



Keeping In Touch

NOVEMBER 2014



Linda G. Nelson
2013-2015 President
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Beautiful Fall...crisp mornings...crisp apples...golden afternoons...golden pumpkins...falling leaves...falling temperatures...putting your garden to bed...crawling into a warm bed...ahhh...beautiful Fall.

Iowa and its members hosted the NGC Board of Directors in Des Moines for our Fall Board meeting. We were all delighted to discover the beauty and history of this midwest city. We were privileged to tour the Better Homes and Gardens Test gardens. This is where many pictures are taken for the various magazines they produce. These gardens are intentionally designed with the average homeowner in mind. Among their features are a vegetable garden, a compost site, a tool shed, a waterfall with pond, an entertainment area, and many other landscaping ideas. Next was a visit to the West End Architectural Salvage. Three stories of how to repurpose architectural cast offs. The city's old library building, a historically important and architecturally beautiful building has been restored and is now the home of the World Food Prize Facility. The World Food Prize emphasizes the importance of nutritious and sustainable food supply for all people. The Prize calls attention to what has been done to improve global food security and what can be accomplished in the future and is equivalent to the Noble Prize in its prestige. We also toured the newly refurbished (as in progress) Greater Des Moines Botanical Center. They are demonstrating that passion fuels choices and Makes a World of Difference in what can be achieved in a short time! One of their Directors was a recipient of a NGC scholarship several years ago. Our Educational Day was eye opening! Everyone felt they got their money's worth.

And now I must address some more serious concerns; concerns that I feel you need to clearly understand. We all know the wise adages: the future depends on the choices we make today...the squirrel stores nuts for the winter...we even know the ad "pay the pig" which urges us to drop pennies in our piggy bank today to provide for the future. NGC embraces this philosophy also. Over the years we have been blessed by members' donations to funds established to ensure the perpetuity of NGC. These are our restricted funds. They fund the upkeep of our headquarters, they underwrite most of the costs of our programs and our schools, and they fund our scholarships. Last year we gave 41 students \$4,000 each. When you look at our financial picture on paper we look good...and we are for the future. But the present, the here and now, has presented us with a deficit. The Budget committee struggled with a solution to this budget deficit all summer. We have been diligent in the past years to reduce expenses everywhere we can. In the past years we have reduced our headquarters staff. We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff that is willing to share the workload. Careful evaluation of our budget shows the problem is not the expenses but the income. After many conference calls, the final call 2 hours long and only 1 day before the packets for the meeting had to be printed and shipped; we con-

cluded there was but one viable answer. The time had finally arrived; we must ask the members to approve a dues increase of 50 cents. For the past twenty years our members have paid a mere 50 cents per person per year as dues to NGC. This 50 cents is included in the dues you pay to your state, the state then forwards the total amount to NGC. The 50 cents dues go into our General Fund. The general fund accumulates money from dues and from sales through our Member Services: our books, Flower Show ribbons and entry cards, the Vision of Beauty calendar, NGC jewelry, subscriptions to *The National Gardener*, etc. Just as many of us have experienced in our own life, expenses are up and general fund income is down. The Budget and Finance Committees along with the Executive Committee are required to be prudent managers of our funds. When we were making this decision, we considered other options. One option was: could we increase what we take from some of the restricted funds. However, if we take more from the funds that produce the income for the future, we reduce the value of that fund and thus its ability to provide for the future. In essence, we would be spending our future. Our Bylaws are written to prevent us from doing just that...and to ensure we abide by our donors' restrictions that we spend only the interest earned and that we spend it only on the stated programs. We are called not only to be good stewards of our natural resources, but of our financial resources as well. I am confident our members understand this and will support our request to raise our dues from 50 cents to 1 dollar. I ask that you join me in giving the equivalent of a cup of McDonald's coffee a year to NGC. I believe this Choice will Make a World of Difference in the destiny of National Garden Clubs, Inc. And, I believe this is the choice our members want.

Love,

Linda

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Website: www.gardenclub.org

Find Us On Facebook - National Garden Clubs Inc.

