decimation of our forests in the past few years is serious and needs our help immediately. Recently, huge forest fires, tornadoes and tree diseases have taken their toll on what were healthy, vigorous trees in parks, various urban areas and suburban areas. We cannot prevent these occurrences; however, we can be on the lookout for many common tree diseases. There are over 20 of these more common diseases in the United States. Here are some:

- American Chestnut Blight, a widespread fungus throughout the U.S.
- Amillaria Root Rot, attacks hardwoods, softwoods, and kills shrubs, and vines in every state.
- Anthracnose and Leaf Spot Diseases are widespread across the Eastern U.S., and affects the American Sycamore, White Oak, Black Walnut, and Dogwood trees.
- Annosus Root Rot, a rot of conifers, affects many areas of the East and South. Enters cut stumps and usually affects thinned pine plantations
- Aspen Canker, a wound-invading fungi, has caused the most damage to the Aspen, one of the most well-known and widespread species in the country.

Thanks to a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the American Chestnut is one step closer to recovering from the devastated loss of over four billion chestnut trees (*Castanea dentate*). The grant has assisted the organization in publishing an easy-to-read manual aimed at everyone, including amateur growers to orchard managers on site preparation, pest management disease identification and treatment for growing Chestnut trees. Blight resistant Chestnut tree saplings are now being planted and monitored. For more information, check and visit www.acf.org to download this manual.

Important projects that your club can be involved in to help save our forests include taking an active role in community seminars on conserving our precious trees. Now is the time to think of our future and our commitment to help save our precious forests! Bring your concern to the attention of your community leaders. Be aware of the variety and type of trees being planted along urban streets, parks and roadsides in your towns and villages.

The key to forest health is preventing the introduction of new, invasive species and devastating bacterial pathogens. Insect diseases, arriving in wood packing pallets from other countries, bear some of the responsibility. Remember the house you live in and the nuts and fruit you eat all come from trees. It's up to everyone, including our government agencies, to protect this natural resource!

Check for more information on tree diseases at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service website. Visit the USDA Agroforestry website for more information.

U.S. National Arboretum www.usna.usda.gov

Activities and Projects-Fallbrook Land Conservancy <http://www.fallbrooklandconservancy.org/>

Save Our Woods Forestry Info/Pests & Diseases <http://saveourwoods.co.uk/category/articles/forestry-information/>

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT ~

**Debbie Scow, NGC Native Bees/
BeeGAP/Crown Bees Partnership Chairman**

NGC's partnership with Crown Bees just keeps on giving! For those who raised mason bees this year, take a look at what you can earn for your efforts via Crown Bees' Bee Buyback Program September through January. How To videos and shipping instructions can be found at www.crownbees.com. It's easy to harvest your cocoons or you may send filled reeds and tubes to Crown Bees who will do the harvesting for you.

Harvested Cocoons (You Clean) 2014 Season

COCOON	EXCHANGE FOR
1	1 Paper Tube
2	1 Natural Reed
200	Free Reusable Wooden Tray
1	Cash value per cocoon = \$ 0.25
625	There are about 625 cocoons in 1 cup. The Bee Buyback value = \$156.25

Un-Harvested Cocoons (Crown Bees Harvests and Cleans) 2014 Season

COCOON	EXCHANGE FOR
2	1 Paper Tube
4	1 Natural Reed
400	Free Reusable Wooden Tray
1	Cash value per cocoon = \$0.125
625	There are about 625 cocoons in 1 cup. The Bee Buyback value = \$78.13

Please know you are **Making a World of Difference** through

your BeeGAP efforts by supplementing the decline of the honey bee, ensuring better and more efficient pollination of our food crops. Thank you for participating in BeeGAP!

SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

Jennifer Moreno, Chairman

I am pleased to announce that the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest was a great success! There were a total of 29,159 poster entries from across the country. This is an increase of 4,159 from last year. This is an indication that we are reaching out to even more schools, organizations and youth groups than ever before. My thanks go out to all of the hard-working garden clubs, as well as the state and regional poster contest chairmen, for your efforts to promote this great contest! Congratulations are also extended to the region and state with the highest number of poster entries. This year, Pacific Region really went all out with a total of 8,312 entries. Congratulations to Regional Poster Contest Chairman Marlena Parrott who received a special trophy for all of her hard work. Virginia was the winning state with a total of 5,502 poster entries. Congratulations to State Poster Contest Chairman Barbara Ohmsen who also received a special trophy for all of her hard work.

