



Keeping In Touch

MAY 2015



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

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Spring is bustin' out all over!!the redbuds and cherry trees are fluffy, the forsythia is bright yellow and the willow trees glow lime green. In the early mornings there is a mama and papa duck swimming in our pool and soon their babies will join them for a short time before they scurry off – no waddle-- to the river. Spring brings such joy and hope ... the promise of new life. It is our opportunity to right the wrongs we might have done to our soil, pollinators and our environment. Aren't we so thankful for second chances! We must recognize that our choices do make a world of difference.

I thank each and every one of you for the difference you have made with your choices to protect our pollinators and to protect our water, air, land and forests. As I have traveled I am so impressed with the many ways in which our clubs and their members have worked in projects that stress native planting, your choice to plant for our wildlife and pollinators, choosing to have clean water, or deciding to enhance our soil the way nature does it....have you ever asked who rakes the forest?? A recent speaker said the best soil is in the forest, think about how it got to be the best. Compost is good! It is heartwarming to hear how you have embraced and are living our conservation pledge. You can be sure you will make a world of difference. Thank you for all you are doing. Keep up the good work!

During this administration we have accepted challenges that we believe have brought good changes for our members. We have invested in our website to provide an up to date presence for our garden club "face". We recognized we needed to let the www. world know we are here and we want them to join us in our good works. We have appointed a special committee to make a much needed revision of our *Handbook for Flower Shows*. It will be a user friendly book, hopefully a digital version will be available, and our goal is to have it ready for use before Sandra Robinson's term is completed. We have developed a free booklet, *Ecology Warriors*, for use by clubs and youth groups (available at www.gardenclub.org). We have benefited from new corporate partnerships, especially AMES Company, a "made in America" garden tools company who is providing qualifying clubs with garden tools for their projects....*learn about this on our web site www.gardenclub.org*. Crown Bees offers buy back opportunities for mason bees as well as education and special prices on these friendly pollinators in our joint effort to protect our endangered pollinators. We are planting milkweed to help the Monarch butterfly on their flights home. With the cooperation of these companies we can make a difference in the world of pollinators.

I want to urge you to take the challenge to learn new skills, to tackle new responsibilities, to appreciate new points of view. Say **yes** when asked to accept a leadership position in your club, district, or state. It will be a very rewarding experience. You can make a world of difference.... And it will make a world of difference in you. It did for me!

It has been my true honor as well as great pleasure to serve you as president. You have been warm and hospitable to me as I visited and I thank you. I look at my Pandora bracelet and remember all the places I have been and the wonderful members I have met. Thank you for the cards and well wishes you have sent. They warm my heart and my heart overflows with gratitude with the many, many friendships I now hold dear. I will close with the last words of the little book I used to read to my grandchildren "*I love you all the way to the moon ... and back.*"

Love,

Linda

MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE – Choices Matter

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

NGC's Schools Committees will meet on May 14 at the NGC Convention in Louisville. Let us know of your questions and suggestions.

Many of us are planning to attend the **NGC Convention Tri-Refresher**, one of many educational opportunities provided by attending an NGC Convention. Unfortunately, the initial Multiple Refresher Consultant Registration Form for this event did not list the number of hours of instruction required to receive refresher credit. The form (available on the NGC website) has since been corrected. Multiple Refreshers at NGC Convention require seven hours of instruction. **Consultants must attend a combination of tours and seminars to account for at least seven hours of education credit.** (All other Multiple Refreshers and single subject Refreshers require eight hours of instruction. Refreshing at a School Course requires ten hours of instruction.)

When the registration form was corrected to show the required hours of instruction, the last line (Are you a Master Consultant? Yes/No If no, is this your fourth refresher? Yes/No) under Landscape Design was inadvertently omitted. This too has since been corrected, but if you are seeking LD credit, this information must be supplied to the event chairman.

Convention Multiple Refreshers are a reward in several areas – they encourage attendance at conventions and keeping credentials current, and respect physical limitations of attendees with reduced hours of instruction by taking into consideration all the convention has to offer, including additional “refreshing moments” provided by meal programs and meetings.