4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
(314) 776-7574 headquarters@gardenclub.org

A current list of the 2013-2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Roster changes and additions
appears in the Board Member Section on the
NGC website

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT ~

Debbie Skow, NGC Native Bees/
BeeGAP/Crown Bees Partnership Chairman
NGC Environmental Concerns Committee

During the 2011-2013 term, NGC asked its Public Relations (PR) firm to pursue an article featuring NGC members and their homes and gardens with *This Old House (TOH)*. Last year, this notion was expanded to include NGC members who promote raising bees, especially those participating in BeeGAP. Several members responded to the call. Thank you!

Due to delays and changes among *TOH* editors, NGC has since directed its PR firm to pursue articles on a regional level instead. NGC's PR firm has retained all information previously acquired from members so there is potential those members might still appear in a publication somewhere at sometime, but there are no guarantees nor predictions as to when or where. NGC's PR firm and this chairman greatly appreciate those members who shared their wonderful stories.

Congratulations to NGC and NGC's PR firm for the article recently published in NH's Union Leader featuring NH State President Michelle Messenger who actively promotes BeeGAP as part of her State President's Theme "BEE Aware, BEE Concerned, BEE a Friend to Pollinators!" Search for this BeeGAP article at www.unionleader.com. Congratulations, Michelle!

For more information about BeeGAP, please visit www.crownbees.com.

NGC RESOURCE BOOKLET --

Mary Sue Colvin, Chairman
Environmental Concerns and Conservation Com.

Members of the NGC Environmental Concerns and Conservation Committee have produced an Ecology resource book to promote environmental education for the classroom, youth groups, and garden club meetings.

Eleven topics are included: Air, Bees, Birds, Butterflies, Energy, Forests, Invasive Plants, Land Conservation, Recycling, Water, and Wildlife. Each topic is featured on a single page with information that is suitable for a classroom lesson, youth meeting or for a five-minute garden club presentation.

The **Ecology Warriors** workbook "Making A World of Difference - Choices Matter" provides creative learning experiences and educational opportunities focused on the natural resources of planet earth. Education is the key in making

responsible ecological decisions for today and tomorrow. Educated citizens of all ages are responsible stewards, the **Ecology Warriors**, who then are able to make wise choices for conserving and protecting our Planet Earth and its natural resources.

The **Ecology Warriors** resource book is available for downloading on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org. Electronic copies may be requested by email from NGC Headquarters at: headquarters@gardenclub.org.

You are encouraged to reproduce the pages of the booklet to share with teachers and children in classrooms, youth groups and their leaders, and with garden club members. Regional, State, and Club Newsletter Editors are urged to include relevant portions of the booklet in their publications. We do request that you cite NGC as the source of the material.

The Environmental Concerns and Conservation Committee of National Garden Clubs, Inc. invites you to become an **Ecology Warrior** as you explore, study, and share the contents of the booklet. You can Make a World of Difference by the choices you make for the conservation and preservation of our natural resources.

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

Your Schools Committees met at the NGC Fall Board Meeting in Des Moines and want to remind you:

- If your Consultant status is due to expire December 31, request an extension from your State School Chairman before that date. State Schools Chairmen should refer the request to the appropriate NGC Schools Chairman according to the guidelines for each school.
- Remember that you can refresh by attending a School Course (not a whole school, just any one ten-hour course – and you don't have to take the exams). Recent inquiries indicate that some Consultants are not aware of this.
- Eight hours of instruction/education are required in single subject and multiple refreshers.
- There will be a Tri-Refresher at the NGC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in May.
- If you have not received Consultant cards or Refresher cards following completion of a school or refresher, contact your State School Chairman who should contact their NGC Accrediting Chairman.
- Publicize and promote your schools and refresher

events in club, district, council, state and regional newsletters, on garden club websites and in community newspapers.

- Know the Consultants in your club, district and state; acknowledge their accomplishment (completing NGC schools); invite them to share their knowledge by presenting programs, writing articles and providing advice. List them in club, district and state yearbooks and council directories.

If you have questions about the school programs, ask your state, regional and NGC schools chairmen. We are here to help.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

Greg Pokorski, Chairman

NGC meetings continue to provide gardening education. The Des Moines, Iowa Fall Board Meeting tour included visits to the Better Homes and Gardens (BHG) Test Gardens, the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden (DMBG) and the World Food Prize facility. Only half an acre in size, the BHG Test Gardens includes 22 distinct areas with more than 2,500 shrubs, trees, perennials, vines and annuals. This garden is always changing because its purpose is to test plants and offer fresh ideas.