The National winners by grade level are:

1st Grade - Hannah Ju sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club

2nd Grade - Bohmi Yoon sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club

3rd Grade - Jacob Kim sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club

4th Grade - Helmandi Subhan sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club

5th Grade - Joyce Qin sponsored by the Suburban Garden Club, TN (see poster below)



The National Grand Prize winning poster was submitted by Joyce Qin. It is truly a breathtaking original piece of artwork and is very worthy of this honor. Congratulations go out to all of the winners! I am really looking forward to next year's contest and I wish all who enter good luck.

MEMBER SERVICES

Barbara Campbell, Chairman

It's time to be thinking holiday gifts or do you need a gift for an outgoing president or director? Are you looking to honor a long time club member? Member Services has the perfect gift. We have original handmade state flower prints for all 50 states created by artist Kristen Ley of Mississippi. These 11 x 15" prints each comes with a packet of wildflower seeds and are available for \$25 plus \$6 shipping. Multiple orders ship for \$10. I framed mine with an inexpensive frame purchased at a hobby store and it looks beautiful hanging in my home. There is also a large print of all 50 states available. Call Teri at Member Services (800-550-6007) for price and shipping for these larger prints.

Please continue to shop our partnerships and encourage friends and family members to do the same. Use our online member services catalog for many other items.

2015 Vision of Beauty Calendars are Available Now

NGC Member Services

To place orders call 1-800-550-6007

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

The California Consultants Council of California Garden Clubs, Inc. tapped into our NGC President's theme for a Tri-Refresher, *Together Our Choices Matter*, held in conjunction with our annual convention. Thirty-eight attendees toured Forest Lawn, the 100+ year-old cemetery in Glendale (as part of a general convention tour, but the refreshers were on a separate bus) and were asked to complete an exercise identifying positive and negative environmental, horticultural and landscape design choices made by Forest Lawn. On another day, there were three lectures. One focused on our environmental choices, another on our gardening choices and the third on our landscape design choices. The Tri-Refresher concluded with two lectures and a tour at Descanso Gardens in La Canada-Flintridge. There the attendees completed an exercise identifying positive and negative environmental, horticultural and landscape design choices made by Descanso Gardens. The exercises kept us alert and thinking and contributed to an informative and educational event. Might your council or State Garden Club or district or club be interested in trying something similar?

We continue to encounter confusion regarding Refresher requirements. The general requirements are the same for all three schools. Consultants may refresh for credit as often as once each calendar year. If you attend another Refresher or school course in that same subject in the same

year, you cannot receive credit for both events. Consultants must refresh by the end of the fifth calendar year after becoming a Consultant or last refreshing. Upon completion of four Refreshers in each school, one becomes a Master Consultant in that school. If you have questions about the school programs, ask your state and NGC schools chairmen. We are here to help.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

Greg Pokorski, Chairman

Gardening Study Schools are scheduled in Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Texas over the next few months. Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Utah and West Virginia are showing interest in holding schools. Our committee chairmen are being kept busy and that is great!

Summertime and drought in many areas remind us that supplemental subjects addressing water-wise gardening and drought tolerant plants would be good choices for upcoming school courses. The Gardening Study School program provides a great deal of flexibility in selecting supplemental subjects, and there is a one-hour supplemental subject in each of the four courses.

This is certainly a drought year in California and the Southwest. Many associate drought-tolerant plantings with xeriscaping, a stark appearance more reminiscent of parched desert than the lush landscape some desire. Many, therefore, resist water-wise plantings. However, over the last quarter-century top plant breeders have introduced proprietary and patented drought-tolerant plantings with additional desirable qualities, such as longer blooming season, disease and pest resistance, interesting and vibrant foliage, bright colors, hardiness and reduced maintenance.

Including such topics in our Gardening Study Schools can show us how our gardening choices matter and make a difference. We can take a leading role in developing sustainable gardens that hold soil and water, conserve energy, offer diversity and endure over the long term, while helping reduce the destructive impact of air and water pollution and water shortages.

See you in Gardening Study School!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Jane Bersch, Chairman

Newscape, the Landscape Design newsletter, is on line and I urge all the state presidents and LDS chairmen to encourage your members and Consultants to read it. We would love

to see more landscape design projects written up, so please share yours with us.

