

July/August 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH



**National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110 314•776•7574 gardenclub.org**

President's Postcard

GAY AUSTIN

Postcard from home, again: Hello fellow garden club members, After several weeks of difficult, yet necessary research for National Garden Clubs, Inc., the 2020 Fall Board Meeting, scheduled for September 23 – 26, 2020 is canceled. This decision was not taken lightly, or without hours of thoughtful consideration for the well-being of not only our members, but also our organization. We are grateful to the North Dakota Garden Club members who have worked tirelessly to organize this important annual business meeting. A very special thank you to State President Linda Anderson; FBM Chairman Lori DeRemer; and FBM Vice-Chairmen Les and Pat Westgard.

More than a year has passed since this administration began. Who would have ever dreamed that our world would experience such a crisis? What will we do? How will we continue as volunteers for our world? These are complicated questions and our goals can be achieved through continued dedication to our mission statement that states "NGC provides education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility."

Although in our 91-year history, we are facing more challenges than we ever thought possible; we are moving forward by creating new venues to communicate, share and learn. Your officers are exploring new ways to continue as volunteers in our "new normal" and anticipate success in all aspects. In addition, NGC is on the verge of launching the new NGC website – what an exciting opportunity for our members.

Congratulations to our States and Regions for recognition of their 2019 projects that received NGC Awards. Your outstanding accomplishments will provide benefits to your communities for our future generations. Thanks to ALL of you for your dedication, leadership and service to National Garden Clubs, Inc.



President Gay enjoying her garden.

THE ENVIRONMENT!

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Cover Image "Sunset Beach Collage" created with layered marine debris collected by Washed Ashore - washedashore.org



Executive Committee

NGC INTERVIEWS

NGC Headquarters Rededication 2019



Nancy Hargroves, Director of Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees; Chairman of the Advisory Committee as Immediate Past President, Finance & Budget Committees

+ Flower Show Judge

★ Home state and garden club: Virginia, Salisbury Garden Club and Westham Garden Club

★ **How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved?** In 1986, I moved to the Westham neighborhood. My next-door neighbor invited me to come to a meeting of the Westham Garden Club, which was neighborhood-based. I have been active in garden club activities since then.

★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** Started my own small business immediately after college.

**Virginia state motto:
*Sic Semper Tyrannis
Thus Always to Tyrants***



Sculpture NGC Headquarters



Nancy - Virginia

The Old Dominion, Virginia's state flower is the Flowering Dogwood and state bird is the Northern Cardinal.

Statehood = 1788



Executive Committee

NGC INTERVIEWS

Blue Star Memorial - NGC Headquarters



Andrea T. Little, NGC Historian; Member, NGC Award of Excellence Committee; NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Advisor

✦ Master Flower Show Judge

★ Home state and garden club: Massachusetts, Westborough GC, Cobblestones GC and Gainesville GC

★ How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved? In 1990, when we were

living in Gainesville FL, I attended and joined a Parliamentary Law Study Unit, and met the person who became sponsor and mentor in all things at all levels of being a garden club member. Jumping in at 150%, I began my training and chaired a multitude of committees on the local, district, state and region levels; elected to officer positions Corresponding & Recording Secretary; Second and First Vice Presidents and President at various levels; State and Region Parliamentarian in Massachusetts, and State Parliamentarian in Florida. In 2013, I was appointed as NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Chairman, serving in that honored and cherished position of honoring all our Armed Forces of the United States of America for six years.

- ★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** While stationed in NAS Pensacola, FL and NAS Glynco, GA, I embarked on a dream of taking flying lessons and attaining my Private Pilot's license. It was an awesome, thrilling and successful endeavor!
- ★ **Anything else?** Becoming a garden club member opened many doors and educational opportunities to grow in numerous areas of gardening, floral design, travel and connecting with members throughout the world. Most of all, in being part of this great organization, meeting wonderful, talented and engaging members, sharing memorable times together and knowing that by active participation, I contributed to making this world a better and more beautiful place to live.



Andrea - MASSACHUSETTS

The Bay State, Massachusetts's state flower is the Mayflower and state bird is the Chickadee. Statehood = 1788.

Massachusetts state motto:

Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem
By the sword we seek peace,
but peace only under liberty

Air Quality

FLORA VANCE

Los Angeles Before & After "Stay at Home" Orders

SCRUB THE AIR WITH PLANTS

With the current "stay at home" guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), improving indoor air quality is a higher priority. This article describes the events from the 70's and 80's that contributed to poor indoor quality, those products currently used that release toxins and the most effective plants to "scrub" the air and make it healthier.

Remember the Energy Crisis of the '70's? For those of us who lived in a highly populated area in the US, we may have waited in line to get gas up to 30 minutes. And, in some cases, the gas stations didn't even have gas. Well, our reaction to that Energy Crisis required that we not only needed fuel-efficient automobiles, we also needed "fuel-efficient" homes. Bottom line, we needed to save energy! As conscientious citizens, we bought those homes that had highly reliable insulation and double-paned windows and doors. We also updated our older homes with these same energy-saving products. New construction builders also answered the call with well built, "air-tight" buildings to save energy. As this went on for a few years, we managed to corral many volatile organic chemicals (VOC's) inside our buildings. In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported to Congress that our public buildings contained over 900 VOC's. Outside air did help; but it was not always clean air. According to another research finding, the last breath of clean air was experienced in Flagstaff, AZ in the 60's. Additionally, the weather doesn't always allow us to open doors and windows. The heating and air conditioning manufacturers did address the VOC's with some air purifiers, but they weren't able to go far enough.

The National Space and Aeronautical Association (NASA) chartered a team to do research to compare chemical presence with and without plants. Those results provide the sources of VOC's and the plants most effective at eliminating them. It also defined what could be done to build an environmentally-friendly building. As we visit, live, or work in one of those buildings, the difference is obvious. They remind us of greenhouses. They usually appear to be all glass, including the ceilings and walls. This provides the natural light for the plants, regardless of their sizes.