Many thanks to all who made a world of difference this term by choosing to sponsor, conduct or attend NGC Schools and to all who served on 2013-2015 NGC, state and region schools committees. **Incoming 2015-2017 state presidents and state schools chairmen are asked to provide current NGC schools chairmen with your contact information so that our records can be updated.**

We will miss Cathy Felton (Vice-Coordinator) and Judy Newman (ESS Chairman) who are leaving the Educational Schools Committee. Judy will be replaced by Patricia Ruppier of Ohio. I will be replaced as GSS Chairman by Barbara Hadsell of Florida.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

Greg Pokorski, Chairman

Due to email delivery issues, the GSS article written for the last (February) issue was not included in the board version (distributed by email). The editor graciously added it to the NGC website version. Check out page 2 of that version for ideas about supplemental subjects to be included in your school courses.

As the 2013-2015 term concludes, this committee extends appreciation and many thanks to all who made a world of difference by their choices to sponsor, conduct or attend GSS Schools and to all who chose to serve on NGC, state and region GSS committees. **Incoming 2015-2017 state presidents or schools chairmen are asked to provide this chairmen with your school chairmen contact information so that our records can be updated.**

Sally Priebe leaves this committee, having completed three terms as GSS Accrediting Chairman for the Central Atlantic and South Atlantic Regions. Her replacement is Brynn Tavasci, also from Washington. Cathy Felton leaves her role as Vice Chairman to take on the GSS Consultants' Councils chairmanship. I complete my tenure as GSS Chairman as we welcome Barbara Hadsell from Florida and Carol Yee from Illinois as our 2015-2017 Chairman and Vice Chairman. I will continue to serve the committee as Advisor. Other committee positions remain unchanged for the new term.

I leave you with my mantra from these past six years: **Gardening. Study. School.** People still frequently get this wrong. If we are to achieve name recognition, we need to achieve constancy and accuracy in the use of our name.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

Jane Bersch, Chairman

The spring edition of **Newscape** is on the web and I urge everyone to “read” it and see some of the impressive projects which have taken place. Please, state garden club Presidents, LD Chairmen and Council Presidents, Consultants, garden clubs, share with us any of your special landscaping projects. Following the Convention in Louisville, Caroline Carbaugh will be the **Newscape** Editor. She can be reached at cscarbaugh@verizon.net .

A new administration brings with it some changes on the Landscape Design Schools Committee. My sincere appreciation to all the state LDS Chairmen and Council Presidents for their continued dedication to the LD program. Half of the states in NGC have offered Course/s or Refreshers for their members over the past two years. The 2015-2017 State Presidents are requested to advise Donna Donnelly

(ddon21@aol.com) and me (Janebersch@aol.com) of any changes in LDS Chairmanship or Council Presidency in order that the LDS Directory may be updated. There are also changes on the NGC LDS Committee. Mary Jane Peters (maryjanegarden@comcast.net) will serve as the LDS Accrediting Chairman for SC, RM, and P regions. Heather White (heathermwhitemd@aol.com) will be the LDS Accrediting Chairman for the NE and CA regions. Victoria Bergesen (Victoriabergesen@gmail.com) will take up the responsibilities of Instructors' Chairman. A complete updated roster will be on the web following Louisville Convention.

A reminder to all LDS Chairmen: The Event Registration Form LDS 1, Course Information Form LDS 2a and Instructors Form LDS 2b all state to whom they must be sent. If the Instructors are not approved by the LDS Instructors' Chairman, the Course cannot be accredited. Students and Refreshers attending a Course for which the Instructors have not been approved will not receive credit for the Course.

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS and SYMPOSIUMS

Dorothy Yard, FSS Chairman

As summer approaches and the flower shows become more numerous, the judges invited to be evaluators should remember a few critical points.

First, prior to arrival at the show, review and evaluate the Schedule. It is worth 25% of the total score. There is a scale of points in the Handbook, pages 306-308 for evaluating FS schedules. Use it.