Many schools and Refreshers are planned for this summer and fall. The schools are golden opportunities of learning for members and for Master Gardeners. I hope presidents will plan for these events during their administration. Don't forget that there is no time restriction on schools; they can occur close together. The International Affiliates in Mexico have planned two Courses to take place this fall in a period of three days.

HORTICULTURE

Suzy Andrego, New Mexico Garden Clubs

If you told me I could only have one additive for my garden, magnesium sulfate is that "one thing" I would choose. My "go to" remedy for my garden!

So, what is magnesium sulfate? It is an inorganic salt (chemical compound) containing magnesium, sulfur and oxygen, with the formula $MgSO_4$. It is commonly called Epsom salt. Its name comes from a bitter saline spring in Epsom in Surrey, England, where the salt was produced from the springs that arise where the porous chalk of the North Downs meets non-porous London clay.

Composed almost exclusively of magnesium sulfate, Epsom Salt is really rich in the two minerals that are crucial to healthy plant life. These same minerals are beneficial for bathing and using around the house. And, unlike common fertilizers, Epsom Salt does not build up in the soil over time, so it is very safe to use.

With the recent push towards "green" living, Epsom Salt is an ideal answer to a variety of organic gardening needs. Both cost effective and gentle on your greenery, Epsom Salt is an affordable and green treatment for your well-tended plants—both indoors and out.

In simple terms, Epsom Salt promotes root growth and green things up. I broadcast Epsom Salt around my entire yard three times annually. My garden beds get it about six times per year. This seems like a lot, and also costly. But, it is not. Great roots mean healthy plants!

The benefits are even more than root growth and lush green color. Epsom Salt prevents the appearance of slugs, keep my lawn lush and green and help my 400+ roses produce incredible blooms! I purchase larger quantities at the local nursery at a cost much less than all those other garden and lawn foods. Using Epsom Salt is not dangerous to my health. I can breathe it in, and touch my skin with it,

without worrying. And, if there is any left, it makes a great additive to my bath for all those sore muscles I get from gardening so much!

NATURAL DISASTERS USA FUND

Extends a Helping Hand

Adrienne Langan, Chairman

The Natural Disasters USA Fund was introduced during the Administration of Deen Day Smith, NGC President from 1999-2001. At that time, members contributed to the World Gardening Fund. Since many states suffered from local natural disasters each year in the form of floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, ice storms, and wildfires, NGC members expressed a desire to assist member and state clubs with their local restoration efforts replacing trees, "re-greening" parks, and restoring public gardens.

Thanks to the generous donations of the NGC membership, over \$60,000 in grants has been awarded to 22 clubs in the past three years for their restoration projects on recommendation of the Natural Disasters USA Committee. Upon review by this committee, a member club or State Garden Club may receive up to \$5000 per natural disaster project if they meet the requirements. Funds are available at this time! Send all grant applications with supporting data to this chairman for committee review.

To date, clubs in Alabama, Connecticut, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia have qualified for grants, and have been most grateful to receive this monetary assistance for their restoration efforts.

The Natural Disasters USA Fund reflects the garden club spirit and deep commitment not only to preserve and conserve our natural resources for generations to come, but it has also brought to light the bond existing among garden clubs, as evidenced by their willing commitment to come to the aid of fellow clubs across the country as they struggle to restore their parks and gardens from ravages of natural disasters.

Don't break this bond! Let's keep this fund alive! Send your donations to NGC Headquarters earmarked for Natural Disasters USA Fund, so that we may continue to lend a helping hand to our fellow clubs in their time of need.

Contributions to this fund are considered NGC, Inc. donor restricted, and will be used solely for the purpose of natural disasters. Your contribution may also be tax deductible; please consult your tax advisor.

NEWS FROM REGIONAL DIRECTORS

PACIFIC REGION Elaine Gunderson, Director

Congratulations to our state presidents who returned from the 85th NGC Annual Convention in Norman, Oklahoma with awards galore. Pacific Region has six NGC Scholarship winners, each receiving \$4,000.

NGC Award Regional Winners: Marlena Parrott, Pacific Region Chairman, won by a land slide the NGC 2014 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest trophy for the most regional entries – 8,312. Sunny Hills Garden Club's project at Christ the Vine Preschool in Clackamas, Oregon won First Place and \$100 in the NGC 2013-2014 Schools Gardens Project "Protect Our Friends the Pollinators – They are Plant's Best Friends". Then to top the cake, Pacific Region won First Place for NGC Award # 12-3 I. Publication, "WACONIAH", a newsletter, magazine or bulletin of 13-24 pages. Editor Robin Pokorski, Assistant Editor, husband, Greg and the 63 board chairmen who created 116 articles, take a bow.