(Continued on page 5)



Air Scrubber: Areca Palm - *Dyopsis lutescens*



Air Scrubber: Lady Palm - *Rhapis excelsa*

Air Quality

Air Scrubbers: (L-R) Bamboo Palm - *Chamaedorea seifrizii*, Rubber Plant - *Ficus elastica*, *Dracena deremensis*

It provides a calming environment for humans. Healthy plants look so perfect, they appear to be fake. Each floor is a showplace of beautiful plants. What's causing the toxins in our homes today? They are carpeting, caulking compounds, ceiling tiles, draperies, varnishes, upholstery; most of the products used to construct, furnish, operate and maintain our homes or any other building. Today, there are more than 80,000 synthetic chemicals in use. Generally, the highest emissions are in new products, but still present at lower levels as they age. Formaldehyde is the most common air pollutant. It's a colorless gas with a pungent irritating odor. Most cleaning products and cosmetics have some level of toxins. In a recent study, seven of the most toxic materials in our homes were uncovered:

1. Antimicrobial chemical triclosan found in many antibacterial soaps, body washes, toothpaste and some cosmetics.
2. Flame retardants is the most harmful polybrominated diphenyl.
3. Teflon pans, at least some of the earlier ones, have harmful chemicals.
4. BPA used to harden plastics for food storage.
5. Vinyl shower curtains.
6. Formaldehyde used in pressed woods, foam insulation, wallpaper and paint.
7. Synthetic pesticides.

Top Air "Scrubbers"

What can we do to remove indoor toxins? The NASA research identified 50 houseplants that purify our homes and offices. Some of the top 10 are shown in the accompanying images. The number of plants needed to clean the air depends on the amount of synthetic materials in a room. The EPA criteria specifies 2 palms (or equivalent) for 100 cubic feet.

References:

1. *How to Grow Fresh Air: 50 House Plants that Purify Your Home or Office* (Penguin; First Edition April 1, 1997, updated 2009)
2. Wolverton Environmental Services www.wolvertonenvironmental.com/freshair.html *Plants: Why We Can't Live Without Them* by Dr. B. C. Wolverton.
3. [15 of the Best Bedroom Plants for a Prettier, Healthier Space](#). Online article.



Air Scrubber: *Philodendron bipinnatifidum*



Air Scrubber: Boston Fern - *Nephrolepis exalta*



Air Scrubber: Peace Lily - *Spathiphyllum wallisii*



Wildlife Conservation

JULIA GILMORE

Oyster Shells Return to the Ocean

Restaurants are returning their empty oyster shells to the ocean to rebuild decimated reefs. Each oyster consumed leaves behind a shell, recycling those shells, instead of sending them to landfill, could actually be the key to rebuilding a coastal region decimated by natural and manmade disasters.

For oysters to grow, they have to be able to attach to a firm substrate like rock. Along the Gulf Coast, oyster reefs form when young oysters attach to the discarded shells of other oysters. However, decades of over-harvesting, disease and pollution have begun to decimate oyster reefs - 85% of which have disappeared around the globe. In addition, in the Gulf region, disasters like the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill have further wrecked the habitats. Funded by a \$243,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the program has collected over 2.8 million oyster shells - enough to cover 7.2 acres in the Gulf. Each oyster shell returned to the ocean can become the habitat for 10 baby oysters. Additionally, adult oysters can filter around 15 gallons of water a day, significant for a region plagued with water-quality issues. Because oysters filter out sediment and algae from the water, they support a healthier marine environment for other species. By sucking up excess algae and nitrogen, oysters clear the water and enable more sea grass to grow, which in turn will lead to healthier fish and crab populations. The oyster recycling program is one element of how restaurants can begin to work more cooperatively with the environment that fuels them. **EAT MORE OYSTERS!**



Did you know NGC has a grove of trees? Back in the late 1940's 40 acres of redwoods were purchased to commemorate the 20th anniversary of what is now NGC. It is now part of Prairie Creek Redwood State Park in California.

NGC Facebook Post March 17, 2020



Century Clubs

Cheshire Garden Club Celebrates 100 Years

CHESHIRE GARDEN CLUB - 1920

Ingeborg Venus

Could anyone have known 100 years ago, when the fledgling Cheshire Garden Club was formed on June 17, 1920, that it would survive into the 21st century? Not only that, but also that it would continue 100 years? A huge bash had been planned in celebration of the club's 100th Anniversary but instead a smaller gathering, by virtue of the pandemic, took place around the blue Town of Cheshire history sign exactly one hundred years later. Former club president and historian Inge Venus gave a brief ten-minute historical overview highlighting the club's many significant milestones: 1929 charter member of Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut (FGCCT) and National Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC); 1942 FGCCT bronze medal for re-landscaping and replanting Cheshire Town Green; 1968 Garden Beauty Spot of the Month program of selecting the most beautiful front yard in town; 1974 Scholarship program for high school seniors; 1976 50th flower show in observance of the country's bicentennial earning top NGC flower show rosette; 1982 began involvement with the Annual CT Flower and Garden Show.

In the above photo, gathering next to the ten decades and 25 years of group photos posters are: (L-R) former FGCCT and club president Inge Venus; former club presidents Marvin Carley with self-made stained glass cement art, Ann O'Hara with club logo and Nettie Polito with member welcome basket. Treasurer/Bird chair Carol Goertz displays the club horticulture award while Assistant Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary Pat Pavelkops shows the club design award and Hospitality chair Francine Shannon the June Beauty Spot sign. The group felt relieved that this momentous occasion could be observed after all.

KENT GARDEN CLUB - 1913

Anne Todd & Kathy Wolverton

In spring of 2013, Kent Garden Club of Grand Rapids, MI celebrated its 100th anniversary. We had an exhibition of enlarged photos of various club activities throughout the years and garden period artifacts displayed at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. A reception on the museum grounds, overlooking the river and city sky scape, was conducted where we dedicated a rose and boxwood memorial garden to the museum along with a plaque honoring Kent Garden Club. We celebrated our heritage with a luncheon at the Women's City Club where the mayor declared that day Kent Garden Club Day in honor of 100 years of serving the greater Grand Rapids community. We honored three members with a National, Central Region, and Kent Garden Club Honorary membership. Members volunteered to act in a skit explaining the highlights through the years and representing the president during that time by dressing appropriately for the decade. Members attending the luncheon came dressed in period dresses and fancy hats. A gift of \$100 was presented to Blandford Nature Center. To top the celebration off we staged a standard flower show, Jubilee: Celebrating 100 Years 1913-2013 at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.