At the DMBG we saw the extensive development of the garden that is currently in progress. Our lunch speaker, Kelly Norris, told us that horticulture is about exploring, explaining and celebrating the world of plants. "Pillars" of a botanical garden include education (people are life-long learners – NGC Schools seek to meet this quest for knowledge), innovation and ecology (helping us to be good stewards – because our choices matter). Kelly told us that there are more than 500 public gardens in North America and they attract 750 million visitors every year. Kelly's observations: horticultural excellence involves progressive garden design and plantsmanship; gardening is the slowest of the performing arts.

The World Food Prize recognizes one form of gardening through presentation of an annual award recognizing the breakthrough achievements of those who have improved the human condition by increasing the quality, quantity or availability of food for the world. The gardens at its headquarters are a place of special recognition of Dr. Norman Borlaug, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who created the World Food Prize, and John Ruan, Sr., who facilitated bringing the Prize headquarters to the restored Des Moines library. The gardens include some of the building's green features, such as the 102 geothermal wells drilled deep un-

derneath to help heat and cool the building, contributing to the building achieving the highest level of energy efficiency and conservation – LEED Platinum Certification.

Attend NGC meetings to get ideas for your Gardening Study Schools!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Jane Bersch, Chairman

This fall has seen many of the states holding a Landscape Design School Course or Refresher. Congratulations to the Presidents of New York, Maryland, Texas, Alabama, Michigan, Virginia, Wisconsin, Tennessee, California, Missouri, Massachusetts, Mississippi, South Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania and Georgia who chose to provide their members with these educational opportunities so that they may make a difference in their communities and homes. In 2015, gardeners in Connecticut and Ohio will have Courses offered to them as well as the International Affiliates in Mexico and those who attend NGC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

State Presidents are requested to pass on the following information to their LDS Chairman. Electronic signatures can now be made on the LDS forms found on the LDS site on the NGC web, www.gardenclub.org. It is important that the Adobe Reader is updated. Should problems arise when using the interactive forms, please let this chairman know so that they can be solved. A Special Interest topic must be in each of the four courses. This is when new trends and regional concerns can be discussed. When filling out the Course Information Form 2a/b, it is important to follow the specific curriculum listed for each of the courses. A reminder to all Consultants and Master Consultants that they may only receive credit for refreshing once per year would assist in the accrediting of Courses. Master Consultants may receive multiple Refresher Credits only after achieving Master Status in one or more of the Schools, ESS, GSS, and/or LDS.

NGC Member Services

www.gardenclub.org

Please continue to shop our partnerships and encourage friends and family members to do the same. Use our online Member Services catalog for great gift choices such as jewelry items, scarves, calendars and garden supplies.

2015 Vision of Beauty Calendars are Available Now

To place orders call 1-800-550-6007 or

Fax 314-776-5108

Submissions for KIT are due January 1, 2015

Phyllis White, KIT Editor, gardens@bresnan.net

Jan Sillik, Assistant Editor, gluegunjan@aol.com

“Garden Tools 4 Garden Projects” Elaine Gunderson, Ames Garden Tool Chairman

NGC has formed a partnership with AMES Companies, Inc. Founded in 1774, AMES is the largest U.S.A. manufacturer of gardening tools.

Over the coming year, AMES will grant tools up to a total of \$5,000 (retail) for all approved state or club landscaping projects/programs. Information about this new partnership and an application form are found on the NGC Website <http://gardenclub.org/projects/ongoing-projects/ames-garden-tools.aspx>. A written application is to be submitted no later than one month in advance of the project. If approved, photos are to be taken with a short project description submitted for NGC publicity and promotion purposes.

Avail your state or local garden club of this partnership! It is there to help successfully accomplish your project/program.
NGC + AMES = Gardening!

SAGE AND ROSES Lois Dupre Shuster, Chairman Send a Greeting Electronically ~ and ~

Recognize Our Servicemen's Every Sacrifice

Send your NGC Board Member and other friends an email greeting at Christmas or any Holiday, and save the time and cost of the card and stamp. (Grandchildren are wonders at creating email greetings.) Then --

Make a donation to the SAGE AND ROSES BLUE STAR MARKER FUND to NGC Headquarters.

