



The National Gardener

Summer 2012

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The National Gardener

Summer 2012
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National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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188,031 Garden Club Members
50 States and the National Capital Area
49 National Affiliate Member Clubs
293 International Affiliate Member Clubs

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The National Gardener

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The Cover

In granite-lipped basins,
Where iris dabble their feet
And rustle to a passing wind,
—Amy Lowell

Photograph: Jack Jennings

President's Message

NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities

Through my travels it has become apparent that many garden club members think in terms of their local and State Garden Clubs, but really have no concept of the ways that National Garden Clubs, Inc. contributes to their well-being. Sometimes, a district's hosting of a state convention opens the door of learning about our organizational structure to its members. When state convention attendees learn that our eight Regional Directors serve on NGC's Executive Committee, regions then take on a new importance.

Appreciation for NGC comes through education and enabling our members to think that local clubs are part of a dynamic service organization that reaches across our country and beyond our borders. If we take into account all NGC garden club projects, the impact on our communities is astonishing—and we proudly do all this as volunteers.

NGC offers many benefits to serve our member clubs in their quest for excellence. The list could go on and on, but the following sampling proves the value of membership in National Garden Clubs, Inc.

1. *The National Gardener*, NGC's highly regarded quarterly periodical, available by subscription, provides educational articles on a wide variety of topics, from both NGC chairmen and outside authorities. A calendar listing upcoming schools and sites lets readers wishing to attend a school choose from locations across the country. An



on-line version of TNG will soon be an option for those wishing to go paperless.

2. Our upgraded website (www.gardenclub.org) now has sections for the public, garden club members and NGC board members.

3. NGC Headquarters staff provides beautiful certificates to honor clubs having significant anniversaries of 50 years or more. Certificates are also available for Blue Star Marker

dedications.

4. *Keeping in Touch* is produced between issues of *The National Gardener*. A goal is to have this publication reach every garden club member from the national to the local garden club by email distribution. A buddy system helps those who need hard copies. Articles from NGC chairmen help convey the big picture, while highlighting worthy projects and accomplishments.

5. A Vision of Beauty Calendar printed in this country features floral designs submitted by garden club members from many states. This project is a fundraiser for clubs, states and NGC. Calendars are available beginning in April for the next year.

6. To help clubs gain new members and educate current members, NGC has a 12 minute professionally produced video available for \$5 from Member Services.

7. NGC presents 36 scholarships annually to students studying in fields related to our mission. Each State Garden Club may sponsor one applicant. Large states may sponsor two.



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The National Butterfly Garden

8. Each year NGC awards its highest honor for a non-member, the Award of Excellence, to up to three individuals, organizations or institutions that made significant contributions toward the advancement of goals and purposes of NGC. Applications are submitted by State Garden Clubs.

9. There are also annual Awards of Excellence for States, with a \$500 award offered in each of four-size categories for an outstanding project.

10. NGC offers many items for sale through Member Services. Discounted floral supplies and gardening products, hellebores, bulbs, educational materials on basic design and horticulture, lesson plans for club programs and name badges are just some of the available items.

Enjoy your summer.

With appreciation for your support and giving spirit,

Shirley S. Nicolai



"If you build it, they will come." National Garden Clubs, Inc. helped to build it and they do come. Every year thousands of visitors arrive in the Nation's Capital from around the globe. The U.S. Botanic Garden is high on their lists of places to visit.

The U.S. Botanic Garden was established by an Act of Congress in 1820 and is the oldest botanic garden in North America. Visitors begin at the Capitol and then walk a short distance to the Botanic Garden. The Butterfly Garden at the Botanic Garden is a destination for many, and families arrive with children, some in strollers.

The initial planning meeting for the National Garden as part of the Botanic Garden was held in 1997. National Garden Clubs, Inc. wished to be part of this garden with the addition of a Butterfly Garden. The Butterfly Garden was officially dedicated on September 29, 2006. NGC members came from across the nation for the Dedication. The National Garden also contains a Rose Garden, a Water Garden, to honor America's First Ladies, a Native Plant Garden and more.

Garden club members felt a great pride in the completion of this garden due to their efforts in raising funds with the sale of National Butterfly Garden pins, beautifully designed Christmas ornaments, a commemorative plate, a U.S. Silver Dollar produced by the U.S. Mint and especially the blue granite pavers. The contributor's name, garden club, district, state, etc. are etched in pavers. National Garden Clubs, Inc. also has a stone with its name in the Butterfly Garden.

Beautiful metal benches and a sundial were created for the garden by Clydetta Fulmer using butterflies and roses, the national flower, in the design. NGC also was responsible for an illustrated Butterfly Garden Brochure. Children especially

Children are frequent visitors to the Butterfly Garden.

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Since the National Butterfly Gardens creation at the National Botanic Garden, in conjunction with National Garden Clubs, many changes have occurred in the garden. A beautiful new gated entrance adjacent to the Butterfly Garden has been added leading into the National Garden. The Butterfly benches have been refinished by the Botanic Garden and new and additional plants are continuously added or replaced when needed. The Butterfly Garden is maintained by the Botanic Garden Horticulturist and staff as part of the care of The National Garden.
—Rilla Crane

Denis Crane

enjoy the new brochure showing the butterfly's life cycle, host plants for their eggs, plants for nectar and some fun exercises and questions in the back. The National Botanic Garden has information about Butterfly Garden requirements, a long list of butterfly-attracting plants, and helpful tips which you may receive via their website: www.usbg.gov.

Educational programs and tours are held throughout the year at the Botanic Garden. Children's programs and tours are also provided. The tours lead them through the Conservatory and The National Garden, including the Butterfly Garden. They learn about photosynthesis, pollination, and the importance of plants and insects in our environment.

One way we can continue to support the U.S. Botanic Garden is to become a member. As a member you will receive their quarterly calendar listing all the programs, tours and special events taking place during the year. One memorable event was a Fall Harvest Festival. It was held in the National Garden, including the Butterfly Garden. Local chefs from Washington's top restaurants provided outstanding food and drink. It was held in September and the weather was ideal. While strolling in the gardens, sampling delicious appetizers and listening to the soothing flow of water in the infinity pool, the moon rose near the Capitol Dome. The moment: Priceless.

Another special event takes place in December. It is the Holiday Exhibit. Members are invited to a special preview night. The Conservatory is ablaze with flowering plants, especially many different poinsettias. Refreshments are served and supporters of the Botanic Garden enjoy this special time together. This year model trains were set up indoors. Young and old were delighted with the speeding trains and the creative staging using tunnels, plants, quaint towns and farms.

You may get additional information about



membership by going to their website: www.usbg.gov. The National Fund is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your membership contribution is tax deductible. You may also email: sdesroch@aoc.gov or phone: 202-225-1281. These memberships enable the U.S. Botanic Garden to continue to be a National Treasure for all to enjoy. We helped to build it and they come, but as all garden club members know, gardens change and require continued care and support.



National Garden Clubs, Inc. can be proud of The National Butterfly Garden, a part of the National Garden at the U.S. Botanic Garden located in our Nation's Capital.

—**Rilla Crane**, *National Butterfly Garden Liaison*

NGC Mission Statement

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

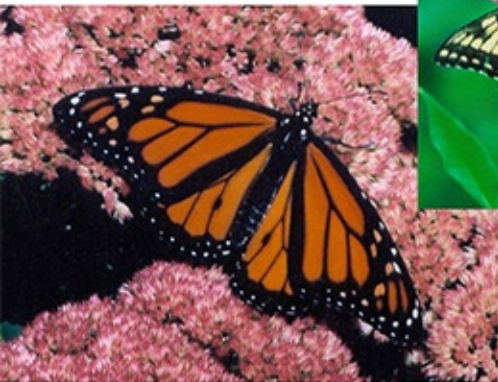
Butterflies

The butterflies arrived early this year due to our warm winter. I found Monarch eggs the week before Mother's Day, something I never find until after National Convention, the end of May.

Consider planting a butterfly garden; it can be as small as 3' by 5' or as large as many acres, whatever you have room for.

Depending on the types of butterflies you'd like to attract, plant host plants for them. The host plant for the Monarch is milkweed (*Asclepias*), of which there are more than 100 species in North America. We have plenty of milkweed, both at our home and at our Nature Center. Monarch butterflies are here from spring until they migrate in the fall.

Do you know how to tell a male Monarch from a female Monarch? Look at their wings; the male Monarch has a black spot on both of its wings, the female has no spots. In the photo (below) you can see the black spots on the lower part of the wings.



Monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains migrate in the fall to California; Monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains migrate to Mexico. There is a Monarch tagging program through the University of Kansas that you can participate in during late summer and fall (monarchwatch.org).

When our cherry tree was in bloom, it was full of Red Admirals, a sight to see when so many were here. The Red Admiral enjoys sedum, milkweed, and mints, all of which we have planted.

Swallowtail butterflies (pictured below) enjoy milkweed, honeysuckle, cherry trees, dill and phlox, just to name a few.

I'd like to encourage each garden club to plant a butterfly garden. Some areas where they'd be enjoyed are Care Centers for seniors, parks, and playground areas for our youth. Keep in mind it can be a small area to begin with and expanded later.

Keep records, take a lot of pictures of your activities and apply for a Butterfly Award this fall.

If you volunteer at a Butterfly House or Butterfly Garden, keep records of the types of butterflies in your area, along with the number of visitors. If you'd like to find a Butterfly House or Garden to volunteer, look on the internet for one in your area; they can al-



ways use volunteers and it's a wonderful way to educate yourself about butterflies and their needs.

I've been asked about butterfly releases. If you plan on releasing but-

terflies in your area, order butterflies that complement the plants in your area, plants that supply larval and adult food for them.

Two of our Regions have a Regional Butterfly: Central Region has the Painted Lady as their Regional Butterfly; New England Region has the Monarch as their Regional Butterfly.

Plant your butterfly area, keep records of your progress and apply for an award from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

—**Marian M. McNabb**, *NGC Butterfly Chairman*, Nature@lowatelecom.net

Book Reviews

Linda Jean Smith

NGC Book Review Chairman

Herb Gardening From the Ground Up; everything you need to know about growing your favorite herbs by Sal Gilbertie & Larry Sheehan, Ten Speed Press, NY, 2012. Medium-sized paperback, 256 pp., ISBN 13 978-1607740292, \$16.99.

Sal Gilbertie is the third generation owner/proprietor of Gilbertie's Herb Gardens in Westport, Connecticut, which is the largest herb grower and supplier in the U.S.

The book is divided into four sections: Herbs Are For Everyone; Building the First Garden; Herb Garden Plans; and Herb Culture Guide. There are drawings in the book but no photographs.

If you love herb gardening, and I do, you may well find this book absorbing. The first two sections offer basic information: where plants should be from the first year to the second; the rate and pattern of growth; the culinary garden year one, two and three;

which plants to bring in for the winter (I always lose one or two); and which herbs do best for sowing inside or outside or from cuttings.

The Herb Culture Guide lists 195 herbs, with general information, including height, propagation methods, harvesting and storage.

The largest section is on Herb Garden Plans. This is a dangerous section for anyone who loves herbs because you will want to plant all the gardens—there are 37 from which to choose. Some herb garden plans you may not have thought of: How about a home bar garden? Or a cake and cookie garden? Sorry, you'll have to get the book to find out what's in them.