Kent Garden Club Memorial Garden



Plant America

NANCY HARGROVES

*Touch The Earth GC Plant America Project
Rust Park, Grand Blanc, Michigan*

In 2018, Brent and Becky’s Bulbs obtained a new daffodil cultivar, available exclusively for purchase by NGC members, to help support the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Program. This new daffodil cultivar was not hybridized by Brent. He selected it from his friends and colleagues, the Hulsebosch Brothers in North Holland, who specialize in growing sustainable and organic bulbs. Brent has several criteria for choosing a new cultivar. First, he observes how it looks growing in the field, as that translates to how it looks growing in a garden. Then he looks for an upward facing blossom that is held above the foliage.

After choosing the plant, the process began to pick an official name for the daffodil. Even though the initial plan was to name it Narcissus ‘National Garden Clubs’, Brent advised that N. ‘Plant America’ would have more appeal when this daffodil goes on the world market. A search was done in the database of named daffodils to be sure the name was not already in use. Then the name, photographs and description were submitted to the Royal Horticultural Society, who is the International Registration Authority for the genus Narcissus. The registration was approved in late June 2018.

Sales have begun again by Brent and Becky’s Bulbs for delivery this fall at a time appropriate for your growing zone. The order form is included in this issue of KIT - [page 21](#). This is the last year that the bulb will be sold exclusively to NGC members with a portion of the proceeds going to the Plant America Community Project Grants Program. Next year it will be placed on Brent & Becky’s Bulbs’ website and in their catalogue for sale to the public.



Blue & Gold Stars

PAM DOWD

Marker Costs 7/1/2020 - 5/1/2022

- ★ Memorial/Highway Marker (with post & shipping) \$1590
- ★ ByWay Plaques \$530
- ★ Replacement Post \$325
- ★ Refurbish (no post) \$800
- ★ Cap Repair (no post) \$900
- ★ Western States Extra Shipping \$50



Narcissus ‘Plant America’

Pollinators

CHARLOTTE CROFT



Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) on Red Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta mutabilis*)

Create the Right Environment for Local Pollinators! We all have “gardens” but can we call them a pollinator garden? A vegetable garden or a cut flower garden is helpful but they are not enough. Many of those plants do not provide the resources that pollinators need. So create a garden just for pollinators! Give our pollinators a place to rest and refuel on their way through urban areas and on to other habitats. Following a few steps will go far in helping our pollinators overcome the odds against them. It has long been known that a natural habitat for pollinators is the best. They have two basic habitat needs: a diversity of flowering native or naturalized plants to provide food resources as well as egg-laying or nesting sites to provide food and shelter for the young.

Creating a habitat for pollinators includes choosing to grow the native plants on which **your** local populations of bees, butterflies and insects depend. Do your homework and obtain the information for **your area!** Choosing native plants for a pollinator garden over non-natives will also insure better success because they are already adapted to the local environment. We know insect pollinators are beset with environmental challenges locally and globally. So let’s provide that nectar and shelter.

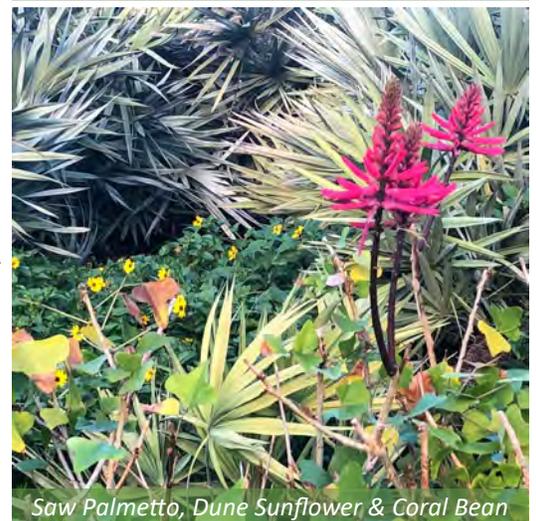


Luna Moth (*Actias luna*)

Conservation

KIMBERLEE DUKE POMPEO

On 6/1/2020, in Ocean Ridge, FL on a private dune parcel, George D. Gann, Founder of [The Institute for Regional Conservation](http://TheInstituteForRegionalConservation.org) (FFGC Affiliate) collaborated with me as the FFGC District X, Plant America with Trees Committee Vice-Chair of The Barrier Islands in modeling a prime opportunity to return native plant species as nature intended. As part of a hands-on restoration activity in this year’s “Restoring the Gold Coast Program” the private beachfront owners are doing their part to re-establish native coastal ecosystems in southern Palm Beach County. To protect property investments, owners are positioned as natural advocates for coastal, ecologically-appropriate biodiversity plantings. The native starter kits used in this project were easily installed and offer a beautiful accent to the established saw palmettos, sea grapes and sea oats which are commonly seen along the Florida coastline. Attached is a hyperlink for my property’s floristic inventory acting as a sample guide in native species registered in South Florida. Plant material from the butterfly attractors’ kits were also incorporated into this project: <https://regionalconservation.org/ircs/database/plants/ByConsArea.asp?SiteID=13264&SN=Pompeo%20Private%20Dune%20Parcel>



Saw Palmetto, Dune Sunflower & Coral Bean



Recycle-Reuse

Recycled Bottles on Rebar Provide Early Color

VICTORIA BERGESEN

COVID-19 has changed our lives, probably for some time to come. We hope that you will all try to Plant America with native trees, but the group educational events that we had hoped for will need to wait for safer conditions. Our traditional meetings have also been canceled, postponed or 'Zoomed'. This is a good time for us all to think about how we can make our traditional meetings more sustainable when they resume.

NGC members hold many meetings: clubs, councils, districts, states, regions, NGC. A sustainable event aims for a minimal impact on the environment. While a zero-waste event may be difficult, waste-wise events are well within reach for garden clubs and their members. We often have a limited choice of venues for our events, especially as we want to keep the costs down for our members. Nevertheless, we should always ask about sustainability. The more venues hear this request, the more motivated they will be to comply. There are often cost savings for the venues using sustainable practices.

Branding your event as sustainable and noting this in flyers, programs, websites and social media makes members and the public more aware of the many ways that garden clubs are environmentally conscious and committed. Contact me at victoriabergesen@gmail.com for a sustainable event checklist.