Second, when noting infractions or shortcomings, keep in mind the degree of seriousness of the problem in the big picture. If the category is valued at only 1 or 2 points and the problem involves only a small portion of the total, don't subtract a whole point. A fraction of a point, even 1/4 or 1/8, would be enough to call attention to the problem.

Third, there is a reverse blank side of the form for evaluating flower shows. Anytime the evaluating judge issues a penalty, he/she MUST explain in detail why the deduction was made.

Fourth, keep the comments relevant to determining the quality of the show. It doesn't matter that the food served was delicious or that the judges were given pretty little appreciation gifts. Instead, spend time explaining how the theme was carried out or how the exhibits were enhanced by innovative staging.

Last, be honest, but fair; be brief, but thorough; be observant; think independently. Take time to write a compre-

hensive summary of your impressions. Then review it for readability, or have someone else read it to make sure you said what you meant to say. Everyone will appreciate your efforts.

NEW! VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR ENTRY DEADLINE

Jan Washauer, Chairman

JULY 1 is the new *DEADLINE* for Vision of Beauty entries this year for the 2017 calendar. The entry form and requirements are on the NGC website. Please send all entries and inquires to the 2015-2017 Vision of Beauty Chairman:

Brenda Bingham, 7 Lenape Trail, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 or email her at ngcvob@gmail.com.

The 2016 Vision of Beauty calendars are now available through Member Services.

The cover designer is Jean Ohlmann from Kentucky.



PRESIDENT'S PROJECT --

Debbie Skow, NGC Native Bees/
BeeGAP/Crown Bees Partnership Chairman
NGC Environmental Concerns Committee
Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2015,
National Pollinator Week & BeeGAP

The Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013 was recently revised and reintroduced to Congress March 4, 2015. The gist of this Act is to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take certain actions related to pesticides that may affect pollinators. Now is the time to inform your congressmen/women how you feel about the use of pesticides, especially neonicotinoids, abbreviated neonics. Scientists have linked neonics to the rapid decline of pollinators and to the deterioration of pollinator health. We have an opportunity to voice our opinions to **Make a World of Difference** for pollinators knowing our **Choices Matter** to ensure we are able to put food on our tables tomorrow.

Hopefully you will also take the time to celebrate pollinators during this year's National Pollinator Week June 15 - 21, 2015. This week is promoted by Pollinator Partnership (PP), a non-profit 501(c)3 dedicated exclusively to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems. PP offers numerous handouts, brochures and ideas for promoting this special week. Please visit pollinator.org for details.

And don't forget your spring mason bees which should be flying now...or soon for those enduring a long, cold winter. Be sure to sign up for NGC partner Crown Bees' monthly e-newsletter titled Bee-Mail at crownbees.com to learn what to do for your mason bees throughout the year.

Thank you for participating in BeeGAP (Gardeners Adding Pollinators)!



Submissions for KIT are due July 1, 2015

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

HORTICULTURE

Colleen Weiler, Committee Member

Focus on Foilage....For Container Gardening

If you enjoy re-arranging furniture, why not take it a step further and do the same with your container gardening? You can place a single foliage plant or a group of plants in your pots and create a new and fresh look for your garden. One usually thinks only of colorful plants of blooming annuals but you can take the challenge and create a surprising amount of visual interest relying on foliage alone.

While green is the most common leaf color, there are many great plants with striking foliage colors. You will find plants with gold, burgundy, silver, blue, chartreuse and bronze effects, to name a few. Try contrast in color, pairing bright and dark shades for best effect. Just a few ideas, as the choice is endless. Variegated foliage like *Plectranthus fosteri* 'Marginatus' will add an element of surprise and give an old container new life. Coleus has made a dramatic comeback with a dazzling variety of leaf color. Another colorful option is Croton. Pair it with the many species and cultivars of *Artemesia*.