\$10 to \$25 – one chance for your state to win.

\$26 to \$50 – two chances for your state.

Each additional \$25 - another chance to win.

Your name will be on your chance tickets.

The winning ticket will be drawn by the President Linda Nelson at the NGC Convention.

The winning ticket holder decides where the Blue Star Marker will be placed in the state.

All monies collected will be spent in the same year for the erection and landscaping of markers.

The Blue Star Memorial Marker program is the premier National project which advertises NGC's name from coast to coast.

Be a three way winner:

*Remember your friends at Christmas and holidays.

*Remind the public that NGC is a nationwide organization.

*Remember those whose sacrifices give us our many freedoms.

WANTED

APPLICATIONS FOR NGC PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE - CHOICES MATTER

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

\$ \$ REWARDS ... \$ \$ REWARDS ... \$ \$ REWARDS

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 BELOW.**
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

NEWS FROM REGIONAL DIRECTORS

PACIFIC REGION Elaine Gunderson, Director

Garden clubs are back in full swing welcoming new members. This is a perfect time to give them the opportunity to participate. Small task assignments are the stepping stones to greater participation. Involved people have a commitment to their garden club. The stronger the bonding between members, the more likely they will serve. This is one of the reasons NGC has national projects so members will grow with a common purpose throughout the country.

The eight states of Pacific Region supported NGC President's Project, "Choices Matter", as well as the Director's Project, "It's Our World! It's Our Responsibility! Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship". It was a joy to attend state convention meetings and learn of the creative resources members used to uphold the NGC Conservation Pledge.

PR Scholarship: Each year Pacific Region awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving college student. In today's world, college expenses severely challenge students.

PR Rainbow Fundraiser will continue through April 1, 2015. Looking for a special holiday gift? Match these garden and nature themed rainbow colored T-shirts, caps and/or mugs to your personality. Please contact Chairman Maxine Smolowitz via 208-523-0373 or msmolowitz@yahoo.com .

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs is in full swing planning our 72th Pacific Region Annual Convention, April 20-22, 2015, in Eugene, OR.

With the holiday season here, Pacific Region members are encouraged to participate in NGC's Sage and Roses Project as "Choices Matter".

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Beverly Heidelberger, Director

As RMR Director, I have had a great opportunity to travel and visit all eight states in the Rocky Mountain Region. This area is very large, but all the gardeners in each state are dealing with the same problems: soil conditions, weather surprises, and finding plants for their correct zones.

In the speeches given at each state's meeting, I mentioned my RMR project of "Make water choices for a green world." Everyone was asked to maintain good, quality water for drinking, recreation, fish and wildlife. A lady emailed that she does not even have a lawn, as it is a "water hog." She has mostly perennials and waters only as needed. One way each person can help, each day, is to avoid contaminating water by using chemicals correctly and as little as possible. So I am sure you have donated extra items, used the ones you have correctly, and did not purchase any unneeded chemicals. Keep water in mind every day.

At the Rocky Mountain Region meeting in Colorado Springs members from all eight states donated to the new RMR Disaster Fund. There is no specific disaster project at this time, but donations are still accepted and may be sent to Linda Sadler the RMR Treasurer.

As the growing season has finished in many areas, we still need to keep practicing and protecting our natural resources to make a "world of difference."

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION Nancy Voyles, Director

The summer has been very difficult on many of our states, so we are looking forward to cooler days this fall. The trees are changing into beautiful orange, yellow and red colors. Garden club members are planning for next spring's colors with the planting of spring blooming bulbs.

This director has just returned from the New Mexico Fall Board Meeting, "Fall in Colorful Santa Fe." The meeting was filled with reports and informative programs. We had a program on "Rules for Judging Roses and Designs" by Carroll Wagner and another on "What's the Buzz?" about the importance of bees in the garden by Steve Wall, master beekeeper.

We were delighted to have NGC President Linda Nelson at the meeting in Santa Fe, NM in October and in Russellville, AR in August. President Nelson has attended all four states in our region. I have been fortunate to attend the meetings when she was in our region.