GAIL VANDERHORST

Here is a great idea for recycling those BIGGGG plastic soda drinks cups that come from convenience stores. Punch five holes about the size of a nickel in the bottom of the 64 oz. cup, that's right 64 oz. cup, and insert the cup in your garden planter box almost up to the top of the cup. When you water your plants pour the water into the cup and the water will trickle down through the holes into the planter box and the roots of the plants will have the best drink ever. No water is wasted. No water runs out the box onto the ground and you can tell when it is time to water when the water is thoroughly absorbed and there is no water left in the cup. You can do the same thing in smaller garden boxes with smaller plastic soda cups.



TIPS FOR ZERO WASTE EVENTS

- ✓ Use Reusables - skip plastic utensils, disposable cups and paper plates. Encourage people to bring real plates, utensils and cups from home or opt for compostable plates and utensils.
- ✓ Recycle & Compost - Toss food scraps in a Food and Yard waste bin, recycle empty soda cans and single use bottles.
- ✓ Make Use of Leftovers - leftover food can be tomorrow's lunch, bring reusable containers to carry extra food home.
- ✓ Leave It Better Than You Found It - be kind to the environment and pick up litter after your event.



Penny Pines

HEATHER WHITE

Penny Pines is a cooperative reforestation effort between the USDA US Forest Service and NGC. Although there is debate as to the state of origin, garden clubs were involved in the 1930's. Reforestation is the process of replanting trees in an area that lost vegetation due to human activity, natural calamity or sudden climate change. Ecological benefits include reduction of soil erosion, carbon sequestration, increasing wildlife habitat and biodiversity, improved water quality.

The basic operation is that "plantations" of native tree seedlings are purchased in \$68 increments in honor of a person or organization and then designated to a National Forest to be planted. The amount is set by the US Forest Service in a Memorandum of Understanding – a contract with NGC. Why \$68? When the program started, seedlings cost about a penny each. About 680 seedlings were enough to plant an acre; so \$68 could plant 10 acres. Penny Pines seedlings are for native trees for a specific area or forest. The donation can be designated to a State, specific National Forest or be undesignated which goes to the area of greatest need. Forest loss can occur through wildfires, hurricanes and storm surge, ice and hail damage and tornadoes affecting many different National Forests. Hurricane Maria devastated El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico; it is the only tropical rainforest under the US Forest Service. Few local resources are available to support reforestation in this area; your donation helps! For more information visit gardenclub.org and search under programs or www.fs.usda.gov



YOU TUBE

Check out this amazing up close and personal video from within a Monarch Butterfly swarm in Mexico

https://youtu.be/IWOySU_hAz0



El Yunque NF Post-Hurricane Maria

Habitat Preservation

Jo SELLERS

CHALLENGES IN PRESERVING OUR NATURAL HABITATS **High School Essay Contest Winners**

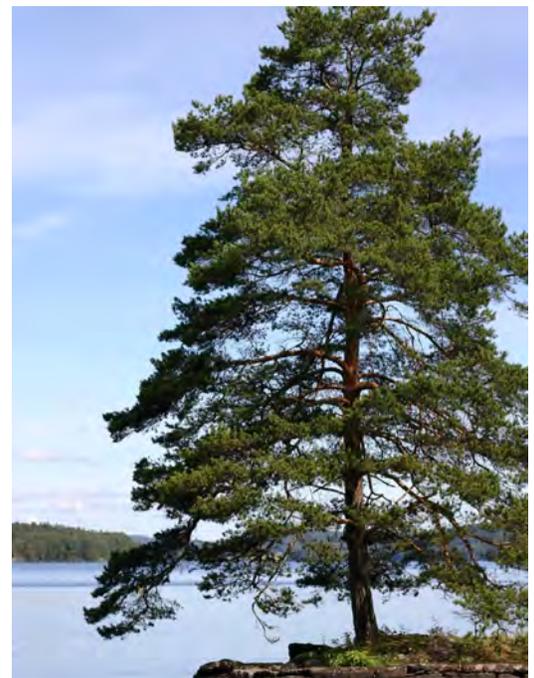
Congratulations to Gabriela Molina, the National Garden Clubs, Inc. High School Essay Contest winner and the recipient of a \$1,000.00 scholarship. The Fort Lauderdale Garden Club of Florida, Deep South Region, sponsored Gabriela. Her essay cited the challenge of preserving our forests “known as the lungs of our world” and our oceans and coral reefs “known as the lungs of our water.” These challenges begin to be faced when people as a whole committed to cleaning up the environment. See Gabriela’s essay on the following page.

The second place winner and recipient of a \$100.00 check is Zoe E. Carll sponsored by the Pecan Grove Garden Club of Arizona, Pacific Region. Zoe’s essay stated that the biggest challenge facing many communities is growth and suggested alternative housing options. A solution given was “responsible growth must be incorporated with practical environmental policies.”

Congratulations to our Regional winners:

- + New England Region winner was Aishwarya Benzy sponsored by the Cheshire Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.
- + Central Atlantic Region winner was Rachel L. Dispoto sponsored by the Fairway at Lake Ridge Garden Club, Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.
- + South Central Region winner was Phelim Jiang sponsored by Dahlia Garden Club, Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.
- + Central Region winner was Leslie Licudine sponsored by the Caro Garden Club, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
- + Rocky Mt. Region winner was Anais Barrientos sponsored by the Spade and Hope Garden Club, Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.
- + South Atlantic Region winner was Luke Ford sponsored by the Madison Garden Club, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Essay Contest Theme for 2020-2021 is *ADAPTING OUR ACTIONS TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL HABITATS*. Look for changes to essay contest rules on our website gardenclub.org



The Letters E and O

GABRIELA MOLINA

In the 70s, a new flag was created to signify something more than a providence or charted territory. It was designed with thirteen stripes that alternated between the colors green and white symbolizing unspoiled land and clean air. On the top left corner, the letters e and o were combined from the words environment and organism, making the Greek letter Theta. Theta, relating to the Greek word Thanatos (death), symbolized human threats to the environment and atmosphere of the earth. The history of the Ecology flag is just as important as understanding the message behind it: people's commitment to clean up the environment. The greatest challenge in preserving our natural habitats comes from humanity itself. Whether it is the roaring flames that blaze our forests, the deterioration of our ocean's reefs, or the introduction of invasive species to our wetlands, the underlying challenge is the pollution, over cultivation, and the disregard mankind has for natural habitats.