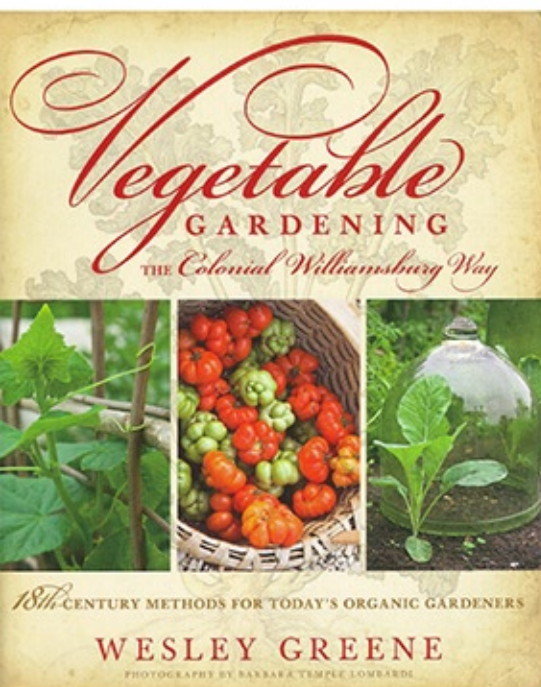
Vegetable Gardening the Colonial Williamsburg Way, 18th-Century Methods for Today's Organic Gardeners by Wesley Greene; photography by Barbara Temple Lombardi, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation & Rodale Books, New York, 2012, Hardcover, 256 pp., ISBN 978-1609611620, \$30.00.

Author Wesley Greene founded the Colonial Garden and Plant Nursery in the Historic Area of Colonial Williamsburg in 1996, where he studies and interprets 18th-century plants, tools, and cultural techniques.

In his introduction, Greene explains about gardening from early Jamestown up to the time of Williamsburg. The first eight chapters are on specific vegetables that are grown in Williamsburg, including information on their history, how each vegetable is grown and essentials such as when to plant, spacing, harvesting, seed collecting and more.

Chapter nine deals with vegetables that are not commonly grown or ones that are more difficult to grow, such as artichokes, cardoon, and celeriac. The fact that some of these foods were once used for medicinal purposes or have fallen out of favor and other such facts keep the book fascinating.

Chapter 10 is on "Growing Under



Covers." Williamsburg may be south to New Englanders, but it still gets snow, and vegetable gardens need protection. There are some great ideas for making cold frames and hot beds and even paper frames, which were used in the 18th-century for growing melons.

The final chapter is on "Growing Sticks." Since earlier times it was important to grow the "right" sticks, such as willow, hazel and alder. Fences and plant supports were made from sticks. "Clematis is beautiful on a stick trellis, and sticks are great for growing sugar peas and English peas.... I can't over estimate the importance of sticks in the garden," says Greene.

The history of the vegetables we eat, where they came from, what early settlers thought of them and problems that were incurred growing them in the New World make this a wonderful book to read and well worth the time.

Dryland Gardening; Plants that survive and thrive in tough conditions, by Jennifer Bennett, Firefly Books LTD., New York & Ontario, 2005, Large paperback, 192 pp., ISBN 978-1554070312, \$24.95.

Garden writer and editor Jennifer Bennett lives in Sydenham, Ontario. She has written numerous gardening books and has received many awards for her writing, including the Quill and Trowel Award from the Garden Writers Association.

This book was originally printed in 2005, but is being reprinted. The book's focus is on zones 4-10. The title says it all: The book is a well-structured guide to plants that survive in tough conditions.

The first chapter, "The New Dryland Garden," is particularly interesting with lots of good information on how plants use water, water usage, conserving water and how to design your landscape to make the most of the water you have. Because the book is

for areas with dry summers going into cold winters, the book does get into watering as the winter comes.

There are chapters on ground covers, shrubs and everything in between.

Gardeners everywhere are concerned about fresh-water supplies and can benefit from practices that conserve water. For NGC members who have civic plantings that have a hard time surviving some of the drought conditions during the summer, this book is a good resource; and for those gardeners who want to put water conservation practices to use in their own home landscape, this book provides a beginning.



DRYLAND GARDENING

Plants that survive and thrive in tough conditions



JENNIFER BENNETT

Encyclopedia of Planting Combinations
by Tony Lord & Andrew Lawson, Buffalo,
NY & Ontario, Canada: Firefly Books,
2012, Large Paperback, 464 pp., ISBN
978-1554079971, \$45.00

Tony Lord edits the Royal Horticultural Society's annually published *RHS Plant Finder*. He is an author, photographer, horticultural consultant and winner of the Garden Writers' Guild "Best General Gardening Book" award and the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour. Andrew Lawson is a leading garden photographer and author. He has also won a Garden Writers' Guild Award and the Royal Horticultural Society's Gold Medal as well as twice being named "Garden Photographer of the Year" by the Garden Writers' Guild.

This revised and expanded edition was first published in 2003. It is divided into eight sections: The Art of Combining Plants; Great Planting Styles; Shrubs and Small

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Trees; Climbers; Roses; Perennials; Bulbs; and Annuals.

The more than 1000 photographs reveal beautiful garden planting combinations and are a wonderful complement to the text.

This is a reference book and not for casual reading. A perennial problem in gardening and landscaping is figuring out which plants work best together, and this book helps solve that problem. There is much information on suggested combinations, as well as information on how to assess a site and how to plant borders. The book also goes into landscape design, with information on form, color, texture, size and foliage. There are more than 1000 individual species in the chapters and each entry includes the plant's botanical name, common name, genus, species, and variety. Each plant has a list of "perfect partners" after it. If the plants listed are not to your liking, the list at least gives you an idea of what types of plants might work with your existing ones.

If you have some experience with landscaping you will probably love this book, and if you have a garden that you want to enhance or update with new combinations, this book will certainly give you some wonderful ideas.

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"This is the reference book your library can't do without."
Garden Design



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PLANTING COMBINATIONS


OVER 4,000 COLOR AND PLANTING SCHEMES



Tony Lord • Andrew Lawson

Community Gardens: Bringing Communities Together

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.
Chinese Proverb

 Community gardens recently received a boost with the endorsement of First Lady Michelle Obama and her campaign encouraging families to eat fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables, but the idea of community gardens has been around a very long time. When we think “what is a community garden?”, the answer can be as varied as the people involved in the project—from neighborhoods planting gardens on vacant lots in the city, to small plots where several families share the work and the harvest, to school gardens teaching students where food comes from, to a garden on the roof of a hospital where patients can find healing in the solitude of the garden. All of these are examples of a community garden because they bring communities together—be it two or three people to entire schools and neighborhoods, the seeds sown reap a multitude of benefits—providing food for families, making friendships, social benefits, health benefits, people teaching people and building safe communities.

For me, the Moody Demonstration Garden is the best example of a community garden in our city. It is a small plot of land located adjacent to the Cooperative Extension Office and where I became involved with the garden when my Mom worked with the local 4-H program. The purpose of the garden was to plant a variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables and ground cover that work well in our region—the desert Southwest—to give landscaping ideas to people new to the community. By visiting the garden they could have living examples of fruit trees, shade trees, shrubs, vegetables, grasses and, with the addition of education kiosks and master gardeners

to answer questions, could make better decisions on plant choices for their own personal use. The garden would be used as an educational tool.

The Moody Garden is truly a community garden—people from all walks of life, various interest levels, a broad range of age groups—with the garden a product of all those people: from the planning phase, to selecting types and varieties of plants to the actual planting, the community has been involved. I was ten years old when our 4-H club planted the “Children’s Garden.” Up until that day, the area was nothing but a big empty dirt lot, but after a group of 50 or 60 4-H members, leaders and parents came together it started becoming a garden—our garden! I know the exact tree my Mom, brother, sisters and I planted together. It took a long time to dig the hole because the dirt was so hard, but with all of us working together we finally got it planted, and each time I go to the 4-H office I look to make sure “our” tree is still there.

Since those initial community plantings the garden has continued to evolve and change with special features and ideas incorporated, attracting more and more visitors to the garden. There have been ice cream socials, take your sweetheart to the garden, fiddlers concerts, weddings, memorial services, dedications, young string orchestra recitals, class field trips, family pictures, graduation pictures—the garden has been used for a variety of reasons. The garden is being used for the exact reasons it was designed and created—to bring the community together. There are times when you find people walking quietly through the garden and there are times when you find

thirty kindergartners painting mixing bowls to be made into toad stools under the trees that I helped plant in the Children's Garden. There is peace and activity and laughter. The group of people that meet each Tuesday to maintain, love and care for the garden have formed special friendships, sharing ideas, exchanging seeds, working together with various groups. The garden has been the key to building our community.

—**Sidney Lynn Penny** graduated this spring from Kofa High School, Yuma, Arizona. She was sponsored by Pecan Grove Garden Club, Yuma, Arizona.



Temple of the Rose

Born within the heart of angels
Blessed buds of Paradise
Found among the fields of Eden
Far beyond the thorns of strife...
So the Earth remembers Heaven
So the Spirit of Love grows
Here, the flower of forever
Here, the Temple of the Rose.

Wildflowers Everywhere

Where the willow and the stream
Meet within a woodland dream
And the winds that blow the trees
Play among the dancing leaves...
Through the cities to the farm
Each a masterpiece of charm
From the mountains to the shore
Singing colors evermore
Magic gardens of delight
Sweet with wonders day and night..
Near and far
Here and there
Enjoy!
Wildflowers Everywhere!
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2013

Vision of Beauty

President's Project: Planting for Public and Special Places

 Thank you to every garden club that visited the NGC website, received information and instructions, completed a form and emailed it to the appropriate chairman for **Plantings for Public and Special Places**. This participation ensured quite an outstanding first-ever President's Project to be emailed DIRECTLY from garden clubs to NGC Chairmen!

Please continue the wide variety of Plantings for Public and Special Places that exemplify the goals of NGC. When projects are completed in any of the three categories, submit the forms as soon as possible to the appropriate chairman. DON'T wait until the April 1, 2013 deadline.

Enjoy reading, below, the brief descriptions of the 2012 winners:

◆ **Garden Edibles:** Chairman, **Pat Ruppier**, arupiper@bright.net
FIRST PLACE AWARD \$300
Idler Garden Club, Flat Rock, AL

Helping Hands Junior Garden Club is sponsored by Ider Garden Club. This Junior Garden Club planted and tended a three-acre garden plot. They provide fresh organic vegetables to the families in the tornado-ravaged communities of Flat Rock and Fabius and to the local food bank. They also provided garden plots for those who wanted to make their own gardens.

The project is ongoing and this year will include an herb garden and corn. Over 600 families will have fresh vegetables available at no charge.

SECOND PLACE AWARD \$150
The Iris Garden Club, Crawfordville, FL

The youth garden clubs at COAST Charter School are sponsored by the Iris Garden Club, of Wakulla County, Inc. The program involves all 140 students in the school including four-year-olds in pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students. No pesticides are

used since the children are always smelling, touching and tasting the plants. Some plants are grown from seed and some from small, purchased plants. A wide variety of crops are grown to show diverse plantings and harvest. One plant of each variety goes to seed, for observation by the children, to demonstrate the need for flowering to produce seed.