The Grapevine Garden Club of Grapevine, TX has received tools from AMES. The GGC members volunteer along with other civic organizations to help with a garden at the Heritage Elementary School Garden. Over 500 students are able to learn about natural world through hands-on study, experimentation, and gardening. The tools are needed for students, volunteers and teachers to work in the garden. The AMES Tools Project is a very worthwhile partnership. It is a great way for garden clubs to receive excellent tools to aid in their projects.

CENTRAL REGION Gerry Ford, Director

The 82nd annual Central Region meeting was held October 8-10 at the Oakridge Conference Center in Chaska, MN. The Federated Garden Club of Minnesota hosted a wonderful convention. "Autumn Splendor 2014" was the perfect title as the weather was crisp and the leaves just beginning to turn color. We were honored to have NGC president, Linda Nelson as our guest.

In addition to the meeting a Petite Standard Flower Show was held. Many creative designers entered the show with fabulous creations. The mini horticulture was filled with cut specimens, fairy gardens and container plants. Educational exhibits on bees, bonsai, and hummingbirds were entered. It was a great

show.

Central Region Awards were given. Each of the states received at least one award. However, Michigan Garden Clubs came away with the most.

One afternoon we toured the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. We explored the spectacular 1,100+ acre site of woodlands, wetlands and prairie by tram or on the three mile walk.

The other afternoon workshops were held. Geo caching was popular with the spouses—finding small objects by GPS enabled mobile phones. It kept them very busy navigating to the cache, usually a small metal object. “Petals and Paper” was the other workshop. Programs on lilies and a Creative Design Challenge rounded out the two day event.

Many thanks to Convention Chairman, Martha Allen and Minnesota State President, Rene` Lynch.

DEEP SOUTH REGION

Gloria Blake, Director

The weather in the Deep South finally has a touch of fall in the air. It's been a long, hot summer so we are grateful for cooler temperatures. The DS states have been busy with exciting programs and plans.

ALABAMA – GCA held a butterfly seminar at the Aldridge Gardens in Hoover. The program was presented by Sara Bright and Paulette Ogard, authors of the book “Butterflies of Alabama.” On December 6, GCA will honor the military troops with a Tree Lighting at the Capitol.

FLORIDA – In September the members celebrated the 90th anniversary of FFGC with a Garden Party at FFGC Headquarters, and members donned hats and gloves of the 1920's era. A flower show was also held, and former presidents took part in a planting ceremony of a new President's Garden.

GEORGIA – On November 7, GCG will host a Blue Star Marker dedication at the Pete Wheeler Memorial Veteran's Plaza in Atlanta. The Adult Conservation Camp will be held November 5-6 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Conservation Center in Mansfield.

LOUISIANA – District Meetings in October had wonderful programs on endangered species, flowers and butterflies, and a Design Program entitled “Don't Box Me In.” You are invited to visit their website (www.lgcfinc.org.) and visit their Live Oak Society (only oak trees are members) and learn more.

MISSISSIPPI – The Fall State Board Meeting will be in Starkville followed by a Horticulture Symposium with Linda Nelson, the NGC President, as their guest. A HQ fundraiser in Greenwood will be held on October 24 with a design program by Jim Del Prince.

TENNESSEE – TFGC held the 61st annual Conservation Camp on October 9-10 at Pickwick Landing State Park, using the

theme “Together Again, Naturally.” A Landscape Design Refresher Course preceded the camp.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

Mary Warshauer,
Director

The NGC Fall Board Meeting in Des Moines kept our state presidents busy. It was a beneficial time to share garden clubs' operating practices, learn from other's experiences and strategize for future projects.

The dedicated hardworking Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs deserve a huge round of applause for the wonderful 2014 CAR Conference **Destination Delaware**. We toured Ne-mours Mansion & Gardens, listened to interesting workshops and speakers, and enjoyed the Standard Flower Show “Bon Voyage.”

CAR Life Membership supports the CAR Scholarship that is awarded annually. At the CAR Conference two \$2500 scholarships were awarded. We are very proud of our deserving students.

All seven states have participated in the CAR **Rally Our Region-Restore, Refurbish, Replant** project. CAR made the choice and is Making a Difference.

CAR has embraced BeeGAP. There are 18 BeeGAP speakers buzzing around the Central Atlantic Region encouraging the need to grow our declining pollinator population. Please remember to be kind to pollinators.