The Environmental Protection Agency declares all forest fires as natural disasters; however, what many people do not know is that only ten to 15 percent of wildfires occur on their own in nature. The other 85 to 90 percent result from human causes, including debris fires, discarded cigarettes, and arson. An average of 72,400 wildfires burn around 7 million acres of U.S. land each year since 2000, double the number of acres scorched by wildfires in the 1990s. In 2019 and 2020, the world watched as fires set ablaze from the Amazon forest to the suburbs of Sydney Australia. Forests are known as the "lungs of our world" because of their ability to absorb harmful green house gases while producing oxygen, however they are also capitalized by industries to build infrastructure, affected by climate change, and shrink due to deforestation all at the hands of people.

In addition, the lungs of our oceans, coral reefs, are also threatened. Oceans inhabit more than 97% of the world's water, occupy numerous marine lives and generate more than half the oxygen we breathe. Coral reefs play a vital role in making all of the above happen, yet they are subject to high temperature, insufficient light and depletion of nutrients. All of these actions can be linked to human faults. Many coastlines that house reefs are dumping grounds for sewer outfalls that send concoctions of chemicals into the pores of corals. The sunscreen we lather on our faces before taking a dip into the ocean can even be linked to our reefs dying. A study conducted in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Hawaii showed that the ingredients in our sunscreen breaks down coral, removes nutrients, and kills corals. Often times people have the misconception that the environment is something we own, this leads to lack of self-awareness and monetary value on something that is in fact not a possession, but vital for life. Most people are unaware of the dangers their actions can cause to conserving these habitats, which leads me to my proposal.

Education is the most powerful tool to promote awareness. Not necessarily through lectures or textbooks, but through simple acts people can take everyday to reduce the challenges we face. To start, human mentality needs to change from we "should" protect our environment to we "must" protect our environment.

(Continued on page 18)



Gabriela Molina - Essay Contest Winner



Schools Updates

JUDY NEWMAN, BARBARA HADSELL, GREG POKORSKI, DORIS DUCKWORTH

The Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design Schools and Multiple Refreshers Chairmen share everyone’s disappointment of the postponement of so many courses due to COVID-19 restrictions. We encourage you to please proceed with schools, in progress, as soon as you are safely able.

The Schools Policy Committee is creating an alternative virtual option. In May 2020, the NGC Executive Committee approved four courses to be a beta test, via [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us), to enable the Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools to offer a Plan B using a virtual platform when courses cannot be held in-person. These carefully monitored Courses, offered in July through early September, will result in Guidelines for Plan B created by the NGC Schools Policy Committee to submit to the NGC Executive Committee for approval in September. Due to a very limited pool of experienced Zoom technical administrators, who are also familiar with NGC Schools’ formats and requirements, only four courses are part of this beta trial. Unforeseen circumstances, such as lack of connectivity due to storms, power outages, equipment variances, personal emergencies of technical personnel must be considered when using a video conferencing platform, e.g. Zoom. Careful study of many of the above factors, based on a wide variety of input, will result in guidelines to address potential issues. The virtual format is NOT meant to replace the preferred in-person classroom setting. Continue to check the NGC Website for updates on courses and refreshers.

If your Good Standing Date for one or more schools is 12/31/2020, please complete and submit the NGC Schools Extension Application (Form 9-2020), available on the NGC Website on each school’s page and in the forms library. You will receive a one-year extension if you are a student/consultant unable to attend a school or refresher before the end of the year.

All of the Schools and Multiple Refresher Forms are revised for the new NGC website. The fillable forms are not in a zip file and are able to be downloaded individually. The updated forms are more user friendly with uniform font sizes, correct tabbing and clarified instructions. Please note that all new forms end in “2020,” please use only this version of the forms. Thank you. The revised 2020 Handbook is planned to be posted on the new website shortly after its launch.



GOOD READS Environmental Committee

- Nature’s Best Hope - A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*; Tallamy. 2019, Timber Press
- Bringing Nature Home - How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*; Tallamy. 2007, Timber Press
- The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Diversity in the Home Garden*; Darke & Tallamy. 2014, Timber Press
- Attracting Native Pollinators - Protecting North America’s Bees and Butterflies*; Xerces Society. 2011, Storey Publishing
- Pollinators of Native Plants*; Holm. 2014, Pollination Press LLC

(Continued on page 15)



Virtual Tri-Refresher

RITA CRAWLEY

Due to COVID-19, the Michigan Garden Club (MGC) annual conference was canceled as well as the Tri-Refresher. My initial idea to provide the Tri-Refresher virtually came to me as I attended several Zoom meetings for MGC, for my work and personally with family and friends. I contacted National Garden Club for approval of offering the Tri-Refresher as a virtual event. Doris Duckworth, Multiple Refreshers Chair, gave her initial approval, informing me that it is required to be an eight-hour event with a field trip as an option. After much discussion with MGC, NGC Schools Committee and the speakers, we decided two days of 4.5 hours each would meet requirements.

Before the Tri-Refresher, I contacted Laura Grainger (MGC Technical Administrator) to assist me with the technical portion of conducting the Tri-Refresher. The Speakers signed a release, notifying them their presentations would be recorded, but only for promotional purposes and not for the intention of running another Zoom Tri-Refresher for credit. Many pre-event virtual practice sessions were held by Laura to assist speakers and participants with their familiarity and knowledge of attending a Zoom session. Outlines were emailed to the registrants ahead of the event.

Participants were asked to sign into the Zoom Tri-Refresher fifteen minutes prior to the start time to allow for attendance check-in. To confirm full event participation, attendance was taken before the end of the first day and twice on the second day. Prior to the start of the Tri-Refresher, we reminded participants to silence their phones and device microphones. When participants wanted to ask a question, it was to be sent to me via the Zoom Chat option. I would then, in turn, interrupt the speaker and ask the question at an appropriate time. Speakers presented the following: Planting Natives in an Urban Environment, Invasive Species, Chemical & Biological Pollutants, "Extreme Makeover: Nature Edition!" and Protect Natural Lands/Habitat for Rare Threatened & Endangered Species plus a virtual tour.

One Technical Administrator hosted the event assisting attendees and the speakers during the Zoom Tri-Refresher. There were 83 participants. Overall, the feedback was very positive from the attendees who were pleased with the Tri-Refresher being held as a Zoom event and welcomed the opportunity given to them to refresh their credentials and to be able to interact and communicate with fellow gardeners.