THIRD PLACE AWARD \$100
Grapevine Garden Club, Grapevine TX

This Public Edible Project, named the "Suburban Salad," is in two parts and places. Part I consists of six square foot gardens in the Grapevine Botanical Gardens. Grapevine Garden Club (GGC) has provided funds (\$350) and vegetable plants to help establish this demonstration vegetable garden. The Botanical Garden is free and open to the public. GGC members serve as docents, working about 400 hours a year. More than 1,400 children and adults annually attend docent-led formal tours, classes and special events. Part II of the Public Edible Project supports a local food pantry community garden. GGC has supplied funds, plants and gardening tools to Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange (GRACE) for their community garden. GGC has donated the shed (\$400) for storing tools and supplies, vegetable plants, gloves and other tools and \$200 for seeds. This community garden is starting its third season. It doubled the food pantry harvest from the first to second year.

◆ **Trees and Shrubs:** Chairman, **Lissa Williamson**, erw510@aol.com
FIRST PLACE AWARD \$300
Blairsville Garden Club, Blairsville, GA

Vogel State Park was originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the early 1930s. The promenade walkway was replanted with native trees, shrubs and perennials for viewing by the 250,000 visitors from all over the world to enjoy. Varieties used by Native Americans and early settlers for food and medicine are emphasized. A garden club member researched indigenous plants and drew the landscape plan. The membership of the club appropriated a budget using matching funds from a local landscape firm, making

the completion of the project possible. The Park Staff and local volunteers prepared the soil and installed the project. This area will be an outdoor classroom using the identifying markers as part of the teaching tools.

SECOND PLACE AWARD \$150
Idaho Horticulture Society, ID

The area surrounding The Idaho Bird Observatory observation platforms, was in great need of replanting. The Observatory is part of the international bird tracking network and widely used. This club accepted the challenge to replant the viewing sites and the camping areas for students, using a variety of native shrubs. One hundred shrubs were planted to aid in improving the area. Serviceberry, Bitter cherry and Chokecherry were purchased from University of Idaho nurseries and then selectively planted. Forbes seeds were cast to help with the erosion of the area. After the spring snow melt, signage will be added and fill in completed, if needed, from the fall planting. This project is ongoing.

THIRD PLACE AWARD \$100
Hollyberry Garden Club, Maryland, CAR

The third place winner was Hollyberry Garden Club in Maryland. They transformed the unattractive blank area around Severna Park Library into a native educational garden. With over 1000 visitors daily, the garden club has reaped the rewards of this project by adding new garden club members to its roll. Community cooperation and funding has resulted in over 30 varieties of trees and shrubs being planted. Invasive ivy has been eradicated, removal of undesirable trees and shrubs has been completed and underground connectors for water access installed. Educational signage has been installed, promoting the benefits of native plants. A small bench has recently been added to give the patrons time to enjoy the garden.

◆**Container Gardens: Chairman, Sue Robinson, rerob@mac.com**

FIRST PLACE AWARD \$300
Bethesda Community Garden Club,
Bethesda, MD

The club partnered with a public library

in a community outreach project to provide plants in a special public space they had created for the enjoyment of the staff, library patrons and the public. Specific containers were chosen to add impact to the plantings, reduce watering needs and minimize the possibility of damage. Signs are posted during work visits to call attention to the Bethesda Garden Club work schedule. Due to the visibility of this project, the garden club has gained new members. Interaction with community workers and county government has profited all involved.

SECOND PLACE AWARD \$150
The Arbor Garden Club of Clinton,
Clinton, CT

This project has combined a historical site with an environmentally-sensitive area to create a wonderful, nautically themed garden. Abutting the Indian River, on Route 1, the garden Landing includes 400 feet of town-owned property. The goal was to enhance the appearance of the Town Campus by landscaping the area around the existing flag pole and adding 12 container barrels planted with low/no maintenance native plants. This was a joint project with the historical society, civic groups, individuals, businesses and the Town, as well as the Garden Club, putting forth the NGC goals.

THIRD PLACE AWARD \$100
Mooreville Garden Club, Mooreville, NC

This club's project mirrors one in their sister city in Hohenheim, Germany, bringing global interest within NGC. The huge, 10-tiered planter at the public library brings awareness to breast cancer and to the NGC "Plant it Pink" project, as well as being a wonderful food source for butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Plantings were chosen to overwinter in this moderate climate with additional planting planned when needed. The cascading blooms have added interest for visitors from near and far.
—Plantings for Public and Special Places:
Coordinator, **Betsy L. Steele**

Restoring and Replacing Blue Star Markers

Since 1950, District II and individual garden clubs have dedicated nineteen Blue Star Markers. All markers, and the locations of the missing markers, were inspected during 2008-2010 by the District II Blue Star Marker Chairman. An extensive search for the missing markers was conducted. Sadly, five of those markers were reported to be no longer in existence. Markers are sometimes taken down while roadwork repair and improvements are being made and stored until they can be reinstalled. Sometimes they are hit by vehicles or stolen. District II is responsible for those markers it installed and dedicated.

The condition of our Blue Star Memorial Markers is a reflection of how we honor our Armed Forces and a reflection on Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The markers should be in very good condition to show respect for those who have served, are serving and will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The markers also should reflect that TFGC is a strong, dedicated and caring organization; therefore, the markers should be in very good condition for the viewing public.



A marker dedicated on April 6, 1979, by District II. More than half of the paint had peeled, and the post was heavily damaged and leaning.



A new Marker is surrounded by a small bed of seasonal flowers

District II has dedicated seven Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers on Tennessee Interstates within the district since 1968. The interstates located in District II are some of the most heavily traveled in our country, and the markers located on these interstates are viewed by millions of travelers each year. After inspection of the markers located at Welcome Centers and Rest Areas on these interstates, it was agreed among District II board members that there was work to be done regarding the condition of these seven Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers.

Restoring and/or replacing ALL interstate Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers located in and dedicated by District II that were missing or in poor condition was a most needed and timely project for the district.

—Pam Dowd, District II Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman. District II is one of four districts in the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. It consists of fifty-seven garden clubs located within twenty-six counties in Middle Tennessee.



Answering the Call

The 900 residents of the small community of Smithville, Mississippi, suffered a devastating EF-5 tornado in April, 2011, killing 16 residents and demolishing a major portion of their town, including four churches, the police and fire departments, health clinic, post office, bank and 14 of the 15 businesses within one square mile. 153 homes were completely destroyed with major damage to many more. Branches from their trees, shrubs and flowers were ripped away like toothpicks leaving the town devoid of its natural beauty.

Now, a new park is underway with playground equipment donated by the Mississippi Beverage Association, and the community plans to plant 16 trees in remembrance of each life lost.

On May 4, 2012, the Flower Lovers Garden Club of Amory, Mississippi, which is eight miles down the road, formed a Clean-up Smithville Campaign and invited residents from across the state to participate in their final, large-scale clean-up effort which had begun months earlier. They are now ready to begin their community landscaping, but their finances have been greatly diminished in

their rebuilding efforts and they are depending on an NGC Natural Disaster Grant to help furnish financial aid.

Smithville is now in the process of forming its first garden club. Residents want to be a part of the NGC organization that has supported their community in its time of need.

The primary focus of NGC Natural Disaster Grants is to provide grants that are supported by donations from our membership to help tackle these disasters together. Your contributions make it possible to answer the urgent needs of our garden clubs, and the communities they represent, across the country.

Please mail all contributions to: NGC Headquarters (earmarked—Natural Disasters USA), 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110

—Pat Smith, *Grants/Gifts/Bequest Committee and NGC Natural Disasters Committee*; (901) 754-9344



At left: Beginning the clean-up.
Above: The clean-up in progress (left to right): Dotsy Fitts, Tombigbee Valley District Director; Nancy Moore, President of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi; Geneva Moon, Keep Monroe County Beautiful Board; Melissa Sierra, President, Flower Lovers Garden Club of Amory, Mississippi.

World Gardening

NGC has partnered with **Global Partners Running Waters Inc.**, a non-profit organization working in cooperation with the United Nations, to **increase access to safe water** in Latin America. 1.1 billion people around the world currently get their water from rivers, ponds or other sources subject to contamination. Donations made through NGC will help to bring safe drinking water to villages.

To help at your own local level:

- **Sponsor a "50 is Nifty" campaign.** If nationwide every member would contribute only 50 cents, we would have a sizeable contribution to offer.

- **Consider a "Drop in the Bucket" collection** at your regular events. You can pass a bucket and ask members to contribute loose change.

- **Display an educational exhibit** about this program at your flower shows and schools to promote awareness.

- **Celebrate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or recognize a special achievement** with a donation from an individual, club, a district or state. **All donations over \$25 will be acknowledged with a recognition certificate.**

To learn more, visit: www.globalpartners-runningwaters.org. There you will find a video and other information about the work being done by this worthy organization. However, **please do not donate directly via this site** — by donating through NGC we will be able to keep track of the funds that members have contributed.

Donations may be made in any amount and will be acknowledged with a printed tax receipt.

- Make checks payable to: National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Indicate "Global Partners" on the memo portion of your check.
- Please include the name that should appear on the recognition certificate.

Mail checks to:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO
63110-3492

Past NGC contributions helped to complete a project in Ojo de Agua, Quiche, Guatemala. Clean drinking water was brought into this village. Hours that villagers spent walking miles to fill jugs with water can now be used to plant food and raise animals for families. Global Partners Running Waters current major project is to bring potable water to 263 families or 1,578 individuals in Los Llanos, Quiche, Guatemala.

To download Global Partners Donation Forms—WORD or PDF—from the NGC website, go to: gardenclub.org; click on: "Outreach Projects;" and go to: "World Gardening." There you'll find a donation form and a gift card form that you can download.

—For more information, contact **Barbara Wesley**, NGC World Gardening Chairman; barbandwes@earthlink.net

Calendar

NGC Conventions

- 2013 Seattle, Washington
May 24-26 (Installation year)
- 2014 Norman, Oklahoma
April 30-May 3
- 2015 Kentucky
- 2017 Virginia

Fall Board Meetings

- 2012 Little Rock, Arkansas
September 25-29
- 2013 St. Louis, Missouri
September 24-28
- 2014 Des Moines, Iowa
September 24-28
- 2015 St. Louis, Missouri
- 2016 Portland, Maine

Dame's Rocket Experiencing Explosive Growth of an Invasive Weed

By Steven Apfelbaum

Dame's rocket has escaped from gardens and is rapidly invading the surrounding landscapes. Left unchecked, this beautiful, yet lethal plant will wreak havoc on the natural environment, threatening the survival of native plants and degrading habitat and water quality.

Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) is a tall, short-lived perennial, which produces white, pink or purple flowers in the spring. Known for its colorful and fragrant blooms, the plant has been a traditional garden favorite. However, in recent years, Dame's rocket has gone rogue, moving from yards and garden plantings into the adjoining landscapes.

An abundant seed producer, Dame's rocket is dispersed with the aid of mammals. When the seed-bearing pods ripen, they pepper seed onto the coats of a wide variety of wildlife, allowing for extensive seed spreading. As a result, the plant is rapidly infiltrating waterways, wetland margins, farm fence rows and tree lines, and even colonizing natural areas of prairie, savanna, stream course and many types of wetland margins.

Dame's rocket seems to be following explosive growth patterns similar to its close relatives in the mustard family, garlic mustard, yellow rocket, hedge mustard and wild radish, all highly invasive species that have infested agricultural lands and native woodlands, savannas and grasslands across the country. In the U.S., the annual damage costs from invasive species are estimated to be more than \$200 billion a year, which doesn't take into account the costs associated with impacted ecological



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systems, such as loss of biodiversity. Allowing Dame's rocket to continue its current expansion will cause similarly costly impacts to the environment and economy.