A valuable source of information for our region is the CAR Website www.ngcCAR.org. The site publicizes and promotes NGC and NGC-CAR garden club programs and projects throughout the region.

The harvest moon hangs round and high
It dodges clouds high in the sky,
The stars wink down their love and mirth
The Autumn season is giving birth.
Oh, it must be October...

~Pearl N. Sorrels

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Maria Nahom, Director

Summer in New England was very pleasant with only a few 90+ days, which made working outdoors enjoyable. So much else went on this summer, as planning never stops for the events that take place in the fall. BeeGap speakers, one in a bee costume, have been buzzing around with speaking engagements. Blue Star Memorial markers were dedicated in Maine and Vermont, with several more ordered for Maine and Rhode Island.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont's Grandma's & Grandpa's Garden, which began in 2002 with a Shell Petals grant continues to provide heirloom annuals, perennials and vegetables. Two hundred pounds of fresh vegetables have been donated to a local food pantry.

Vermont was also the host state for our region's 80th Annual Meeting. NGC President Linda Nelson helped us celebrate. A Flower Show Symposium immediately followed. Burlington has so many beautiful places to visit and some of the fall color held.

Connecticut's Environmental Studies School held a 2 ½ hour Marine Life Study Cruise in Long Island Sound on Norwalk Maritime Aquarium's new catamaran. What a novel idea for learning while having fun.

New Hampshire's Fall Conference was held at D.S. Cole Growers, one of New England's largest commercial nurseries. What a great location for a garden club meeting. We enjoyed a tour of the facility and later Smokey Bear joined us as a special guest.

I am certainly proud to be part of New England.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION Martha Morgan, Director

The five states of the South Atlantic Region have been following the theme of our Region, "A World of Opportunities--Be Involved," especially emphasizing the last part. The projects undertaken and completed by garden clubs certainly make a difference in our world. Garden Club of Kentucky President Joanna Kirby has emphasized establishing Monarch Waystations across the Commonwealth, and the members have responded--from spring 2013 to date, the number of Certified Monarch Waystations has grown from 36 to 182. Jenene Smith, President of the Garden Club of North Carolina has provided opportunities for growth with several flower show events and other programs well attended by club members. The Garden Club of South Carolina and President Judith Dill are busy with several projects emphasizing the identification and preservation of historic trees in the state. The members are working hard on plans for hosting the SAR Convention at Hilton Head Island on March 22-24, 2015. President Marilyn Mason and Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs are very involved with young people as they provide grants for youth programs which reached nearly 3,500 young people. They also sponsor grants for civic beautification. West Virginia Garden Clubs and President Patricia Arndt are focusing on membership, as we are all aware that membership is the foundation of all the programs and projects that we do in our organization. No matter how good the plans, without people involved, they are worthless. Let us all share the fun and friendships we have in our clubs, states, regions, and national groups with others.

IN MEMORIAM

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is greatly saddened by the sudden death of **Bruce Smith** on July 28, 2014. Bruce is the husband of Linda Jean Smith, NGC Book Review Chairman and former Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts President. Bruce was an active participant in the GCFM, serving on committees as an advisor to many.

Stephanie Greene, The National Gardener Advertising Chairman, died as a result of a fall from a ladder at her home on August 21, 2014. She had served as president of the Garden Clubs of Illinois and was a Master Flower Show Judge. Her family requests Memorials to the Garden Clubs of Illinois.

Esther V. Hamel passed away September 21, 2014 in Punta Gorda, FL. She served as President of the Montana Fed. of Garden Clubs, Inc. (1956-59) and was a National Council of State Garden Clubs Flower Show Design Instructor. She was a prolific writer and sought-after speaker. Mrs. Hamel authored *The Encyclopedia of Judging and Exhibiting Floriculture and Flora-Artistry*, which was a valuable reference used by thousands of flower show students and judges for more than 30 years. She served on the NCSGC Judges Council and was Awards and Landscape Councils' Chairman, served as Chairman of the Montana Governor's Board to license Landscape Architects, and received national and international recognition from many diverse organizations.

Jeanne-Beryl Metz, former Federated Garden Clubs of New York State President and NGC Board Member for many years, passed away on October 17, 2014. Condolences may be sent to the Metz family in care of her daughter, Johnna-Claire Metz, 24 State Rd., Breezy Point, NY 11697-2203.