The Life Cycles of Butterflies - From Egg to Maturity, a Visual Guide to 23 Common Garden Butterflies; Burriss & Richards. 2006, Storey Publishing

Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel: How They Communicate - Discoveries from A Secret World; Wohlleben. 2016, Greystone Books

The Water-Saving Garden - How to Grow a Gorgeous Garden with a Lot Less Water; Penick. 2016, Ten Speed

The Emerald Planet - How Plants Changed Earth's History; Beerling. 2017, Oxford Landmark Science

Braiding Sweetgrass - Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants; Wall Kimmerer. 2015, Milkweed Editions

Silent Spring; Carson. 1962, Houghton Mifflin

A Sand County Almanac with Essays on Conservation from Round River; Leopold. 1968, Oxford Paperbacks

The Armchair Environmentalist - 3 minute-a-day action plan to save the world; Christensen. 2004, MQ Publications Ltd

The Story of Stuff - The Impact of Overconsumption on the Planet, Our Communities & Our Health & How We Can Make It Better; Leonard. 2011, Free Press

Awards

PAT YOUNG

CHEERS TO THE NGC AWARD RECIPIENTS!

The cancellation of the 91st convention of National Garden Clubs, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, eliminated the formal presentation of national awards to each state president and International Affiliates. The awards committee completed the judging of all applications and will mail all award certificates and ribbons, along with an awards booklet, to state presidents.

This award winners listing is for entries that reflect projects/activities that occurred in 2019. A project may be new or continued. Yearbooks were judged on the state and region levels. Each region selected First Place winners in each category to be awarded NGC Certificates of Commendation. Member Award of Honor Winners were selected at the state and regional levels and eight winners chosen to receive the national award. All other awards were judged at state level and worthy applications forwarded to national. The **OVERALL WINNERS** received a check for \$100, unless indicated otherwise (with the exceptions of Publication Awards and Flower Show Achievement Awards, which receive Certificates only, or Certificates and a Rosette). All applications correctly submitted received a certificate. Congratulations to all!

(Editor's Note: To provide members with ideas for outstanding community service (CS), community beautification (CB) and environmental concerns (EC) projects, overall winning endeavors are highlighted here. For a complete list of all award winners, please visit gardenclub.org)

#CS-1 Community Gardens

OVERALL WINNER: Hearthstone Garden Club: CS-1 (Dii) (Texas) – Members work with 150-175 students a month at Owens Elementary School in planning, planting and harvesting vegetables at the school vegetable garden. Last year 1000 pounds of produce and herbs were harvested and taken home to students' families.

#CS-2 The Kellogg Achievement Award (Community Service Project)

OVERALL WINNER: Plano Garden Club: CS-2 (Aiii) (Texas) – Members created the Meadow Garden at Children's Health Hospital in Plano. It consists of 2 large berms with native and adaptive trees and plants that serve as bioswales (preventing runoff to a local creek), and also of three raised-bed vegetable gardens used as therapy for children with eating disorders.

(Continued on page 17)



#CS-1 = Kids Love Fresh Carrots, Houston , TX



#CS-2 = Children's Hospital Garden, Plano TX

Awards

PAT YOUNG

#CS-5 = Winterville Mounds, Greenville, MS

#CS-3 The Fisher Garden Center Award (Community Garden Center)

OVERALL WINNER: Spring Lake Garden Club: CS-3 (Ai) (Mississippi) – Members are allowed to use a designated area in the City of Pearl Library for their Garden Information Center. Members change out the information seasonally and also use it to coordinate with what is currently growing in the Children’s Learning Garden they maintain at the library.

#CS-4 Food Bank Donations

OVERALL WINNER: Charleston’s Magnolia Garden Club: CS-4 (Bi) (Mississippi) – Members partnered with the JCK Wellness Center in a new fresh food donation program titled “Food RX.” Club members trained and assisted qualified recipients in harvesting and preparing food from the organic vegetable garden at the Wellness Center.

#CS-5 Special Achievement

OVERALL WINNER: Greenville Garden Club: CS-5 (Aiii) (Mississippi) – Greenville Garden Club has worked to preserve the Winterville Mounds since 1939. These mounds are considered the best-preserved pre-Columbian Native American sites in the state and are recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Among other things, in the past year the club has removed all non-native trees and shrubs from the site and replaced them with native; designed and installed a 12-foot cypress log welcoming sign; helped design etchings of pre-Columbian Mississippian symbols for the pavilion floor and posts; and researched and purchased buffalo teeth, hair pipes, beads and face paints for Native American Days necklaces and face painting.

#CB-1 Roadside Beautification

OVERALL WINNER: Westerville Garden Club: CB-1 (Aiii) (Ohio) – In conjunction with the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge, Westerville Garden Club worked with the Westerville Parks and Recreation

Department to create two garden spaces that are very visible from highly-trafficked Polaris Parkway. The club developed a planting map utilizing native plants that attract pollinators and included puddling pools for butterflies. Over 100 native perennials were used. Plant markers were made for all of the plants listing the common and scientific name, brief culture notes, and the pollinators it would attract. The gardens are also along a recreational trail so visitors can stop, look at the plants and identify them, plus enjoy any pollinators in residence.

#CB-2 Community Beautification

OVERALL WINNER: Sunset Garden Club: CB-2 (Bi) (Wisconsin) Club members and friends created a welcoming, beautifying, and pollinator-attracting garden at the newly built Midtown Police Precinct. A blue, white and yellow color scheme was chosen to remind visitors of the police officers in blue and to attract bumble bees. SGC received a Plant America grant and donations from neighborhood associations and individuals to fund the project. The garden has been registered as a Million Pollinator Garden, and members hope to involve local schools in the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade project at this garden.

#EC-1 The Lucille Droege Mauntel Conservation Award in honor of Shirley Nicolai – Conservation Activities

OVERALL WINNER: Jeanie Jackson/Eastside Garden Club: EC-1 (C) (Tennessee) - Jeanie Jackson and her husband manage their 19-acre farm using every available conservation practice known. Jeanie gardens organically, recycles, plants only native plants (trees and shrubs) and repurposes all household waste.

(Continued on page 18)

Awards

PAT YOUNG



#EC-4 = Along a Bluebird Trail

#EC-2 The Harriet Thomas Award – Litter/Recycling/ Reclamation

OVERALL WINNER: Grapevine Garden Club, Inc.: EC-2 (Aiv) (Texas) Grapevine Garden Club signed a contract with the city of Grapevine to adopt the 1.6 mile Wall-Farrar Nature Trail for litter pick-up. Members pick up trash and watch for problems along the trail 6 times per year.