After an extensive election process, the states came to a common ground with an overwhelming 86% selecting the Painted Lady as our Regional Butterfly. When you see the butterfly fluttering in your garden, think of all of your garden club friends.

Each year Pacific Region awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving college student. Funds are raised through our Pacific Region Life Membership and Book of Recognition programs. 2014 Pacific Region's winner is Mr. Benjamin Edward Roe from the State of Washington.

PR Rainbow Fundraiser will continue through April 1, 2015. Looking for a special gift or just refreshing your wardrobe? Match these garden and nature-themed rainbow colored T-shirts, caps and/or mugs to your personality. Please see our website, www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org for further information.

Our 70th Convention workshops, programs and tours in Coeur d'Alene matched the town's beauty, history and environmental approaches used. Pacific Region thanks Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. for inviting us.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Beverly Heidelberger, Director

Spring/summer has finally come to the Rocky Mountain Region, I think, as some nighttime temperatures are as low as 40 degrees.

June has been busy, with traveling to North Dakota SFGC in Valley City to learn how to take flower pictures, and having Dr. Stickler explain how his college students designed and made a huge medicine wheel out of rocks and boulders. Then on to Montana FGC in Billings where members learned "Gardening

is Healthy" with chair yoga and using fresh fruit to make fruit leather. We also learned amazing things about native bees from Sue Leferink. Finally to Wyoming FGC in Pinedale to learn about "Gardening at 7,000 Feet" with its 30-day growing season, "Diagnosing Plant Problems," "Beneficial Insects," "Healthy Soil, Plants, and People."

This director stressed the importance of helping to improve water quality by reducing all the chemicals used inside and outside the home. Urban gardeners have a tendency to use more chemicals and water on their lawns than necessary. Farmers are trying to be more conscientious with their chemicals while trying to raise your food.

Wow! Please attend these conventions as there is so much to learn, visit other gardeners to learn their experiences and make friends with wonderful people.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION Nancy Voyles, Director

Hats off to the Oklahoma Garden Club members. They did an outstanding job hosting the 2014 NGC Convention. Chairman Donna Marsheck and Co-Chairman Judy Grotts, along with many committees, are to be congratulated. After hosting the NGC Convention this year, the 2015 SCR Convention should be easy. OK has a unique way to create interest in their "Urban Forest" planting & protecting trees. OK has a poster contest for K- 17 year olds, Special Needs and Senior Adults using a squirrel named "Spunky Squirrel".

Congratulations to Arkansas for receiving NGC Award # 24 for the statewide project of saving pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House located near the AR Children's Hospital. Arkansas held its spring convention at the Ferndale 4-H Center in Little Rock. It was a relaxing setting among the state's rolling hills. The theme was Camp CPR, and seminars focused on communication, participation and recruitment. Members were motivated to use the new ideas learned at the camp.

New Mexico held spring convention in Santa Rosa. During the meeting members were given information on several topics including: How to Be a Great Club or District Treasurer; How to Start a Youth Garden Club; How to Be a Great Chairman; and How to Be the Best Club President. NM has increased membership and added new clubs. NM will be conducting Environmental & Flower Show Schools this summer.

The Texas Garden Clubs are currently preparing for four schools -- Environmental, Landscape Design, Gardening Study and Flower Show School. Some of these will be held at the George Bush Library in Dallas. Members attending the SCR Convention visited the facility.

This director is very excited to report on the many projects and accomplishments of these busy states in SCR. Congratulations to the SCR states on the winning NGC Awards in OK.

CENTRAL REGION

Gerry Ford, Director

As I attended the Central Region State meetings, I learned that all our states are doing projects toward our regional goal of "Reaching Out to Share Gardener's Talents." How wonderful to hear reports of upcoming garden walks, flower shows, community beautification and all the busy summer activities.

Michigan had a very successful year. Their Leadership Training Workshops for clubs and district leaders provide an opportunity to build stronger boards, create better programs, meetings and projects. It is on a DVD and available to share with other states. They awarded eleven \$1,000 scholarships to students of Michigan universities. Loda Lake, a wildflower sanctuary established in 1949 in partnership with Michigan GC and the US Forest Service is a special project. In the last 10 years much work was accomplished, and this May they celebrated the completion of an education pavilion and improved facilities. Their membership is growing.