Joan Franson, NGC Golden Circle member, passed away suddenly on October 17, 2014 in Colorado. She was a NGC Master Flower Show Judge, as well as a judge for the Rose Society and Chinese Shar-Pei Dog Club. Joan, a Registered Professional Parliamentarian, served in that capacity under NGC President Lois Dupre Shuster. She was currently serving as the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs and Rocky Mountain Region Parliamentarian and NGC Horticulture Committee Indoor Gardening Chairman. Condolences may be sent to her husband Herb Franson, 6804 Dover St., Arvada, CO 80004-1731, with memorials to the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Denver Rose Society, the Colorado Garden Foundation, or Denver Botanic Gardens.

Robert Marsheck, husband of 2014 NGC Convention (Norman, OK) Chairman Donna Marsheck, passed away October 22, 2014. Donna also served as the Oklahoma Garden Club President last term. Condolences may be sent to her at 402163 W. 2650 Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74006-0555.

President's Travel Schedule

Nov.	1 - 9	Lima, Peru
	19	Delaware Fall Meeting
Dec.	3 - 4	Rhode Island Holiday Luncheon Meeting
Jan.	26-28	Winter Executive Meeting, Nevada
	28-30	Flower Show Instructors' Symposium



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.

The autumn season brings a time when it's grand to snuggle up on a cool, brisk day and cruise some interesting and compelling websites. As Garden Clubbers, we are very busy during the fall as our new garden club year kicks off, and it's a time when we get wrapped up in those activities and programs we enjoy. Here are some websites that will be of interest...a great way to just take some time to relax and to learn! With the beauty of the changing leaf colors that we enjoy during this season, I've turned to sites that focus on trees.

www.arborday.org

This is a wonderful site with a wealth of information about trees. If you become a member, you have the option of receiving 10 free trees, or having 10 trees planted in your honor in one of our nation's forests. As is said on the site, "Our nation's forests provide wood, habitat, clean air and drinking water for millions of us." We at NGC know this well, for through our Penny Pines program, we support the planting of trees in our national forests!

"Nature Explore" is a program for connecting our youth with nature, and there is much information on the arborday.org site with resources and programs available for educating youngsters about the importance of trees and nature. The TREE GUIDE section on the site is a wonderful resource! There is an option that allows you to search for a specific tree, or you can browse the extensive DATA BASE with fantastic photos and detailed information. You can peruse the Glossary of Tree Terms, Tree Classification, Anatomy of a Tree and much more!

Another site to visit for learning more about trees is www.treesaregood.com. This site, from the International Society of Arboriculture, is educational and informative. The ISA site offers a "collection of reliable tree care information" and contains resources for finding an arborist, educating our youth, shopping opportunities and so on.

www.monarchwatch.org

A nonprofit group based at the University of Kansas dedicated to education, conservation and research of the Monarch butterfly. The extensive site features information about life cycles, migration patterns, the Waystation Program and much more. There is a section on obtaining FREE MILKWEEDS for schools and nonprofits for Fall 2014. The planting of milkweed plants would be a good project for our Youth Gardening programs. This would be a great site to visit with children or grandchildren to introduce them to the world of the lovely Monarch butterflies.

The Monarch migration takes place each fall and spring as the butterflies migrate to and from Mexico. They are a bit late this year, according to the site, and due to weather conditions, the leading edge has not left Kansas. You can learn more here about Peak Migration Dates, Overwintering Sites and the Tagging Program. Though primarily educational, the site offers a wonderful Shopping section with opportunities to purchase the following: Seed Kits, Nectar Kits, Books, Posters, Gift and Gardening products, Clothing(tee shirts), Bookmarks, Bumper Stickers, Waystation Signs, Waystation Certification Applications, and so on. Purchases of merchandise support the educational, conservation and research efforts of Monarch Watch.

One of the best features of the site is a Multimedia Gallery, a web space where Monarch enthusiasts from all over the world share photos, essays, art work and classroom/festival/project/lab experiences. It contains glorious photos featuring monarchs and folks of all ages in "albums" – lovely photos of smiling faces and gorgeous butterflies. □

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.