#EC-3 The Hazel Johnson Award – Conservation Education

OVERALL WINNER: Rowayton Gardeners: EC-3 (Aiv) (Connecticut) Club members partnered with the Rowayton Library and the Norwalk Land Trust to sponsor five speakers’ forums titled “Our Earth: Your Call.” Hundreds of interested people heard speakers discuss environmental subjects such as “Fracking Waste”, “The Future of Energy”, and “The Great Healthy Yard Project.”

#EC-4 The Nannine C. Wallis Award – Bird Protection & Welfare

OVERALL WINNER: Palmetto Garden Club: EC-4 (Ai) (South Carolina) Palmetto Garden Club implemented a Bluebird Trail Project in which members obtained, erected, monitored and cared for 20 new bluebird houses located in appropriate places throughout the community.

#EC-5 Pollinators

Overall winner: Lake Bloomers Garden Club: EC-5 (Aii) (Missouri) Club members established a 2048 square foot pollinator garden at Deck Elementary School that was planted with over 140 grasses, wildflowers and shrubs designed to provide nectar for a wide range of pollinators and to foster butterfly reproduction.

#EC-6 Water Conservation

OVERALL WINNER: Worthington Hills Garden Club: EC-6 (Aiv) (Ohio) With a \$1500 grant from the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Worthington Hills Garden Club installed

two rain gardens to help control storm-water runoff into the Olentangy River, a designated scenic river. They partnered with four other organizations to design and plant the gardens that will naturally filter runoff while promoting pollinator and wildlife habitat.

#EC-7 Organic Gardening

OVERALL WINNER: Seasons IV Garden Club: ED-7 (Ai) (Virginia) Seasons IV Garden Club partners with Tazewell County Master Gardeners and local libraries to offer a spring/summer gardening program for local children that includes establishing and using a compost pile, and using a worm bin for children to see their importance in gardening





The Letters E and O (continued)

We need to remind ourselves what the combination of the letters e and o stand for; they symbolize the idea that death can come in response to human threats on the environment and atmosphere of the earth. With that in mind, preservation is only steps behind. Being aware of your impact, carbon footprint and consumption can result in balancing the scales. When people practice recycling, moderation of resources like water or gas, and mindfulness, people are less likely to pose a threat. It can be as simple as taking a shorter shower or as grand as reading the ingredient list on your sunscreen bottle. Our challenges can only begin to be faced when people commit to cleaning up the environment.



Out and About

INFORMATION FROM AROUND NGC, Inc.

Tigre and Handler Stephanny
Search for Big Cat Scat in Patagonia

LITCHFIELD GC HOSTS OPEN CONSERVATION MEETING

Doreen Tango Hampton

The Litchfield Garden Club sponsored an Open Conservation Meeting in March at the Litchfield Community Center. The speaker Megan Parker is a Co-Founder and Director of Research for Working Dogs for Conservation. It is the world's leading conservation-detection dog organization. The title of the presentation was *New Frontiers for Conservation Detection Dogs*. This free event was open to the public.

Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C) dogs can detect weeds before they break the surface, animals that live below ground and aquatic organisms invisible to the human eye. The four WD4C co-founders were the first to train dogs to detect wide-ranging carnivores non-invasively, uncover illegal snares in Africa and find invasive plants, insects and fish.

WD4C dogs have traveled to five different continents to consult, collaborate and build capacity to make conservation happen. WD4C's trained dogs have found Chinese bush clover in Iowa, yellow star thistle in Colorado, rosy wolf snails in Hawaii, and brown tree snakes in Guam. Their dogs have become an invaluable tool for protecting pristine habitats and eradicating invasive species.

Megan received a B.A. from Middlebury College and an M.S. in raptor ecology from Boise State University. She returned to her home state of Montana to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Montana in wildlife biology on the scent-marking behavior and territoriality of wild dogs in Botswana. She began pioneering training methods for conservation detection dogs in 1996.

For additional information about the Litchfield Garden Club, please visit their website at litchfieldgardenclub.org. Further details about WD4C can be found on their website wd4c.org.



Tobias Searches for Zebra Mussels in Glacier NP

The Garden

Harrison Carter

6th Grade

As the grass grows,
It also dies.
As the farmer plows
In the big blue skies,
It's the garden where I go.
As I feel the wind flow
Earth,
Birth,
Live,
Die,
It's all a part of the morning sky!

More Poetry
Contest Entries will
appear in KIT as
space allows.



Website Update

PHYLLIS WHITE, POSS TARPLEY, BILL TRAPP

Fireworks and Fanfare! The newly revised website for National Garden Clubs, Inc. has launched on the web with the same address, gardenclub.org. The goals of the committee tasked with the re-vamping and final construction of the website were several: ease-of-use for our members including an efficient search feature and a vibrant site to attract non-members looking for general information and to encourage them to search for a garden club in their area.

The Website Development Committee, under the guidance of a professional technology-consulting firm, has labored over the last year to construct a modern layout for Schools, Grants, Awards, Shopping and more. There is a Forms Library and a Find a Club feature - look for your garden club in that feature! A Blog has been added with many informative and entertaining events and stories to share with your garden club. The website is constructed so that it works on personal computers, tablets and mobile devices.

With the launch of the new NGC website, comes an improved login experience. Previously, NGC members used a general username and password to access the restricted sections of the NGC website. In the new NGC website, members will create their own username and password. This unique username allows members/board members to view member/board information, register for meetings, donate to our wonderful programs and even shop at Member Services. This new login feature is user-friendly and provides the necessary security and privacy for NGC and its members. The new website includes connections to Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest) to expand our members' horizons.

The hard-working Website committee members Jane Waugh, Gerianne Holzman, Donna Rouch, Phyllis White, Poss Tarpley, Bill Trapp and Emily Huck (HQ website administrator) spent countless hours at their keyboards inputting information and increasing security and reliability. You will find they built a site that is fresh, inviting and easy to use. Your patience and support is much appreciated. Please visit gardenclub.org and take advantage of the new features available to everyone.

(Editor's Note: We had hoped to coincide publication of this issue of KIT with the launch of the new website. At press time, the website development company has delayed the launch.