Pay close attention to leaf texture (glossy, rough, fuzzy) and form, which can be anything from mounded and fountain-like to trailing and spikey. The long, linear lines of grasses add an element that you do not get from other plants and they are especially attractive as they sway in the breeze. Try purple fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum' and 'Fireworks') and blue fescue (*Festuca glauca*).

Place some pots in the back on supports for greater height and let plants with trailing foliage sit up front, like golden creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia* 'Aurea') and sweet potato vine (*Ipomoea batatas* 'Blackie', green 'Marguerite' and 'Sweet Carolina Bronze'). Interesting pots work as focal points to coordinate the colors of the pots and the foliage.

Maintaining containers with foliage plants is easier than keeping up colorful pots of flowers. There are fewer fading flowers to deadhead and foliage needs only occasional sprucing up. Instead of fertilizing weekly, just mix in a slow release fertilizer at planting time and give them a drink of liquid fertilizer two or three times over the summer. If your pots are mostly in shade, you will not have to water as often. If in the sun, daily watering might be necessary, especially on hot days.

As the plants grow in their containers, there are many opportunities to re-arrange them, take a fresh look and focus on the foliage...you will find the overall effect very soothing.



www.bellingrath.org – This is a lovely site that will encourage you to make plans for a trip to visit the gardens located in Theodore, Alabama. Stopovers in Mobile and New Orleans would make it a great journey. There are 65 acres with the gardens and a grand estate. A virtual tour of the estate, with beautiful photographs, along with History, Events, Children’s Workshops, Browse the Estate options, are all on this site. You will learn about what is Currently Blooming, and Maps, Directions, Hours and more; everything you need to plan a trip to this icon among great American gardens that are open to the public.

www.PlantWaterRing.com – Visitors to the site will find it a small but interesting commercial site with a few products available for purchase that will be desirable for avid gardeners. There are patented watering rings that go around plants for the purpose of sending water and nutrients straight to the roots. The site states that you are saving money, time and water....and, as we know, these are great goals! The parent company is JEKCO, and they also have for sale such items as Plant Markers with large writing areas to record plant information. There are also Birch Ground Stakes and a Melon/Squash Cup that will protect melons and squash against rot and promote even ripening. A small but useful site for all gardeners.

www.nps.gov/plants/alien - “Weeds Gone Wild” is the title for this site, and it’s one you should peruse at length to learn more about Plant Invaders of Wild Areas, as the site describes its subject matter. There are Fact Sheets, Invasive Plant Lists, Publications and Articles material, Definitions, What YOU Can Do, Calendars, and even Recipes! The University of Georgia maintains a Weed USA Center for the study of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, and they play a role with this site. There are extensive lists of Invasive Plants, broken down by topics such as: Aquatics, Grasses, Herbs, Shrubs and Subshrubs, Trees, Vines and an all-encompassing one entitled All Species. You will find photographic images, botanical and common names, distribution maps, even an Invasive Plant Atlas for our National Parks. This Reviewer learned that April has been officially declared “Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month”! Who knew?

www.flowerxrays.com An intriguing site that is just enjoyable and fun for marveling at the amazing photography using a technique called “radiography” with photos of flowers taken in an x-ray fashion. You just have to see these beautiful photos. The photographer is a former dental school instructor who taught for more than four decades at the University of Michigan, and who learned photography at

an early age from his father, a professional photographer. Professor Albert G. Richards’ world of flower images is one that is fascinating. The site includes a Gallery, products for purchase, archives and more. Fascinating and entertaining viewing! You can see more of this type of photography - an unusual and beautiful art form - in the April 2015 issue of *flower magazine*. Founder and Editor of *flower*, Margot Shaw, was a guest speaker at the Deep South Region Convention, and was a wonderful speaker, enjoyed by all.