In June, Willow River Garden Club, New Richmond, Wisconsin held a dedication celebration after completing a Reflection Garden at the Deerfield Senior Living Community and Gables Care Center. The garden was completed in four stages with meandering paths, a bird sanctuary with trees and shrubs, a raised bed therapy garden, a rain garden, dry river beds, a bubbling fountain, a "Plant It Pink Garden," attractive garden seating made of recycled plastic, wild flowers and grasses to attract butterflies, 800 tulip and daffodil bulbs, old time perennials and some annuals for continuous color! Quite an undertaking and a \$40,000 project!

Iowa held a beautiful State Flower Show at their annual meeting. Conservation is their project.

Remember Central Region Meeting, October 9–11, 2014. "Autumn Splendor in Minnesota."

DEEP SOUTH REGION

Gloria Blake, Director

Summer is a slower time for garden club activities, as it gives time to "catch up" and make plans for the coming year. From last April through this next October, we in the Deep South have, or will have, the pleasure of President Linda Nelson visiting in four of our six states. It certainly is not a slower time for her!

ALABAMA – The Summer Board Meeting will be in Montgomery. In August the GCA President, along with the Scholarship Chairman, will attend the Student Scholarship Ceremony at Auburn University where scholarships will be presented to candidates. This year is the 60th anniversary of their program, and they have received national recognition.

FLORIDA – Members in Florida were happy with the success of the DSR Convention held in St. Petersburg in April, in conjunction with a State Flower Show and the FFGC Convention. The host state provided excellent programs and tours and we

all had a great time. President Linda Nelson attended both conventions and helped to judge the Flower Show.

GEORGIA – Members held their annual meeting in Macon in May with the NGC President Linda Nelson, as their honored guest. Two new projects were introduced: (a) a metal sign can now be purchased for the Community Wildlife Project, and, (b) canvas bags are now available with the GCS logo; proceeds will go to the "Bagging for Scholarships" program.

LOUISIANA – In July LA will hold the Summer Board Meeting in Baton Rouge, with our NGC President in attendance. The Bayou Vista GC and the Alexandria GC sponsored the restoration of Blue Star Memorial Markers in their areas. Be sure to visit the Victory Garden in the World War II museum in New Orleans when you visit there.

MISSISSIPPI – In October, the Fall Board Meeting will be held in Starkville with a Horticulture Symposium to follow at MSU, with President Linda Nelson in attendance. Plans are in the works for the District Meetings, a Sustainable Landscape Short Course and a Flower Show School.

TENNESSEE – Members are planning for Flower Shows, Flower Show Schools and the Fall District Meetings. They will again host their annual Conservation Camp in October at the Pickwick Landing State Park. This will be their 61st year; they received an NGC Award of Excellence for 60 years of camp.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION Martha Morgan, Director

As we met for the NGC 85th Annual Convention in Norman, Oklahoma, it was great to see many SAR members there! We were proud of our five state presidents as they presented reports on state activities. At the Awards Banquet, we were thrilled to receive many awards for the accomplishments of the past year. The Oklahoma Garden Clubs did a super job as our hosts.

During the spring, I attended Conventions in West Virginia, South Carolina and the SAR Convention in Roanoke, Virginia. All were well-planned with great opportunities to learn and to fellowship with members who share common interests. I am always amazed at the creativity of our members! Thanks to all for your hospitality and friendship. I'm looking forward to attending meetings in North Carolina and Virginia, and also the 2015 Regional Convention at Hilton Head, SC. Make plans now to attend both your state Conventions and the NGC Convention which will be held in 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky, with many SAR members having responsibilities as hosts.

This SAR Director's Special Project is "Beauty Spots for Bees and Butterflies." I hope you have planted a garden that will qualify for an award. Details are in our yearbook and you'll find it's easy to qualify and to apply.

We are saddened by the recent loss of several members of the SAR, but want to especially mention our SAR Parliamentarian and past Regional Director Loretta Lively of Oak Hill, West Virginia. She inspired us all and was Director when I served as President of Kentucky. Our sympathy goes to her family as well as her garden club family.