Very high-quality landscapes, including state natural areas, are not immune from the invasion, nor are agricultural lands. Evidence of the compelling risk this plant represents has been personally observed by the author in many settings in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, including Stone Prairie Farm, located in southern Wisconsin.

At Stone Prairie Farm, Dame's rocket was first found along the perimeter roadways and the stream bisecting the farm. Multiple methods have been employed to eradicate the plant. These include mowing of open non-forested locations, hand pulling in the fence rows and forested locations and direct Roundup (herbicide) application on the plant in hard-to-reach areas containing desirable native vegetation.

Surprisingly, Dame's rocket was also found widely dispersed over a several hundred-acre cornfield, coming up from between the stalks of the corn stubble from the previous year. Closer observation suggested the field had been no-till planted with corn the previous year. Because no-till planting is usually preceded by an herbicide application, this may suggest that Dame's rocket has herbicide tolerance (unless the farmer did not treat his field with herbicide).

Dame's rocket appears to have allelopathic tendencies (the ability to produce chemicals that prevent or reduce the growth of other plants) similar to garlic mustard. Ob-

servations in floodplain forests have shown nearly continuous development of Dame's rocket along with an equally dense growth of garlic mustard—both plants are able to quickly form dense monocultures within a few years of colonization.

Controlling Dame's rocket is not easy. In moist soils, simply pulling the plant removes it from the ground, roots and all. In slightly drier conditions, pulling the plant will cause the flowering stems to break off above ground level, leaving roots to re-grow. Mowing curtails seed development, but some plants have been observed to re-flower and produce seed after mowing. Mowed materials dry quickly, and mowing should be conducted before pods are fully mature. As a precaution, any hand-pulled plants should be properly removed, bagged and disposed until more data is available about whether seed pods can ripen after plants are mowed or pulled.

Dame's rocket is not a protected native wildflower, but, in most locations, it is not classified as a noxious weed. Due to

its widespread encroachment on native landscapes and species, it is imperative to educate the public about the risks of Dame's rocket and encourage states to list the plant as an invasive species. Further actions must also be taken to develop plans addressing containment and removal of Dame's rocket. Any plan must also be mindful of desirable native plant species and habitat conditions in a targeted location that may be vulnerable to herbicide uses and mowing.

Remember, as beautiful as Dame's rocket may appear, it is an invasive species with the potential to damage entire natural ecosystems. Take action now to defend your environment. For information about various treatment strategies, please contact your state's Department of Natural Resources.

—**Steven Apfelbaum** is *Principal Ecologist, and Chairman of Applied Ecological Services, Brodhead, Wisconsin.* For more information, visit: www.appliedeco.com



Dame's rocket (Hesperis matronalis) is a tall, short-lived perennial, which produces white, pink or purple flowers in the spring.

Flower Show Schools

What are the responsibilities of the judge regarding a flower show schedule? If the judge identifies something in the schedule that is not in keeping with NGC policy or the *Handbook*, the judge must contact the Show Chairman, Schedule or Classification Chairman and identify the errors as soon as possible. Most schedule errors may be corrected at the briefing prior to judging (see *Handbook*, p.284, Note).

If the show is being evaluated, no penalties should be deducted for errors that have been corrected.

When does the judge review the schedule? Certainly not on the way to the show, but as soon as possible after it has been received.

Numerous questions have been received concerning Section Awards. To offer an NGC Top Award in design, a Section must contain at least three (3) classes with four (4) exhibits each. The Horticulture Section must list at least three (3) classes but no specific number of exhibits is required in each class.

In many shows, particularly small ones, Section Award winners, may receive the Division Award as well. However, it is not necessary that the Division Award be limited to Section Award winners. The Division Award is awarded to the finest exhibit adhering to the necessary requirements in the entire Division.

■Question: My club recently had a Small Standard Flower Show. The Schedule had six classes of designs. On the day of the show, there were no classes that had four-exhibits; every class had either one, two or three exhibits. There were 12 designs overall and a top award was awarded to a class with two exhibits. This was very confusing to me. Is it still a requirement to have four exhibits in a class or is it just the total number of exhibits that deem a Small Standard Show?

Answer: This could not have been considered a Small Standard Flower Show (SSFS). In the Design Division, at least three classes must have a minimum of four exhibits—could be more, but never less. However, the SSFS cannot exceed 19 exhibits in design. In order to offer a Top Award the Design Division must have at least three classes with four exhibits each for consideration (*Handbook*, p.45, III. A.3), exception, Design Club Competition Award.

■Question: I have been asked if a Student Judge who has not taken her Handbook Exam can enter a Judges Class in our State Flower Show.

Answer: She is a Student Judge, Level 1. The schedule does not specify which level the judge must be, so technically she may compete.

■Question: We have an issue that concerns classes in a Section eligible for the Grower's Choice Award. One interpretation is that classes in a Grower's Choice Section must be all flowering or all foliage or all combination plantings as in the following example.

Section X Flowering Container-grown plants – must be in bloom

Class 100 Saintpaulia

Class 101 Begonia

Class 102 Orchids

Section Y Foliage Container-grown plants

Class 103 Hedera

Class 104 Ferns

Class 105 Succulents

Section Z Combination plantings

Class 106 Dish Gardens

Class 107 Terrariums

Class 108 Troughs

A second interpretation is that a Grower's Choice Section may include a flowering, a foliage or a combination planting as in this example.

Section X Container-grown plants

Class 100 Flowering – must be in bloom

Class 101 Foliage

Class 102 Dish Gardens


Which is correct?

Answer: Grower's Choice Award. Your first example is correct. Three Awards may be offered, one in each Section.

If you will remember that a Section must be judged on the same Scale of Points you will understand why the second interpretation is not possible.

—Jean Ohlmann, NGC FSS Chairman

Escuela de Exposiciones de Flores

 Lo importante es una aclaración sobre plantas en recipiente para exhibición. Primeramente, consideremos plantas en recipientes de follaje. Las definimos como aquellas que son cultivadas por su follaje ornamental. Poseemos estas plantas especialmente por sus hojas atractivas e interesantes. Sin duda la planta puede producir inflorescencias; pero la flor es insignificante. Aunque la planta tenga su inflorescencia, se la presenta en la exposición de flores en la clase de plantas en recipiente con follaje y se juzga con la Escala de Puntos de Follaje. La presencia de la flor no se considera una falta al juzgar, más bien una indicación de madurez.

Una planta en recipiente con flor es elegida por las flores que produce. Estas plantas deben ser presentadas cuando están en flor. Cuando no tiene la flor, no importa cuán hermoso esté el follaje, no se considera una planta en recipiente de follaje. Muchas veces, la planta sin flor continúa siendo atractiva. Sin embargo, el follaje no es lo más importante en una planta en recipiente en flor. Por lo tanto no debe ser presentada en una clase de plantas en recipiente de follaje.

Habiendo dicho esto, siempre existe la excepción a la regla... Algunas plantas pueden pertenecer a las dos categorías... hermosas flores al igual que follaje extraordinario. Sin embargo, no significa que puede ser presentada en cualquiera de las

dos secciones, solamente porque tiene las dos características. Por ejemplo: La violeta africana de hoja variegada – aunque el follaje de esta planta es excepcional.... El Manual, como así también la Sociedad de Violetas Africanas, dice que esta planta siempre se juzga en flor.

■ **Pregunta:** Existen algunas diferencias de opinión entre nuestros jueces con respecto a qué quiere decir el Manual en referencia a los Diseños Duo. El tema es como se comparte la línea dominante... ¿qué sucede si hay más de una línea dominante? ¿No se pueden compartir las hojas de ambos lados con tal que el centro del diseño sea diferente?

Respuesta: El Diseño Duo debe parecer dos diseños distintos. Con tal que los componentes compartidos sean parte integral de cada lado del diseño, es aceptable.

■ **Pregunta:** Hemos tenido una discusión con respecto al Premio Excelencia al Diseño a ser otorgado en nuestra Exposición Estándar de Flores. Una de las secciones en Diseño incluye una clase de Collage, una clase de Diseños Pequeños, y la tercera clase es de mesas.

Si interpreto bien al Manual (pág. 39 – III.A.6.) esta Sección no clasifica para el premio. ¿Estoy en lo correcto?

Respuesta: El Premio Excelencia en Diseño es un premio de División. Por lo tanto no se limita a exhibiciones que han recibido un premio de sección. Se lo puede otorgar a exhibiciones en secciones que no ofrece un premio de sección. Ver MEF Pág. 39 III.B.1.c.

Ud. hace referencia a la descripción de un Premio de Sección para la cual la sección que menciona no corresponde. Sin embargo, si una exhibición de esa sección es ganadora de la cinta azul con 95 puntos o más, si puede estar en competencia para el Premio de División.

■ **Pregunta:** ¿Es necesario disponer las clases de la Sección Horticultura por orden alfabético?

Respuesta: El Manual en la pág. 23. 2.c.1) dice que si una sección opta por un Premio Mayor al Expositor, las clases deben estar identificadas por el nombre botánico, en orden alfabético.

■**Pregunta:** En nuestra exposición de flores tenemos una Sección para frondas cortadas de helechos y otras plantas reproducidas por esporas. ¿Entraría en esta Sección una clase para Equisetum?

Respuesta: Si, el equisetum es una planta que se reproduce por esporas.

—Jean Ohlmann, *NGC FSS Chairman*

Traducción: S. Wray – Dir. NGC EEF AI

Online World Flora

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; The New York Botanical Garden; and the Missouri Botanical Garden have announced plans to develop the World Flora—the first modern, online catalog of the world's plants—to be made available by the year 2020. This massive undertaking will include the compilation of information on up to 400,000 plant species worldwide. It will also achieve a primary target of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, an ambitious effort first adopted by the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity in 2002, to halt the continuing loss of plant biodiversity around the globe.

Plants are one of Earth's greatest resources. They are sources of food, medicines and materials with vast economic and cultural importance. They stabilize ecosystems and form the habitats that sustain the planet's animal life. They are also threatened by climate change, environmental factors and human interaction. There are an estimated 400,000 species of vascular plants on Earth, with some 10 percent more yet to be discovered. These plants, both known and unknown, may hold answers to some of the world's health, social and economic problems. A full inventory of plant life is vital if their full potential is to be realized before many of these species, and the possibilities they offer, become extinct.

The critical situation for plants, where at least 100,000 plant species are threatened by extinction worldwide, has been recognized by the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity.

—Missouri Botanical Garden

Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems “Blue Gold”

NGC Special Project
2011 – 2013

National Garden Club's Special Project, “Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems” is an important initiative that garden club members must support. Project information is available at: www.gardenclub.org/SpecialProjects/ProtectingAquaticEcosystems

To appreciate the urgency of protecting aquatic ecosystems, we must realize the fragility of our water supply. Our water —“blue gold”—once taken for granted as free to all, is now being sold as a commodity throughout the world. There are aquifers, rivers, and lakes that are being over-abstracted/polluted to the point there may not be any way of restoring the balance. The infrastructures of our water utilities are generally outdated. What can we do? We have to take a position of responsibility with conservation of water, and then we must attempt to correct, or at least be aware of, some of the problems that are currently happening with our supply, infrastructures, pollution, and those fighting over the rights to the water. **We must protect our aquatic ecosystems!**

What is happening to our supply of water?