www.natureserve.org – This site is a scholarly study of Biodiversity Science, with Conservation Tools and Services. The NatureServe Network is wide-ranging and offers a variety of topics, along with topics to click on such as Stories, Newsletters, News and Events, Conservational Land-Use Planning, Restoration, Mitigation and Compliance, and much more. NatureServe is a winner of the 2014 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. Two articles enjoyed by this reviewer were “Monarchs in North America Found to be Vulnerable to Extinction”, and “Gauging Ecological Threats in the Southeastern United States.” There are videos and photographs. In their words, “NatureServe got started in the 1970s using paper field forms, push pins on a big wall map, and computer punch cards. Now, we rely on precision GIS handheld devices, web services architecture and near real-time data synchronization.” NatureServe is a network of 5,000-plus partners gathering and sharing eco-based information, with data, maps and tools. This site is scholarly and comprehensive for those who are seriously concerned about conservation, with a goal of putting knowledge into action.

President Linda Nelson’s Travel Schedule

- May 1-2 Kansas Convention, Lawrence
- May 12-18 NGC Convention, Louisville, Kentucky

President-elect Sandra Robinson’s Travel Schedule

- May 28-30 Wisconsin Convention, Barker’s Island
- June 2-3 Massachusetts Convention, Framingham
- June 4 New Jersey Convention, Bridgewater
- June 6 Nevada Convention, Las Vegas
- June 9-11 COMHDE Convention, Monterey, Mexico
- June 12-13 Montana Convention, Great Falls
- June 15-17 Oregon Convention, Coos Bay
- June 18-20 Iowa Convention, Iowa City
- June 26-28 Wyoming Convention, Casper
- July 14-16 NGC Headquarters, St. Louis

NEWS FROM REGIONAL DIRECTORS

PACIFIC REGION Elaine Gunderson, Director

The Director attended two conventions in April. First, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention in Yuma followed by the Pacific Region Convention in Eugene, Oregon – “From the Mountains, To the Valleys, To the Waters...” – expressing the wonderful geographical diversity of the eight Pacific Region states.

Director’s Project Chairman Sandy Ford forwarded the state reports of how local garden clubs, districts and states carried out the 2013-2015 Director’s Theme, “EXPAND HORIZONS – A CONSERVATION RAINBOW” through its Project – “It’s Our World! It’s Our Responsibility! Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship”. Tears came as I read what a powerful force for good local and state garden clubs are in supporting their communities, youth and organizations with similar goals. It fills a Regional Director with pride. One of the greatest achievements that Pacific Region accomplished for the first time in 10 years was 100% state participation in the Director’s Project enabling the Region to apply for NGC Award of Excellence for Region #25.

Other achievements included Pacific Region newsletter WACONIAH, which is now free electronically to all Pacific Region members, received the NGC Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit in 2013 as an effective source of information for the Region.

The “Painted Lady” was selected as the Pacific Region butterfly. A successful “Rainbow” Region fundraiser was achieved. Monetary awards for all 1st Place Youth Award Winners were established. A \$1000 university scholarship was given in both 2014 and 2015. Policy and Procedures were revised to meet NGC requirements. The overall sense of unity in our very diverse Region was enhanced. “Thank you” goes to all the officers, State Presidents and chairmen who accomplished this for their Region.

I want to thank all our members for the support and the many kindnesses extended to me the past two years. It has been an honor to serve you. I am filled with pride over what is being accomplished by clubs and states. I applaud you and wish for your future the joy you so richly deserve.

Pacific Region will be in capable hands as Kristie Livreri of Nevada assumes Director of the Region for 2015-2017. I know graciousness and support will be extended to her in the quest of her theme: “Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child – A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities.”

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION Beverly Heidelberger, Director

Yes, it is time for the end to come for my term as Rocky Mountain Region Director. How exciting it was to travel to the eight states that have land and climate so different. Yet the people, whoops, the gardeners are all the same; they have the amazing positive attitude for challenges with their horticulture, weather, soils and daily lives.

The RMR project for my term was “Make Water Choices for a Green World.” All the RMR states were and are still in some sort of a drought, with only a spot in Montana near normal moisture levels. Water management and protection was promoted by each garden club member and they educated themselves and others. They will continue to preach correct water choices and conservation for the rest of their lives and on to their next generations. As you know, gardeners live long and prosper.