Thanks to all of you for what you do to make our world a better place to live.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION Mary Warshauer, Director

Congratulations are in order! Our state presidents returned home from the 85th NGC Convention with many ribbons and awards! Our region has five NGC Scholarship winners, each receiving \$4,000. The CAR Region commends our dedicated members. We extend a heartfelt thanks to the members of the Oklahoma Garden Clubs for making our stay most pleasurable. Everyone's tremendous efforts and hard work was apparent.

CAR is very excited and proud. Brenda Bingham, GCNJ, is the recipient of the Helen S. Hull Calendar Award as Flower Arranger of the Year for the 2015 Vision of Beauty. The 2015 Vision of Beauty features eight designers from the Central Atlantic Region, showcasing the talented designers in the Region.

Destination Delaware, the CAR conference October 26 - 28, 2014 in Dover includes a tour of the Nemours Mansion, workshops, a standard flower show and more. The design program will be presented by CAR's Joy Ericson. Tour Winterthur and visit the very special Downton Abbey costume exhibit.

The Blue Star Memorial Highway program is celebrating its 70th year. The GCNJ founded this program in 1944. NGC adopted the Blue Star Memorial Highway Program in 1946 as "A ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state." Clubs throughout the region are celebrating the anniversary with dedications honoring the men and women of our Armed Forces.

During the summer, many clubs continue to work in their communities. **Rally On**, where there is need, there is a garden club that can make a difference.

NEW ENGLAND REGION Maria Nahom, Director

It is such a pleasure to take time away from our own gardens and their neverending work to visit other gardens. The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts has just published a beautiful booklet called "The Treasured Gardens of The Garden Club of Massachusetts." In our quarterly New England Region newsletter, "Northern Exposure", Rhode Island President Sandi Tinyk, wearing her hat of Historic Public Gardens Chairman, writes articles about public gardens around New England and includes gorgeous photos. Each state has treasures to explore.

While attending the 2016 NGC Fall Board Meeting in Portland Maine, you might consider a side trip to Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay. It is the largest public garden site in New England and the gardens are beautiful all year.

Burlington, Vermont is the location our next New England Region Annual Meeting, which is followed by a symposium. The Federated Garden Club of Vermont is very busy working on the events. While there we have been invited to visit the historic Shelburne Museum and farms, another one of our New England Treasures.

Our whole region has been very busy with flower shows, garden tours, plant sales and all the on-going commitments to our communities. I guess we should take some time to "smell the roses" this season.

2013-2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ROSTER CHANGE

Please note that Sandra H. Robinson is NGC President Elect as of the close of the 2014 NGC Convention held in Seattle.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS CONSERVATION PLEDGE

I PLEDGE TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE NATURAL
RESOURCES OF THE PLANET EARTH AND PROMISE
TO PROMOTE EDUCATION SO WE MAY
BECOME CARETAKERS OF OUR
AIR, WATER, FOREST, LAND AND WILDLIFE.

President's Travel Schedule

Aug.	3-5	Arkansas Mid-Year Meeting
Sept.	8-10	New York Fall Board Meeting
	14-16	North Carolina Fall Board Meeting
	23-27	NGC Fall Board Meeting - Des Moines IA
Oct.	9-11	Central Region Meeting in Minnesota
	13-15	Mississippi Fall Board Meeting
	23-24	New Mexico Fall Board Meeting
	28-30	Maine Fall Board Meeting
Nov.	2-7	Lima, Peru
	19	Delaware Fall Meeting
Dec.	3-4	Rhode Island Holiday Luncheon Meeting



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.ames.com This gorgeous website is a primer on gardening tools and their uses. The Ames Company, established in 1774, is a new NGC partner. Elaine Gunderson, Pacific Region Director, is the NGC/Ames liaison. The company's tagline explains the brand, "Our Tools Built America...function and fashion converge to complement your outdoor living space." A featured tool on the site is the 7-in-1 "Planters Pal," a multi-use tool that any avid gardener would enjoy using. Products of every type and use are available and described. Topics such as Products, Projects and Solutions, What's Happening, and About Us (complete with a history of the company, awards, testimonials, etc.) are among the topics covered. The featured videos are interesting, covering topics such as "Waterwise Watering" and "Building a Circular Garden Bed." There is a brief video explaining the way the ergonomic handles work on various tools, and another on hoses -- the different types for different uses. Time is spent throughout the site explaining how the tools are constructed along with special features. A visit to this site will inspire any gardener, whether novice or advanced, to get out in the yard and get busy!