Who owns an aquifer? The answer varies from state to state and is rarely simple! Today, states generally follow one of five “rules” in deciding “Who owns the Water?” For a detailed explanation of the rules and a list of the states operating under each rule go to: www.watersystemscouncil.org/VaWebDocs/WSCDocs/1836033IN_WHO_OWNS.PDF

We have, and are, facing more **water**

wars between cities and states and the selling of water as a commodity. Several lawsuits are pending on who owns the right to certain rivers and lakes. Water is being sold by some states to other states; water is being sold all over the world. Currently, there are tankers normally reserved for oil, filled with water from lakes in Alaska, being shipped to the Middle East.

Water has turned into a **global commodity**. It is alarming that water that has been in public hands is now being transferred to private ones. Those that support privatization of water, indicate that markets are the best way to solve the problem of water scarcity because as the price of water increases, the use of water will decrease. The truth is, as more water goes private (it might be cleaner in some cases), fewer people have access to it, and the cost goes up. We must keep an eye on the draining of rivers and lakes by water companies supplying water to their customers. **Over-abstraction of water results in environmental damage—death to wildlife and plants, and the build-up of chemicals in an already fragile aquatic ecosystem.** Private companies tend to use the source of water that is cheapest to obtain, regardless of the effects on the environment, and regardless of public concerns.

With privatization of our water/utility facilities, usually comes less control for the customers. Most of the water industries that are privatizing water utilities are **multinational corporations**. They are purchasing groundwater and distribution rights wherever they can. American Water Works Company, a German owned utility enterprise in the U.S., provides water, wastewater and other resource management services to more than 10 million people in 23 states. Peoria, Illinois, and Charleston, W. Virginia, are customers of AWW and pay some of the highest water bills in the country. This company has been awarded a 50 year contract by the US Department of Defense for the privatization of utilities of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In a report from the Center for Public Integrity, since 1996, when the EPA

first warned of a looming water infrastructure crisis, the private water companies and their associations have poured millions of dollars into the **political arena** to influence and support lawmakers. Private utilities buy up local companies, and donate to politicians to smooth the way for privatization. On-going bribery and corruption charges and convictions concerning our nation's water supply are unfortunate facts.

There are valid concerns that a handful of private companies could soon control a large chunk of the world's water. The large foreign companies often work closely with the World Bank lobbying governments and international trade and standards organizations for changes in legislation and trade agreements to force the privatization of public waterworks. According to some, these large companies view the days of a free glass of water being over, and the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) are principal players behind the implementation of water privatization. The investor-owned water utilities claim to provide cleaner water than publicly owned and managed water utilities—**communities and cities will have to decide what is best**, but should expect rate hikes if they go with the investor-owned water utilities, as well as less input. It should be noted that there are several of these privately owned/managed water utilities that are trading on U.S. markets—who would have guessed that water in the 21st century would be the equivalent of oil in the 20th century? **Water is now being referred to as "blue gold."**
—Betty Tusa, *NGC Special Project Chairman, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

VISION OF BEAUTY

Change of Entry Deadline
August 1, 2012

—Jan Warshauer, *NGC Calendar Committee Chairman*

Why Should I Attend NGC Landscape Design Schools?

"On October 7, 1958, NGC established a series of four courses on landscape design in order to develop in its membership a greater appreciation of the environment, both natural and manmade." Professor Hubert Bond Owens was appointed chairman of this new program.

The curriculum continues to cover a broad range of landscaping topics, including History of Landscape Design, Plant Selection, Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures, Designs For the Future, and Evaluating the Landscape Design of Residential, Public and Business Property.

When an updated version of the Landscape Design Schools "Operations Guide" is approved, two new topics will be added: Planting Design and History and Development of Community Gardens. Upon completion of the four courses, passing the examinations with a grade of 70 or above, garden club members are eligible to become NGC Landscape Consultants. This certification does not qualify the Consultants as a professional, but is a sign of special achievement among NGC members. Over the years, attendees have come to enjoy their garden more and have become involved in many civic and private projects.

As stated in the Landscape Design "Operations Guide," the objectives of the Landscape Design Schools are:

1. Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride and knowledge about our private, public and historical gardens.

2. Become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, convenient,

ecologically sound and easily maintained.

3. Encourage a better understanding of the Landscape Design process, in order to promote landscapes that will sustain sound management.

4. Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning.

5. Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards and promoting better landscape design.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. offers Award #40, The Hubert Bond Owens Silver Trophy, to a Council of Landscape Design Consultants for the most outstanding program of continuing landscape design education. The trophy may be displayed at the State Garden Club's headquarters, if any, or placed in the custody of the Council's president.

Landscape Design Schools are one of the many educational opportunities offered to garden club members but also to non-members. Master Gardeners attend for credit in many states. Come learn about good landscaping practices which will add to your appreciation of the beauty of our world.

—Jane Bersch, NGC Landscape Design Schools Chairman

A garden is a complex of aesthetic and plastic intentions; and the plant is, to a landscape artist, not only a plant — rare, unusual, ordinary or doomed to disappearance — but it is also a color, a shape, a volume or an arabesque in itself.

A garden is a result of an arrangement of natural materials according to aesthetic laws; interwoven throughout are the artist's outlook on life, his past experiences, his affections, his attempts, his mistakes and his successes.
~ Roberto Burle Marx

Summer Planning

As this is written, it is Spring and there is a flurry of Gardening Study Schools (GSS) activity. In California, we are in the process of launching two series, one in Encino and another in Eureka, 645 miles and 11 hours apart. Some states are so geographically compact that they can hold schools in the same location repeatedly and that location may be no more than a two-hour drive from all of your state's garden club members. If California can entice students and Consultants to drive for hours to attend our schools, think how much easier it may be to stage schools in many other parts of the country.

With the fairly recent removal of time restrictions between school courses, California will complete these two series (a total of eight courses) within a thirteen month period (and we have another GSS in the formation phases to begin soon after the conclusion of these two). In the past, some states have presented one course a year—so it might have taken seven to eight years to do what we plan to complete in thirteen months. Flexible requirements bring a variety of possibilities. One of these schools is being sponsored by my garden club (the third GSS we have conducted) and one is being sponsored by a district (the fourth GSS they have conducted).

The point is that if we can do it, anybody can. If Southern California Garden Club and Humboldt District have repeatedly taken on these projects, there must be some benefit in the team work and camaraderie of planning and completing such projects, and some benefit in the educational experience—the knowledge gained and shared, and the “giving birth” to a number of new Consultants. Remember that Gardening Study, which covers a wide variety of horticultural topics, can be a most appropriate educational activity for garden clubs and garden club members to be involved in.

When you read this in the Summer, while you may be planning next year's garden club events and projects, think about the benefits that might be realized by putting a GSS or any NGC School in your plans. Your NGC GSS Committee is happy to answer your questions and coordinate with your State Chairmen to nurture these projects to fruition. You are welcome to share your experiences in planning, conducting and attending GSS in this column.

—Greg Pokorski, Gardening Study Schools Chairman and ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

NGC Schools News

Recent communications received by this chairman and other NGC Schools Committee members dealing with the ongoing administration of our schools demonstrate a continuing need for reminders about several aspects of our educational programs:

How many refreshers must a Consultant complete in order to achieve **Master Consultant status**? The answer is the same for all three schools — and has been the same for many years: After becoming a Consultant, **one must complete four refreshers in order to become a Master Consultant**. This information is contained in the NGC Handbooks for all three schools. It has been publicized a number of times in *The National Gardener*, is available from NGC Schools Committees chairmen, and should be available from State Schools chairmen. All State Schools chairmen and anyone chairing a school should have the appropriate Handbook, available from NGC Member Services (1-800-550-6007 or gardenclub.org).

Schools and refresher events must be registered with the appropriate NGC Schools chairmen in advance of the scheduled event. NGC Consultant credit cannot be given for attendance at these events if they have not been registered with

NGC. Local school and event chairmen should be coordinating these events with their state chairmen who in turn should be coordinating with our national chairmen.

Revisions in these school programs and requirements (and periodic reminders about requirements that have not changed) are officially published in *The National Gardener*. This is why Consultants are asked to maintain subscriptions.

Subscribers to *The National Gardener* are reminded and encouraged to share this information about our educational programs (state presidents, please be sure your state schools chairmen have this news; state and local schools chairmen and club presidents, please share with students and Consultants in your area).

Please contact any of our NGC Schools Committees chairmen if you have questions. Thanks for your participation in and support of our schools—a major benefit of membership in NGC.

—**Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator, GregPokorski@earthlink.net**

Tracking Invasive Species

New technologies are making it easier than ever to capture and report information on the location of invasive weeds so that online databases are more complete. iPhone and Android applications have been developed by the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia in support of EDDMapS—an online Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System for invasive species.


The apps are really fun and easy to use," says Karan Rawlins, invasive species coordinator at the Center. "You simply use your phone to take a picture of the weed, and the application grabs the GPS coordinates automatically. Estimate the size of the infestation, press send and your sighting goes out for validation by state and local experts.

EDDMapS apps for iPhone, iPad and Android devices can be downloaded for free at apps.bugwood.org.

The data reported to EDDMapS is available at no cost to researchers, educators, land managers and others interested in tracking and managing invasive species.

—The Weed Society of America (www.wssa.net)

Community Gardens

 Gardening has been in my blood from birth. My grandfather was a Lebanese immigrant and Circuit Court Judge whose hobby was to maintain a 120 acre "gentleman's farm" just outside of Louisville, Kentucky. For a while my family lived next to the farm. I was raised around cattle, pecking geese, apple orchards, hay fields and my grandmother's prized roses. The roses always had "that odor," as I remember, and when I grew older I realized that my grandfather used cow manure to fertilize them; the roses were unconventional just like him, but they were beautiful. My grandfather was ahead of his time in using organic methods, and observing and learning from him instilled gardening instincts that have lasted my entire life.

That was then. Now we visit farms on field trips and buy our "organically grown" farm vegetables from the stand at the Saturday farmers' markets. Vegetable gardens have become more in vogue as the green movement has taken hold and organically grown produce has become the choice in lieu of produce grown with pesticides and fertilizer. We now have grocery stores dedicated to this organic movement. This is great for the average American but what about those less fortunate and unable to visit the farm markets or afford freshly grown produce or do not have the space to grow a garden.

In the "Fast Food" era, where we are trying to educate our children about eating wholesome foods, the message we are sending is mixed. What we feed them versus what we are telling them are two different things. Snacks are typically processed foods. What child would want an organically grown carrot over an Oreo cookie? I would opt for the cookie. Actually I think the kids are catching on and the adults are following their lead.

The key is educating the general public about proper eating habits. Once we edu-

cate them, the problem becomes getting the food on their tables in an economical way. How can we put a garden in reach of every person on earth? How can we provide a garden platform for each person to grow his or her own vegetables?

What has emerged from this lack of gardening space is the world-wide development of the Community Garden Movement. One such organization in the United States is the AGCA—the American Community Gardening Association, Columbus, Ohio. This is a national nonprofit membership organization of professionals, volunteers and supporters of community greening in urban and rural communities. The Association recognizes that community gardening improves people's quality of life by providing a catalyst for neighborhood and community development, stimulating social interaction, encouraging self-reliance, beautifying neighborhoods, producing nutritious food, reducing family food budgets, conserving resources and creating opportunities for recreation, exercise, therapy and education.