Thanks to all that did their part to make the Rocky Mountain Region a success, even when it seemed confusing with the 501(c)3 finance changes. The next Rocky Mountain meeting will be in Sioux Falls, South Dakota September 11-12, 2015 with the theme “Strutting Your Stuff.” The incoming RMR Director Darlene Skari and Alternate Director Phyllis White of Montana will promote “Advancing Our Horizons -- New Thoughts, Ways and Ideas.”

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION Nancy Voyles, Director

Spring has finally arrived and the states are busy conducting state conventions. Many are reporting first time attendees. At the recent SCR Convention, “Living on Tulsa Time”, held in Tulsa, OK we also had several first time attendees. One of the events that we had was to tour the Linnaeus Teaching Gardens in Tulsa. After touring the gardens we went to the Springfest at the garden where we could shop. We had a seminar entitled “Three Simple Rules.” The topics discussed were: Club President, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Protocol, Awards and Membership. Members were very receptive of the knowledge shared by presenters: Renee Blaschke, Bobbie Verser, Isabel Olsen, Donna Marscheck and Nancy Voyles.

SCR was proud to present Clara Bishop of Oklahoma the Individual Service Award. Clara is a long time garden club member who is always willing to help others in the club.

New Mexico convention was titled “Jewels of the Desert.” The design program was entitled, “Designing With Jewels of the Desert.” Suzy Andrego was installed as the next NMGC President 2015-2017. New Mexico has seen a huge increase

in club membership and a newly organized club during Isabel Olsen's term of office.

Arkansas's Convention was at the Harding University Campus in Searcy, AR. One of the programs was "Upcycle-Repurpose-Scrape" new life for found objects. They also had demonstrations and information on how to make a succulent corsage, fun ideas with succulents, how to make an educational exhibit for a flower show and BeeGAP. Rose Knight was installed as AFGC President.

Texas has also been busy conducting Flower Show, Environmental and Gardening Study Schools. The title for the TGC Convention was "In East Texas the Pines Grow So Tall Their Tops Tickle the Toes of Angels." The TGC members enjoyed a program on Keyhole Gardening. The incoming TGC President is Carol Moore.

The theme for the Oklahoma Garden Club was "May Days." The incoming OKGC President Mary Ann Holman was installed at the convention held in Oklahoma City.

The incoming SCR Director and Alternate Director will be Barbara Baker and Sue Durrett of Texas. I have enjoyed my term as the SCR Director and it was a pleasure to serve with NGC President Linda Nelson and others on the NGC Executive Committee.

CENTRAL REGION

Gerry Ford, Director

April was the time for State Annual Meetings in Illinois, Missouri, and Minnesota. Bees and blossoms, native plants, floral designs and gourd painting were a few of the program topics.

Each state has special projects. The Federated Garden Club of Missouri generously offered to pay for one half of one Blue Star Memorial marker placed in each district before May 31, 2015. There will be 3-4 dedications this spring. Iowa was busy this year hosting the NGC Fall board meeting and will host the Central Region meeting in October 2015. Illinois donated \$9,000 for tree planting to Washington, IL after the devastating tornado. Illinois also participated in the Chicago Flower & Garden Show.

As our term of office comes to an end, I commend all the state presidents for their leadership and direction. Each state is special in its own way. I have enjoyed getting to know you all and working together. Thank you for contributing your time and talents to make for a successful term.

NGC Central Regional Luncheon on Sunday May 17th will have some business, a few awards and a delightful program on famous Landscape Designer Olmstead. Hope to see you all there.

DEEP SOUTH REGION

Gloria Blake, Director

The Deep South Region held their 54th Annual Convention in Birmingham, AL on March 24-26. It was a wonderful convention hosted by the garden clubs of Alabama. The clubs were well represented with good attendance from the states. A "BIG THANK YOU" goes to the members of the Garden Club of Alabama for a job well done. What a great way to finish up the administration.