www.circleofblue.org This site gives a global perspective on water issues, yet contains a wealth of water conservation information relating to the United States. Hard facts along with in-depth articles covering many topics make this a site that anyone with a concern for the current and future of our water supplies will want to visit. There are many thought-provoking articles such as, according to a global survey, water tops climate change as a priority for our time. "California's drought is a preview of the latter half of the 21st century." This non-profit organization relies on contributions and adheres to the NPR Code of Ethics and Practices, the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics and other standards for excellent reporting. Visit this site to gain information for presenting programs, writing articles for garden club publications and just to learn more about this very important issue.

www.hgtvgardens.com Self-described as a site that covers topics such as Edibles, Flowers, Garden Basics, Landscaping, Lifestyle, Plant Finder, and Ask & Share, it mirrors the television channel that many of us enjoy watching for the gardening programs. There are videos that demonstrate composting, veggie gardens, pruning, soil revival, raised beds, water gardens...you name it! There are 28 videos with great ideas and information. Visitors to the site will find a large variety of topics, covered clearly and concisely. One of my favorites on the site describes how to create a succulent garden starting with an ordinary table.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Website: www.gardenclub.org

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE --

CHOICES MATTER

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Submissions for KIT are due October 1, 2014

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IN MEMORIAM

Barbara 'Bobbi' Heenan passed away May 4, 2014. Condolences may be sent to Bobbi's husband, Robert Heenan, 145 Redtail Road, Jefferson, GA 30549-7070. We will remember Bobbi for many reasons, including her talents as an outstanding floral designer and judge, NGC Flower Show Schools instructor, founder of The Atelier (an advanced creative floral design study group), her enthusiastic support of Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas, and her kindness to all who knew her.

Louise Vines, president of the Garden Club of Alabama 1961-63 and Deep South Regional Director 1983-85, passed away on June 7, 2014. She was also a NGC flower show judge and landscape consultant. Condolences may be sent to her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Vines, Jr., P. O. Box 230691, Montgomery, AL 36123-0691.

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of **Loretta Lively** who passed away June 23, 2014. Loretta was a former West Virginia Garden Club President and was currently serving on the WVGC Board as Finance Chairman and Parliamentarian. Loretta served on the NGC Board of Directors for many years and presently was a Golden Circle Member of the NGC Board. Online condolences may be sent to www.tyreefuneralhome.com.

With a heavy heart we must report the passing of **Ed Nahom**, husband of Maria Nahom, NGC New England Region Director. Ed Nahom passed away on June 24, 2014. Condolences may be sent to Maria Nahom, 21 Summit Street, New Milford, CT 06776-2840.

A current list of all the 2013-2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS Roster changes and additions
appears in the Board Member Section on the
NGC Website: www.gardenclub.org

WANTED

APPLICATIONS FOR NGC PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

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Air -- Water -- Forest -- Land -- Wildlife

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FIRST PLACE - \$200 SECOND PLACE - \$100 (IN EACH CATEGORY)

... LITTLE CLUB ... MEDIUM CLUB ... BIG CLUB ... X-LARGE CLUB

... X-LARGE STATE ... LARGE STATE ... MEDIUM STATE ... SMALL STATE

1. CLUBS SELECT ANY NATURAL RESOURCE CATEGORY.
2. PLAN, LEARN, EDUCATE AND IMPLEMENT A CLUB OR STATE PROJECT.
3. FOR COMPLETE AWARD INFO: WWW.GARDENCLUB.ORG -- CLICK ON PROJECTS.
4. CLUBS SEND 3-PAGE AWARD APPLICATION TO APPROPRIATE CHAIRMAN.**
5. STATES SEND 3-PAGE EDUCATION PROMOTION TO MARION HILLIARD
6. NEED HELP? PROJECT COORDINATOR: MARIONH@BELLSOUTH.NET

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POST MARKED BY DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2015

** AIR - DORIS JACKSON DFCJX@AOL.COM
FOREST - PHYLLIS BESCH PDBESCH@AOL.COM
WILDLIFE - MARY JACOBS MARY_GARDENS@ATT.NET

WATER - MARY SUE COLVIN MSCOLVIN2@GMAIL.COM
LAND - CAROLINE WITTMAN CAROLINE.WITTMAN@COX.NET
IA - SANDY MANGELS SANDY.MANGELS@YAHOO.COM

Please share with state chairmen, districts and clubs.