Due to poor economic conditions the development of community gardens has proliferated. Planners in Cleveland, Ohio, where over 1,500 homes have been demolished over the past year, have envisioned open space as well as development of Community Garden Space. Taking the land back, going back to natural drainage patterns, open space development and community spaces. Community plots would be available to

those who don't have the space.

The Capital District Community Gardens (CDCG) of upstate New York is another such organization. Established in 1975, it manages 47 cooperative neighborhood food gardens in Albany, Cohoes, Latham, North Greenbush, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Troy, in New York's Capital Region. Capital District Community Gardens organizes annual street tree plantings for the cities of Troy, Cohoes, Green Island, and Rensselaer, enhancing the region's cities. The CDCG operates the Veggie Mobile—a mobile produce market that makes fresh produce more affordable and accessible for low income, inner city residents in the region.

Detroit, more than any other city in the U.S., is a product of industrially driven urbanism: It, thus, had, and has, a larger sensitivity and susceptibility to economic cycles of boom and bust than many other cities of comparable size. Community gardens and urban farms have been tied very closely to that legacy. Detroit's history of community gardens goes back to the late nineteenth century, and the city claims to have had the oldest officially recognized community gardens initiative.



Eating locally produced foods reduces fuel consumption, carbon dioxide emissions, and a variety of other negative environmental consequences associated with the transportation of foods.

In Spain, most older Spaniards grew up in the countryside and moved to the city to find work. Strong family ties often keep them from retiring to the countryside, and so urban community gardens are in great demand. One of the largest community gardens is located in the squatted social center, Can Masdeu, in Barcelona. Out of an abandoned site squatters have created habitat, ecology, activism, and self-sufficiency.

Land for a community garden can be publicly or privately held. As I mentioned, Cleveland, Ohio, and their efforts in dealing with urban decay is an example, where tradition is typically to clean-up abandoned vacant lots and turn them into productive gardens. Access to land and security of land tenure remains a major challenge for community gardeners and their supporters throughout the world, since in most cases the gardeners themselves do not own or control the land directly.

Community gardens have structure. Their organization depends in part on whether the garden is "top-down" or "grassroots." There are many different organizational models in use for community gardens. Some elect boards in a democratic fashion, while others can be run by appointed officials. Some are managed by non-profit organizations, such as a community garden association,

a community association, a church; others by a city's parks and recreation department, a school or university.

Some gardens are grown collectively, with everyone working together; others are split into clearly divided plots, each managed by a different gardener (or group or family). Many community gardens have both "common areas" with shared upkeep and individual and family plots. Communal gardening can be successful but in some cases there results uneven workload of participants and the abandonment of the communal model. This harkens back to the days of collective farming and the unsuccessful history of that movement.

In most cases, gardeners are expected to pay annual dues or plot rental fees. There are many tasks in the upkeep of the community garden including mulching paths, recruiting members and fundraising. Rules and an "operations manual" are both invaluable tools, and ideas are available through the AGCA.

While the number of community gardens may be growing, some individual gardens may be lost to lack of interest, loss of land to private agencies, loss of land to private developers, budget concerns, committed leaders and staff (burnout potential). The general public may like the appeal of a

community garden but there may not be the tangible support needed to sustain the community garden program.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain leases from landowners without liability insurance. Garden insurance is a new thing for many insurance carriers



Some gardens are grown collectively, with everyone working together; others are split into clearly divided plots, each managed by a different gardener (or group or family).



The Wallace Gardens in Grandview, Ohio, are part of the Grandview Parks and Recreation Department, showing more accessible gardens as well as how some have "customized" their spaces.

and their underwriters are reluctant to cover community gardens.

A community garden means many things to many people. For some, a community garden is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbors. For others, it's a place to reconnect with nature or get physical exercise. Some use community gardens because they lack adequate space at their house or apartment to have a garden. Others take part in community gardening to build or revitalize a sense of community among neighbors.

Community gardens have taken many forms over the years such as:

- **Youth/school gardens** expose young people to gardening and nature, give them the opportunity to do some of their own gardening and/or educate them in a variety of subject areas. These gardens are typically associated with a formal or semi-formal program that incorporates classroom lessons with hands-on gardening activities.

Gardens may be located on school grounds, at a community center, in neighborhoods or on other parcels of land.

- **Entrepreneurial/job training market gardens** are typically established by non-profit organizations or other agencies to teach business or job skills to youth or other groups. They grow and sell the produce they raise. Proceeds from the sale of garden products are used to pay the participants for their work. Programs typically rely on outside sources of funding to offset costs.

- **Communal gardens** are generally organized and gardened by a group of people who share in the work and rewards. Plots are not subdivided for individual or family use. Produce is distributed among group members. Sometimes produce is donated to a local food pantry.

- **Food pantry gardens** may be established at a food pantry, food bank or other location. Produce is grown by volunteers, food pantry clients, or both and donated to

the food pantry.

●**Therapy gardens** provide horticultural therapy to hospital patients and others. A trained horticulture therapist often leads programs and classes. Gardens may be located at hospitals, senior centers, prisons or other places.

●**Demonstration gardens** show different types of gardening methods, plant varieties, composting techniques and more.

●**Demonstration gardens** located at working community gardens are often open to the general public for display and classes. They may be managed and maintained by garden members or a participating gardening group, such as extension Master Gardeners, community members who receive training in home horticulture and then serve as volunteers to educate the public about gardening.

●**Farmers Markets** enable local gardeners to sell their produce locally.

Community gardens provide environmental benefits such as:

1. Green vegetation can reflect as much as

20% to 25% of radiation from the sun, thus reducing the heat island effect in cities and cooling the climate in urban areas.

2. In the United States, a meal travels about 13,000 miles, on average, before reaching your plate. Eating locally produced foods reduces fuel consumption, carbon dioxide emissions, and a variety of other negative environmental consequences associated with the transportation of foods.

3. Garden soil is an absorbent substance that reduces runoff from the rain and helps minimize surface erosion.

4. Gardens reduce pollutants in our air by absorbing carbon dioxide.

5. Small open spaces in urban areas provide crucial corridors for retaining native wildlife and supporting migratory species.

Community Gardens are by no means a new entity to our gardening scene. The Community garden itself has been born more out of necessity. More importantly, they have become a part of the political landscape spectrum. As storied New York community gardener Adam Honigman put



A community garden is a place to grow food, flowers and herbs in the company of friends and neighbors.

it: "Community gardening is 50% gardening and 100% local political organizing." Community gardens are more than a meeting ground — they are also a training ground for political empowerment. In a sense, as landscape architect Karl Linn pointed out; they are the 21st Century version of the New England village green, common space that brings people together and inspires shared action.

Community gardens have impacts well beyond their economic and political implications. Community gardens enhance nutrition and physical activity and promote the role of public health in improving quality of life. Opportunities to organize around other issues and build social capital also emerge through community gardens.

The Community Garden movement has impacted each of our lives in some way. My nephew recently moved to Portland, Oregon, and to supplement their food sources they have rented a garden space in a local community garden. Our local men's shelter here in Columbus, Ohio, has organized and created a community garden to supplement their food sources and provides activities for those using the facility. Hilliard, Ohio, where I live, is seeing the need and beginning to establish a community garden. We should not look to community gardening just as a way to beautify the urban landscape, but also as a way to improve the environment, to build community, and to provide supplemental food for our families.

—Dennis P. Karem, RLA, ASLA, Director of Sales and Marketing, Environmental Management Inc., *GardenEscapes* by EMI; Adjunct Professor, Columbus State Community College; DKarem@landscapespros.com

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extension.missouri.edu

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The National Gardener

Winter Issue - Jan-Feb-Mar

Will be mailed January 1

Spring Issue - Apr-May-June

Will be mailed April 1

Summer Issue - July-Aug-Sept

Will be mailed July 1

Fall Issue - Oct-Nov-Dec

Will be mailed October 1

Deadline

for the Fall Issue

Copy due by August 1, 2012

NGC Roster Changes

2011-2013 Board Members Executive Committee

Elected Officers

President-Elect, Linda Nelson

Treasurer

Delete: Patsy Ruth Miller (deceased)
Add: Betty Grimes (to be voted on by the Board of Directors at the 2012 Fall Board Meeting), P.O. Box 349, Hiawassee, GA 30546-0349; gggrimes2@aol.com

Regional Directors

Central Atlantic Region, Jeanne T. Nelson, jtnelson143south@gmail.com

Advisory Committee

Chairman, 2007-2011 NGC President, Renee D. Blaschke, renee.blaschke@gmail.com

Chairmen

Budget Committee, Committee Member Add: Betty Grimes, P.O. Box 349, Hiawassee, GA 30546-0349; Gggrimes2@aol.com

Communications Committee - Print

TNG Advertising Manager, Stephanie Greene, 22481 N. Foxtail Drive, Kildeer, IL 60047-1840

Conventions and Fall Board Committees

Add: 2014 Convention Chairman, Norman, OK Donna Marsheck, 402163 W. 2650 Drive, Bartlesville, OK 74006-0555; dmarsheckgardenclub@yahoo.com

Add: 2014 Convention Vice Chairman, Norman, OK Judy Grotts, 349334 East 870 Road, Chandler, OK 74834-7022; grotts@brightok.net

Add: 2013 Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO 2013 Fall Board Meeting Chairman, Sue Reed, 1019 Cy Ann Road, Town & Country, MO 63017; smrzr@earthlink.net

Add: 2013 Fall Board Meeting Vice Chairman Ivy Baebler, 5513 Heatherbluff Court, St. Louis, MO 63128-4130; ivybaeb@att.net

Add: 2013 Fall Board Meeting Vice Chairman Jackie Reynolds, 452 Foreston Place, Webster Groves, MO 63119; jreynolds452@charter.net

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Member
Delete: Betty Grimes

Gardening Study Schools

GSS Accrediting Committee (DS, C)
Delete: Mary Ellen Alden
Add: Bonni L. Dinneen

Golden Circle

Add: Golden Circle Members
Deen Day Sanders
Veva Schreiber
Jimmie Meinhardt

Grants/Development/Bequests Committee

Grants/Gifts/Bequest Committee and NGC Natural Disasters Committee, Patricia Smith

Horticulture Book

Add: Committee Member, Marie Harrison

Infrastructure Committee

Tours Vice Chairman, Guyneth Priem, Guyneth.2@comcast.net

Organization Liaisons

National Butterfly Garden Liaison Delete: Rilla M. Crane

Add: Mary Ellen Alden, 10705 Orchard Street, Fairfax, VA 22030-3014; toweringjunipers@verizon.net

Organization Study Committee

Member, Veva Schreiber, vevajs@gmail.com

Add: Design Review Committee for IA Website

Chairman, Sylvia Wray
Committee Member, Jean Ohlmann
Committee Member, Lynn Fronk

Roster of State Presidents

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

www.gcii.org

Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota, Inc.