ALABAMA – Immediately following the Deep South Convention the Garden Club of Alabama held its state convention in Birmingham. The members had double duty to host two conventions, one after the other, and both were a resounding success.

FLORIDA – FFGC has written and adopted 10 Position Statements to educate our members to share with their communities and decision makers, on our policy about items such as Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems, Clean Water, Clean Air, Conserving Native Plants, Banning Hydraulic Fracturing in Florida, and more.

GEORGIA – GA has shown appreciation for our troops with Blue Star markers being placed all over their state. They have been contributing to the youth with scholarships. They have tried in many ways to show their gratitude for their President, Suzanne Wheeler, since she has gone on to be with God.

LOUISIANA - The months ahead are busy months for LGCF. In April they will hold the Cleanest City Contest with state judging, and the LGCF Convention in Lake Charles. In May will be a tour to California, followed in July with the Summer Board Meeting, and a LGCF Flower Show.

MISSISSIPPI – The members have been reaping the rewards of their fall labor as many types of bulbs were planted by clubs in their cities. These bulbs are beginning to bloom giving cheer after long winter months. To come will be the state convention, garden tours, and spring meetings.

TENNESSEE – TN members have really supported the DSR project Community Gardens. Examples are one club maintains an herb garden and sells its produce to benefit Mobile Meals. Another club maintains a sensory garden with the help of special needs children. Many of the clubs have community gardens at their churches, schools and other public places.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

Mary Warshauer,
Director

It is no surprise that over the past two years this **Region Rallied**. Garden clubs restored, refurbished, replanted and renewed the commitment to **make a difference** in and around their communities. Our common goal connects us, and their volunteer time and tireless efforts bloomed in every community in which they serve. Their dedication is commendable and greatly appreciated.

The 2015 CAR Conference "A Floral Explosion" hosted by the GCFP is Oct. 27- 29 at the Wyndham Gettysburg Conference Center, Gettysburg PA. The GCFP is sponsoring a Symposium immediately following the conference at the Wyndham. Both events are on the CAR web site: www.ngccar.org

States are installing the 2015-2017 officers who will lead our garden clubs for the next two years. It is important that we rally our support to the new officers, governing boards and continue to work together to promote the invaluable work of garden club.

Anne Bucher from the National Capital Area Inc. will be installed as the 2015-2017 CAR Director. Anne is an exceptionally capable, devoted member with a great deal of experience. Mary Ellen Alden will serve as CAR Alternate Director. We welcome Anne and Mary Ellen and offer our encouragement and support for their administration.

The last two years have been inspiring, educational, enlightening and heartwarming. It has been a privilege to work with the members of the Central Atlantic Region.

Your encouragement, dedication, hard work and support are sincerely appreciated and I am very grateful.

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Maria Nahom, Director

In New England during February there were several flower shows, with previews of spring. Connecticut and Rhode Island met real challenges when their state shows were held in February. Besides traveling in ice and snow, a shipping strike in California impeded the selection of flowers for designs. Gathering arboreal specimens meant piling over snowbanks. Of course our Region was not the only one with weather problems. Our southern friends had their share of thick ice.

Photography was a new addition to the Rhode Island state show and Connecticut included it for a second year. This seems to be catching on and is a crowd pleaser.

Vermont is trying something new and interesting. They have begun a project to track volunteer hours in their garden clubs for a year. So far four clubs have reported with a dollar value of \$68,305.41, and some are small clubs. Imagine multiplying this along the country. We truly are of service.

For their 85th anniversary, several members from the Rhode Island Federation went to Costa Rica to celebrate. The timing was great as they missed a few more storms.

Camden Garden Club in Maine is celebrating a special anniversary. It has been an active garden club for 100 years!

In New Hampshire all 20 clubs planted for pollinators. Each club also had programs about mason bees, butterflies and the declining honey bee. All of our states have been active in this area.