Environmental Tips Environmental School Accrediting Committee

- Replace lawn with flower or shrub beds. You'll be reducing your work and helping pollinators and birds.
- Use refillable drink bottles to reduce amount of plastic going into landfills or being recycled.
- Avoid pesticides which kill everything: identify pests, research management possibilities, consider household products.
- Deadhead spring bulbs but leave up the foliage so they put their energy into next year's bloom instead of creating seed.
- Use grass clippings for mulch only if you do not put herbicides (weed & feed, crabgrass preventer, and so forth) on your lawn, otherwise the clippings will kill the food plants and pretty much anything that isn't grass.
- Return plastic plant containers/pots and trays to garden/nurseries for recycling. They should NOT go into landfills.



Brent and Becky's Bulbs
Introduces a
New Narcissus Cultivar
for
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
N. 'Plant America'



N. 'Plant America'
Item # 01-1135

- **Named for and available ONLY to NGC Members for three years**
- **Please order EARLY – Only a limited number available**

N. 'Plant America' – A split corona daffodil - Color Code: 11 W-Y
 The yellow perianth segments of this mid-season flower fold back smoothly over its white petals. It has a nice thick substance, which is why its flowers last so long. It has a strong stem and is up-facing. It grows best in full sun to a height of 12"-16", depending on the richness of the soil.

1. Sold only in quantities of 5 bulbs; \$8.00 per bag of 5 bulbs. (Limit 50 per person)
2. May be ordered individually, with friends or as a club; club orders are encouraged in order to save on shipping.
3. If they are being shipped to Virginia, add 5.3% sales tax (\$0.40/bag).
4. **Purchase of this bulb is NOT eligible for Bloomin' Bucks Program orders.**

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Physical Ship-to address if different from above:

Phone # _____ Email for order confirmation: _____

Approximate Shipping Schedule	
Zones 3-4	Sept 15 - Oct 1
Zone 5	Oct 1 – Oct 15
Zone 6	Oct 15 – Oct 30
Zone 7	Oct 30 – Nov 15
Zones 8-9	Nov 15 – Nov 30

Item #	Number of bags	Price per bag	Total
01-1135		\$8.00	
+ Sales Tax (5.3% for Virginia shipments only)			
+ Shipping East of MS River: 10% of order total or \$7 minimum			
+Shipping West of MS River: 15% of order total or \$9 minimum			
+Shipping to Alaska, Hawaii: Actual cost of UPS/FedEx 2nd Day Air or \$15.00 minimum			
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			

Check payable to: Brent and Becky's Bulbs **Mail to:** 7900 Daffodil Lane - Gloucester, VA 23061

Credit card orders: Call 877/661-2852 (toll-free) – 804/693-3966 (local)

Calendar of Events

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PRESIDENT GAY?

Aug 28 - 29	Rocky Mountain Region Meeting	Lake Milford, KS
Sep 11 - 13	Utah State Board Meeting	Salt Lake City, UT
Sep 30 - Oct 3	New Mexico Fall Board Meeting	Santa Fe, NM
Oct 4 - 8	New York State Mtg/Symposium	Utica, NY
Oct 12 - 15	New England Region Meeting	Wells, ME
Oct 27 - 29	Connecticut Annual Meeting	Southington, CT

During these challenging times, President Gay's schedule is subject to change without notice. Thank you for understanding.

**Save the Date: 2021 Fall Board Meeting - St. Louis
September 21 - 24, 2021**

COURSES → FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Jul 15	CR 3	Pat Rupiper	OH
Jul 17	CR 2	Sarah McReynolds	TX
Sep 8	CR 4	Nancy Lambert Fulk	PA
Sep 9	CR 4	Linda Harris	MD
Sep 14	CR 2	Karen Allen	SC
Sep 22	CR 3	Sharon Bender	Virtual
Sep 28	CR 3	Melanie Spence	OK
Sep 28	CR 4	Melanie Spence	OK

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Jul 22	CR 4	Jean Engelmann	NV
Aug 2	CR 2	Trish Sumners	NC
Aug 10	CR 1	Glenda Tolson	AR
Aug 12	CR 3	Carole Whited	TN
Aug 31	CR 1	Pat Carswell	VA
Sep 14	CR 2	Regena Williamson	TX
Sep 16	CR 4	Carol English	NJ
Sep 20	CR 4	Poss Tarpley	MD
Sep 28	CR 3	Susie Middleton	MD
Oct 4	CR 4	Joanne Nelson	FL

GARDENING SCHOOL

Jul 21	CR 3	Mary Jo Schlomann	Virtual
Aug 12	CR 3	Debbie Angel	WA
Sep 16	CR 4	AdaMae Lewis	IA
Oct 6	CR 3	Debra Stuart	NJ

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Sep 9	CR 1	Joyce Hendricks	MT
Sep 28	CR 3	Genda Knowles	VA

MULTIPLE REFRESHERS

None scheduled at this time

SYMPOSIUMS

Sep 3	Kathy Bramhall	CA
Oct 2	Kitty Larkin	WI
Oct 6	Arlene De Socio	NY
Oct 6	Brenda McManaway	VA

See [NGC website](#) for more information on schools, refreshers and symposia. Due to the every changing COVID-19 situation, all of these dates are subject to change.

Keeping in Touch Guidelines for Publication

We welcome all NGC members to submit articles for *Keeping in Touch*. Please keep the length of articles to 200 - 250 words and submit as a word document. We appreciate high resolution jpg files as attachments to your article. Please do not imbed within the document. Remember to obtain permission to use a person's likeness if she/he is identifiable in the image. (A standard permission form is on the NGC website.) Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee a specific publication date. Articles may be modified at the discretion of the editor.

Coming in September/October: Youth! The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2020. Please send articles and images to geriannewgcf@gmail.com THANK YOU!



Living Roof, The Flower Factory, Stoughton, WI

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Sitting on the Porch

GERIANNE HOLZMAN

Community and Compassion - both strong words for all of us to remember during these trying times. The pandemic, protests and politics are just a few of the things that push us apart or keep us together in 2020. Whatever your views, keep in mind that you are part of a community of relatives, neighbors, friends, colleagues and strangers. Unless you can "walk in their shoes," you cannot understand what brought them to this point. Take a minute to breathe and give them some

compassion. You just might find that you are also giving yourself a bit of inner peace. As a community of gardeners, NGC members across the globe share a connection. Be sure to stay connected, be well and safe and please Keep in Touch.

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.

Coretta Scott King