Barbara Halverson
Bhalverson2000@gmail.com

The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Garnet Ascher, Garnet.lee4757@gmail.com

Underline denotes change

Flower Show Symposiums

- Athens, GA** July 15-17
Local Registrar: Sally Holcombe, 3115 Brandy Station, Atlanta, GA 30339-4407; 770-436-9883; smholcombe@hotmail.com
- Canton, OH** July 19-20
Local Registrar: Deanna Stearns, 6820 Mableridge Circle NW, Canton, OH 44718-3910; 330-526-6054
- Charlotte, NC** August 5-7
Local Registrar: Maggie Farrell, 18020 Lochcarron Lane, Cornelius, NC 28021; 704-892-3559; judgessymposiumnc@gmail.com
- Fishkill, NY** August 13-15
Local Registrar: Lucy Volland, 228 Athens Boulevard, Buffalo, NY 14223-1602; 716-833-0494; lvolland@roadrunner.com
- Birmingham, AL** August 15-16
Local Registrar: Sybil Ingram, 154 Sugar Drive, Pelham, AL 35124; 205-733-9536; sybil40@charter.net
- Kalamazoo, MI** August 21-22
Local Registrar: Lynn Dinvald; 6802 Springbrook Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665; 269-343-3827
- Marshalltown, IA** August 27-28
Local Registrar: Loretta Daisy, 123 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Lake City, IA 51449; 712-464-3606; ldaisy@iowatelecom.net
- Bowie, MD** October 5-6
Local Registrar: Lou Whittington, P.O. Box 1386, Salisbury, MD 21802; 410-548-2614; louwhittington@aol.com
- Providence, RI** October 15-17
Local Registrar: Vicki Iannuccillo; 1350 Hope Street, Bristol, RI 02809-1155; 401-253-4535
- San Antonio, TX** October 21-23
Local Registrar: Dee Sanders, 638 Crestway Drive, San Antonio, TX 78239-2152; 210-656-4629
- Palm Beach Gardens, FL** November 4-6
Local Registrar: Phyllis Gidley, 2587 Greenwich Way, Palm City, FL 34990-7506; 772-286-0507; gidleyc@bellsouth.net
- Denver, CO** November 13-14
Local Registrar: Marjorie Koerner, 8195E. Green Hollow Court, Parker, CO 80134-5902; 303-840-4665; margekoerner@yahoo.com

Landscape Design Schools

Course I

- College Station, TX** September 10-11
State Chairman: Janell H. Zeigler, 3190 C.R. 267, Oglesby, TX 76561-1527; 254-865-2904; cnzeigler@aol.com
- Bowling Green, KY** September 19-21
State Chairman: Martha Morgan, 1909 Harvey Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104; 270-781-5695; marthamorgan@insightbb.com
- Kearney, NE** October 12-13
State Chairman: Alice Hemsath, 110 E. 39th Street, E-1, Kearney, NE 68847-8176; 308-224-3771; dhemsath@charter.net
- South Barrington, IL** October 16-17
State Chairman: Dolores Lederer, 16 Westcott Drive, South Barrington, IL 60010-9526; 847-381-5828; hlederer@aol.com

Course II

- Helena, MT** September 14-16
State Chairman: Mary T. Olsen, 15 Doe Lane, Townsend, MT 59644-9652; 406-266-5695; wlmolsen@mt.net

Course III

- Ludington, MI** September 6-7
State Chairman: Terry Harding, 6287 Summit Court, Traverse City, MI 49686-1885; 231-947-0568; wsharding@chartermi.net
- Wellesley, MA** November 1-3
State Chairman: Jane O'Sullivan, 84 Old Meeting House Lane, Norwell, MA 02061-1436; 781-659-4423; jeosullivan@comcast.net

Course IV

- Derwood, MD (NCA)** September 19-21
*State Co-Chairman: Dianne Gregg, 301-299-6456,
*State Co-Chairman: Paula Knepper, 301-424-7582
- Edgewood, WA** October 10-12
State Chairman: JoAnn Goldman, 18811 51st Ave NE, Lake Forest, WA 98155-3059; 206-362-3201; aljo2009@q.com

Bi-Refresher

ESS & LDS

- Sun Prairie, WI** October 26-27
Event Chairman: Vernon Lowell, 3435 State Rd. 78, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572-1341; 608-437-8764; vlowell@mhtc.net

Flower Show Schools

Course I

- Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA** . . . August 20-22
Registrar: Gloria Aminian, 551-833-8176;
gaminian@bak.rr.com
- Richmond, VA** . . . August 26-29
Registrar: Jane Denton, 804-435-6877;
denton@va.metrocast.net
- Jacksonville Beach, FL** . . . August 27-29
Registrar: Rosemary Anthony, 904-246-9737;
Stephanie@solids.com

Course II

- Monroe, GA** . . . August 6-8
Registrar: Betty McKissick, 478-982-5660;
flowergirl921@charter.net
- Winter Park, FL** . . . August 14-16
Registrar: Helen Kuhn, 27305 Racquet Circle,
Leesburg, FL 34748-7752; 352-787-1702;
helenakuhn1@gmail.com
- Ripley, WV** . . . September 15-17
Registrar: Pat Mays, 304-684-3464;
pmays43@gmail.com

Course III

- Ponchatoula, LA** . . . August 7-9
Registrar: Minnie Posey, 985-515-3531;
Mposey24@aol.com
- Okemos, MI** . . . September 18-20
Registrar: Susan Kropschat, 517-351-0464;
sueterrak@yahoo.com
- East Brunswick, NJ** . . . September 19-21
Registrar: Nancy L. Gahtan, 908-879-7991;
nlgahtan@msn.com
- Milwaukee, WI** . . . September 21
Registrar: Judy Miller, 902-734-0615,
jmi54911@aol.com
- Derby, CT** . . . October 10-12
Registrar: Liz Stanley, 860-668-5304;
lsgardn@aol.com

Course IV

- Tyler, TX** . . . July 17-19
Registrar: Virginia Wallace, 14 Rim Road,
Kilgore, TX 75662-2252; 903-983-2834
- Richfield, MN** . . . July 30 - August 1
Registrar: Barbara Mikkelson, 952-894-7580;
mkklsnb@aol.com
- Madrid, Iowa** . . . August 29-31
Registrar: Loretta Daisy, 712-464-3606;
Ldaisy@lowatelecom.net
- Wellesley, MA** . . . September 19-21
Registrar: Hila Lyman, 508-548-0841;
hilajeanne@comcast.net

For additional information on course listings, including instructors, designers and course topics, please see the NGC website: www.gardenclub.org

Course IV

- Tallahassee, FL** . . . October 1-3
Registrar: Jeanine Turner, gotjet@nettally.com;
850-877-1937
- Bowie, MD** . . . October 2-4
Registrar: Lou Whittington, 410-548-2641;
louwhittington@aol.com
- Columbia, SC** . . . October 9-11
Registrar: Jean Arrants, 803-783-6199

Environmental Studies Schools

Course II

- Carlisle, PA** . . . August 15-17
Registrar: Sheila Croushore, 652 Indiantown Rd., Somerset, PA 15501; 814-233-6769;
sheshore@gmail.com

Course IV

- Tyler, TX** . . . July 24-26
School Chairman: Linda Whetsell, 1114 Queenspark Dr., Tyler, TX 75703;
903-561-2081; lindajowhetsell@gmail.com

Gardening Study Schools

Course II

- Encino, CA** . . . August 30-31
Local Chairman: Robin Pokorski, 512 Newton St., San Fernando, CA 91340-2421;
818-361-7873; robinp@juno.com

Course III

- Wooster, OH** . . . October 3-5
Local/State Chairman: Debbie Sickmiller, 122 Highland Blvd., Ashland, OH 44805;
419-281-4336; sickmiller@zoominternet.net

Tri-Refreshers

- Milton, FL** . . . August 9-10
Event Chairman: Tina V. Tuttle, 6755 Highway 99, Molino, FL 32577; 850-587-2361;
ttuttle1954@gmail.com
- Griffin, GA** . . . September 24-25
Event Chairman: Gail L. Berthe, 131 Lufbery Circle, Williamson, GA 30292; 770-228-8849;
glberthe@aol.com

NGC Award of Excellence for State Garden Clubs #24

The Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri
Tractor-Trailer ReLeaf Project



Judy Sheets, President of The Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, accepts her state's award from NGC President Shirley Nicolai.

Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri responded to the Good Friday tornado in the St. Louis area (April 22, 2011) and the May 22, 2011, monster tornado that destroyed Joplin, Missouri, by implementing the "Tractor-Trailer Re-Leaf Project." This project was aimed specifically at communities impacted by the storms to replace trees that were uprooted and damaged.

This project addressed NGC's goals in several ways:

- Response to an immediate disaster.
- Replant thousands of trees in both public and homeowner areas.
- Restore the environment and natural areas that were impacted.
- Provide information to the general public that Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri was a "Force for Good"—our current President's theme.

The project began on June 1, 2011, to assist all damaged areas, including St. Louis Lambert International Airport, which was directly impacted by the storm that tracked 21 miles and had sustained winds of 166 mph. The Joplin tornado was the strongest tornado to ever hit Missouri—with winds estimated at over 200 mph—destroying over 8,000 homes and businesses.

Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri made contact with various municipal and business entities to offer assistance in providing trees. Next, nurseries were contacted for prices of various types and sizes of trees available for purchase for all the various areas.

The St. Louis area, while significantly damaged, did not suffer the loss of life and number of homes and businesses that Joplin, Missouri, did. From this initial review, the decision was made to break the Missouri Federated Garden Clubs efforts into two distinct phases. Phase One would address the St. Louis area in the fall of 2011. Phase Two would address Joplin, Missouri, in the spring of 2012.

Working hand-in-hand with public groups, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri purchased large (2.5 to 3.5 inch diameter) trees from several growing nurseries. Working with St. Louis Re-Leaf Project, 250 trees were distributed to homeowners in the Bridgeton area. Bridgeton requested another tree distribution in the spring, and Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri again assisted them.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. awarded a \$5,000 disaster grant to Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri in September 2011. The total amount expended to date in the St. Louis area (Phase One) is \$11,000.

In addition, Joplin and Duquesne, Missouri, requested homeowner-sized trees for fall distribution. Again, partnering with St. Louis Re-Leaf, we were able to provide 850 trees to the Joplin area in mid-October 2011. At this time, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri has facilitated nearly \$10,000 worth to trees and transportation costs to the Joplin area in just Phase One.

NGC Award of Excellence for State Garden Clubs #24

Virginia Federation
of Garden Clubs
"Keys to the Future"
Youth Project Grants Program



Judy Binns, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs President, accepts her state's award from NGC President Shirley Nicolai.

The "Keys to the Future" Youth Project Grants Program is sponsored by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (VFGC) for new or existing youth-centered programs. Since its inception in 2007, 38 grants have been awarded for a total of \$33,828 reaching over 13,500 youth in Virginia.

This program began in 2007 with the VFGC Board of Directors allocating excess funds from the 2005-2007 administration to start the VFGC Youth Project Grants Program. The number of grants each year is determined by the total amount of money allocated by the VFGC Finance Committee and donations to the fund.

With 11 grants awarded in

Fall 2007 that reached 3000 youth, VFGC saw that these grants were a way to give our organization visibility in the future. New goals were set—serve more youth in ways that we had not done previously and get the name of our organization before the public as much as we can. These youth project grants became the "Keys to our Future"—for our organization, for Virginia and for the betterment of our world. At this point, the Youth Project Grants became an essential part of each year's VFGC budget—funded from investment income and donations to the program.

The outreach for the program has grown. In 2011, \$6000 was awarded in grants to reach almost 4300 Virginia students this year alone—the most students for any year since the program began.