It has been an honor to serve as Director of my Region and I am so proud of all New England's accomplishments.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION Martha Morgan, Director

Across our country, this winter has been one we are not sad to put behind us. Even in the states of the South Atlantic Region, which are usually more temperate, there have been storms, snows and temperatures that have broken records. The coming of spring is especially beautiful in contrast. This morning, my husband and I drove around our city of Bowling Green and our neighborhood of Eastland Park, admiring the blooming trees and being grateful for the promise of spring.

With the spring comes our National Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Convention and this year we will be so happy to welcome everyone to Kentucky. We have ordered beautiful weather, but if that doesn't work, Louisville is so pretty, anyway. Our Chair and Co-Chair, Ann Fiel and Joan Wipperman, along with their many Committees, have spent countless hours planning a wonderful time for everyone. Y'all come!

It is hard for me to believe, but this is my last article for **Keeping In Touch** as Regional Director. After two years, I am glad to welcome Sarah Ann Parler, who will be installed at NGC, but I will miss corresponding with you. It has been my pleasure to serve the South Atlantic Region and to remind everyone that in garden clubs there are "A World of Opportunities – Be Involved".

NGC 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.

IN MEMORIAM

- With a heavy heart we must inform you of the death of **Jacqueline Strother** on January 5, 2015. Jacqueline was a retired NGC Design Instructor and NGC Master Flower Show Judge. She was president of Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. from 2007-2009. She passed away at her home in Martelle, Iowa. A celebration of her life will be scheduled in the early spring when the prairies of Iowa begin to wake up. She was an active member of many organizations and took pride in visiting all seven continents.

- **Marjorie Hollandsworth** passed away on February 2, 2015 after an extended illness. Marjorie was a former president of the West Virginia Garden Clubs, Inc. and NGC Golden Circle member. She was on the NGC Board in many capacities from 1977 to the present. She developed a strong appreciation of environmental issues and worked in the garden clubs to promote environmental education. She was a creative flower arranger and an NGC Emeritus-Master Flower Show Judge.

- Sadly, we share the news of the passing of **Marjorie Carlin** on February 1, 2015 at Sanford Hospice, Foundation Cottage in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Marjorie was a former president of the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. She was Regional Director of NGC, serving for many years on the NCSGC (NGC) Board of Directors. The Butterfly Garden of The Outdoor Campus was a dream of Marjorie's. She applied for a grant to get the project started and the SDFGC adopted it as their state project. She designed the garden with the help of a landscape architect. Memorials may be sent to the Butterfly Garden of The Outdoor Campus, 4320 South Oxbow Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57106. On line condolences may be sent to www.hansenfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories.

- We received sad news of the passing of **Helen Reed** on February 21, 2015. Helen Reed was President of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs from 1983-1985 and a member of the NGC Board of Directors. In the past year Helen celebrated her 100th birthday. She was incredibly loyal to National Capital Area and National Garden Clubs. She was still active in garden club and a member of New Mark Commons Garden Club in Rockville, MD. She will be missed by all.

- With a heavy heart, we must pass along the notification of the passing of **Suzanne Wheeler**, President, The Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc. on February 28, 2015. Suzanne was an Environmental Studies Consultant, a Gardening Studies Consultant, a Landscape Design Consultant, an Accredited Flower Show Judge, a Four Star Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., and held Life Memberships in Georgia, the Deep South Region and NGC. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., she served on the Deep South Region Council and NGC Board of Directors. Notes of condolence may be sent to her son -- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wheeler and Family, 547 Payne Hill Drive, Clayton, GA 30525.

- **Joan Bonine** of Rehoboth, Delaware passed away on March 2, 2015. She was The Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs President from 1971-1973 and Central Atlantic Region Director in 1975-1977. Joan was a member of the NGC Golden Circle Committee and held many other positions over the years on the NGC Board of Directors. Her work as a Master Flower Show Judge and flower arranger were among her most celebrated accomplishments and those in which she took great pride. Notes of condolence may be sent to her daughter, Linda B. Rogers, 1017 Quail Run, Camden Wyoming, DE 19934.

[NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.](http://www.gardenclub.org)

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