Photos and summary of each year's project grants can be found on the VFGC website, www.gardenclubs.org, giving high public visibility to VFGC clubs.

With the "Keys to the Future" Youth Projects Grant Program, VFGC has made an investment in the youth of Virginia. This monetary grant program is one way that VFGC provides resources to support the work of garden clubs across the state. This support for clubs answers their often-asked question: "What does this organization do for my club?"



NGC Award of Excellence winners (from left): Shane Smith, Director and Founder of Cheyenne Botanic Gardens; William J. Gouldin, Strange's Florists, Greenhouses and Garden Centers; and Katherine Brown, PhD, Executive Director, Southside Community Land Trust.

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NGC Awards of Excellence

Non-Members #23

Southside Community Land Trust

Sponsored by Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Thirty years ago, a creative, hungry single woman looked out her window in one of Providence's poorest neighborhoods and saw nothing but abandoned property, boarded-up homes, closed mill buildings, debris-filled lots, chop shops and decrepit factories. Out on the sidewalks were new Southeast Asian immigrants from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia looking lost. They could not speak the language, were afraid of their neighbors, afraid for their safety, longed for their country and foods from their homeland and had no understanding or desire for most American foods. The need to grow food was evident to this single woman for her own survival.

So she began to clear the debris, trash, weeds, old car parts and other unsavory objects from the empty lot next to her building. Then she brought in small bags of clean soil. She noticed that the immigrant neighbors watched and were curious that it was okay to do this in their new country, but most were in apartments where asphalt surrounded their living spaces. And so this enterprising young woman set out to seek permission for her neighbors to use the abandoned

property next to hers to grow food.

That was in 1981. Today, the Southside Community Land Trust programs and accomplishments include:

- Providing comprehensive agriculture programs and workshops to urban dwellers, free to participants. They teach people how to grow food, to compost, to recycle, where to go for resources, share tools, share the food they grow and the seeds they harvest.

- Offering community garden space to 8,500 residents each year with a waiting list for new plots and continuing to search for additional land in every possible corner of the city.

- Providing youth education for all ages





in summer programs, not only in the "City Farm" but also to the local YMCA/YWCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs and day care centers. During the school year, the Trust provides elementary schools with hands-on gardening programs as part of the curriculum. This program has resulted in:

- Creating an environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds work side by side in their own garden plot or in volunteer support of their neighborhood garden space thereby developing a grass roots ground swelling for belonging and protecting their community.

- Teaching the importance of sustainable small-scale agriculture that provides bountiful, affordable, healthy food within the city using simple, appropriate and renewable resources. Farmers' markets now exist in all sections of our city, which has become a helpful source of income for many.

- Overseeing the City Farm, Youth Garden Club, and the Urban Edge Farm and presenting the most popular spring plant sale in the area. All the plants are grown from seed within a plastic covered greenhouse on the City Farm land. The plants are as diverse and representative as the people who use the city gardens. The plant sale has become a major source of income for the many programs, resources and acquisitions of the SSCLT thereby reinforcing the important notion of sustainability.

- Placing raised beds in the backyards of

newly built Habitat for Humanity homes.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Katherine Brown, PhD., the agency not only encourages the sustainable use and respect of our beautiful earth among our citizens, but it has also made great progress in soliciting the backing of major corporations. The corporations in turn help to influence State policy on environmental issues, which are important to us all. The Trust advances the study of gardening, environmental issues and horticulture at every age level of learning. The hope is that the "new" farmers program will not only create "new" farmers but, may in time, foster interest in other areas such as conservation, horticultural and botanical centers.

Strange's Florists, Greenhouses and Garden Centers

William J. Gouldin, Jr., President

Sponsored by Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

For 75 years and four generations, Strange's Florists, Greenhouses and Garden Centers have been a part of both the local Richmond and Virginia business community. Strange's is one of Virginia's largest greenhouse growers, and one of the largest retail garden centers in the United States. Strange's offers educational opportunities through in-house seminars and how-to instructional material. Strange's also supports the work of many civic and non-profit organizations through sponsorships and donations of plants and floral materials.

As the gardening and floral industry has evolved, most businesses have concentrated on only one area of operations. The unique combination of florists, greenhouses, and garden centers complement each other and combined makes Strange's one of the larger retail/grower organizations in the country.

In this day of "big box" stores, the story behind Strange's is one of family. William J. Gouldin, Jr., along with brothers Craig and Cary, are the third generation and current owners.

As retail garden center, Strange's is the largest garden center in Central Virginia. They provide local organizations with meeting rooms and speakers, as well as free seminars on various seasonal gardening topics every weekend for the public.

Many large greenhouse operations grow a limited variety of plants in high volume for the "big box" retailers—producing plants that are easier to truck. Strange's focuses on a wide variety of quality plant material to

plies all of the floral materials for the public areas, the floral design speakers and all of the floral interpretations. In 2010, they donated over 13,600 flower stems—with flowers ranging from the exotic tropicals and orchids to daisies and mums.

The growth of Strange's under the leadership of William Gouldin and the Gouldin family plays an important part in the floral and gardening community of both Richmond and Virginia, focusing on what the public wants and working to exceed customer expectations. Their support of civic projects and non-profit organizations continues to make a difference in the community every day.



Strange's grows more than 50 varieties of poinsettias.

meet the demands of the gardening public. Strange's grows more than 50 varieties of poinsettias and runs consumer trials each year to get ideas of what they should grow.

Strange's supports the work of numerous non-profit organizations through sponsorships and donations of plants and floral materials for the Science Museum of Virginia, "A Million Blooms" at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Virginia Orchid Society Annual Show and more. Strange's has been the primary sponsor of "Fine Arts and Flowers" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts from the beginning of the event in 1987. This multi-day event features 60 to 75 floral interpretations done by garden club members all across the state of Virginia of masterworks in the museum collection. Strange's sup-

Shane Smith, Director and Founder of Cheyenne Botanic Gardens

Sponsored by Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs

Since its inception in 1977, Shane Smith has been the director and a founder of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, Wyoming's only public botanic garden. This nine-acre

garden should not exist, as Cheyenne is the nation's hail capital, is the fifth windiest city and is 6,000 feet above sea level—not ideal for gardening. With a population of just 55,000, Cheyenne would normally be considered too small to host a year-round botanic garden—it is the only one in the state.

It is a volunteer-centered organization with a major emphasis on community. The Garden was originally founded to provide low-income residents a place to grow food while creating meaningful volunteer opportunities for seniors, the disabled and at-risk youth. This continues today. In addition, volunteers grow 4,500 pounds of produce for nutrition programs.

The Gardens include one of the nation's first 100% solar-heated greenhouses, with



the sun powering 50% of the electricity. Not only do the Gardens maintain their grounds, they also plant and maintain 80 flowerbeds throughout the city of Cheyenne. It contributes to the local economy by beautifying the city and drawing more than 73,000 visitors from all 50 states and 30 countries.

Paul Smith Children's Village opened in Fall 2009. Shane led the fundraising for this \$2 million facility, which was created through a public-private partnership. Paul Smith Children's Village, with its imbedded lessons on water, plant life, solar and wind energy and recycling, was awarded platinum-level LEED certification in April 2010. This is the first children's garden in the world to get this designation.

Shane is also the Webmaster for Cheyenne Botanic Garden and has a weekly radio show. He always promotes club activities and directs any inquiries of potential members and guest speakers. The CBG grounds, greenhouse and all facilities are always available for the needs of garden clubs. Hands-on projects, working side-

by-side with the staff of the gardens is a wonderful, exciting place to be as a gardener of any level. Shane is also the "go-to" person for any gardening question.

Shane helped to acquire 62 acres of the abandoned Cheyenne High Plains Horticulture Research Station, which is in the beginning stages of the High Plains Arboretum. This is a place where many hardy trees, shrubs and flowers were developed for survival on the High Plains, and distributed to encourage the development of communities in this climate-challenged part of America.

Shane shows daily the joy of gardening through the operations of Cheyenne Botanic Gardens.



Then followed that beautiful season...
Summer....

Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light;
and the landscape
Lay as if new created
in all the freshness of childhood.
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Partnerships and Products

Member Services has been busy negotiating and searching for items that will make our garden club life interesting, convenient and fun!

The new silk scarf (pictured), designed with all the logos from each state and our International Affiliates is now available. Thank you to all the state presidents who helped to make this happen! The scarf is 100% silk georgette with a hand-rolled hem, 22" wide by 67" long. You can wrap, double wrap, drape and be the total fashionista. It's a perfect price, too—only \$35.

Smithers-Oasis® products have been difficult to obtain for some of our floral design members—not any more. We are now in partnership with Smithers-Oasis and you can purchase products on-line and have them delivered to your door. Just think, you can order the new funky colored wire, Midollino sticks and the new Maxlife foam. There is a dedicated customer service team with floral experience available from 8am – 7pm EST. This can be a minimum purchase or your entire garden club can purchase several items and save on postage. Here's how to get

started; log on to: www.directfloral.com, shop your favorite products and add to your cart. Hit Checkout now, click Register and check-out. Be sure to fill in the company name in the shipping address as **National Garden Clubs** and **Your Garden Club Name**. Submit and enjoy your new products!

We didn't forget the gardener's either. We are now in partnership with Gardener's Supply, America's #1 gardening resource for innovative, earth-friendly products. Please think of President Shirley Nicolai's theme and purchase the incredible self-watering containers. You will receive a 20% discount on any order over \$100. To place your order, call 1-888-236-7126 or go online at: www.gardeners.com and use code "Roses."

Speaking of earth friendly! We now have jumbo luggage tags with the NGC logo that are recycled styrene plastic. Only \$4 each, a perfect gift for a garden club friend.

The **2013 Vision of Beauty Calendar** is chock full of interesting and powerful designs—get ideas from the calendar and order your Oasis products. Consider placing large orders to receive further discounts and assist in your fundraising projects.

We're also in partnership with Brent & Becky's Bulbs, so think of your fall plantings. Go to: www.bloominbucks.com, click on the pull-down menu, click on National Garden Clubs and start shopping. I ordered lily bulbs for my summer garden and they are spectacular.

We can now order Member Service products on-line through the NGC website—a wonderful convenience to us all.

It is a pleasure researching products for our NGC members, please let me know if there is something you would like to be available and we'll make it happen.





2012 Convention Highlights

At top: Floral Designers and Flower Show Judges at work; middle row: floral designs; at bottom: ribbon cutting opening the Flower Show; and NGC President Nicolai heading home.



Publish Your Club's Own Personalized Cookbook for Profit!



Every Garden Club has projects and those projects have to be funded. What better way to raise needed funds than by simply publishing your own garden club cookbook. The recipes you enjoy at various garden club functions can be shared with others.

Fundcraft Publishing has taken all the work out for you, by creating a garden/cookbook especially for garden clubs. Garden tips are scattered throughout the recipe pages as well as 16 pages of garden hints. All we need are your recipes. A local artist created three sets of full color Covers and Dividers to choose from, they are:

Together We Blossom (Floral Arrangements and Flower Fields)
Food, Flowers and Fun (Elegant Containers)

The covers will be personalized for your club. Four pages will be dedicated with information about your club.

FREE Tab Dividers with Matching Cover!

Note: Tab Dividers are **FREE with a minimum order of 500 books.*

Fundcraft
PUBLISHING

Call 1.800.853.1363 or Email us with questions at martha@cookbooks.com!