



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC.

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2009

## GREETINGS - BARBARA MAY, NGC PRESIDENT

During World War II, many food items were scarce. Americans began planting vegetables, fruits and herbs in their private gardens to increase the source of food available for public consumption during the war. These gardens soon became known as **Victory gardens**, **War gardens** or **Food gardens for defense**. The US Department of Agriculture estimated that more than 20 million victory gardens were planted during the war years. The annual harvest of fruit and vegetables crops in these home and community plots was estimated to be 9-10 million tons, an amount equal to all commercial production of fresh vegetables.

In addition to indirectly aiding the war effort, these victory gardens were a civil "morale booster" because they empowered gardeners by rewarding them with a wonderful crop of home grown produce. For many, developing their victory garden became a part of daily life.

Today, we are not subject to a short supply of food products, but rather an economic crisis of monumental proportion. Garden Clubs across the

country are in a unique position to help not only urban areas, but also suburban areas, by learning and then teaching their community to cultivate food producing gardens.



Garden Clubs can begin by holding open community educational programs to help homeowners and apartment dwellers learn how they can grow vegetables to feed their families and thus save money.

The development of community gardens can help urban communities grow cheaper produce. An example of a pilot community project taking place is in San Francisco. This project is currently supporting the community's transition from traditional green space areas in the backyard, front yard, window boxes, rooftops, and other unused land, into gardens for the production of organic food.

Encourage members from your community to grow vegetables like *tomatoes, peppers, carrots, potatoes, green beans, peas, corn, onions, cucumbers, and broccoli*. *Lettuce, greens and spinach* are good healthy vegetables. Radishes, zucchini, and summer squash grow fast.

Many garden clubs hold plant sales during the spring; this year, why not include vegetable and herb plant seedlings and packets of seeds. Purchasers could be given a sheet listing helpful information to make growing the vegetables easier. At the same time, those buyers could be invited to attend a garden club meeting focused on growing vegetables and then be provided with recipes that can be made from their harvest. This is an active way of helping the community and at the same time finding a new resource for new members.

State and local Chairmen should contact the NGC National Community Gardens Chairman, the Vegetable Chairman and the Container Garden Chairman for more information on how to develop a program that fits the needs of their community. Their email addresses can be found on the NGC website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

**Barbara May**

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## PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

### 2009

March 23-24	Maryland
March 25-26	New Mexico
March 27-29	South Central Region - New Mexico
March 30-31	Nevada- Pacific Region
April 3-4	Arizona
April 5-7	West Virginia

April 13-15	Ohio
April 17-19	Minnesota
April 19-22	Pennsylvania
April 24-25	Nebraska
April 26-27	Illinois
<b>May 11-17</b>	<b>NGC Annual Convention - Houston, TX</b>



### “BLOOMING MAGIC—TEXAS STYLE”

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC..  
2009 CONVENTION MAY 13 -18  
HILTON NORTH @ GREENSPOINT, HOUSTON, TX. 77060  
for more information, registration forms etc.  
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

**“Let’s Go Native” PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL  
GROUP/NGC GRANT - Gloria Blake, Chairman  
Pat Haering, Asst. Ch.**

### NGC CONVENTIONS -Joan Hood, Coordinator

### NOTICE THE PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GRANT “LET’S GO NATIVE”

The Future Conventions committee is looking for states or regions to host the 2014 and 2015 NGC conventions. No one has come forth so far with an intent to host these two years, please contact your state boards and get that letter of intent to us before May. The Future Conventions committee will meet at the Houston Convention in May and we hope to be able to add these two years to our future agenda.

The reports on the grant projects are in, and some of the “Before and After Pictures” of the projects with information will be posted in February on the NGC website. Please check them out. Go to [gardenclub.org/special projects/grants](http://gardenclub.org/special-projects/grants). The clubs have done a wonderful job on this Community Development project and are to be highly commended for the work they have done in their cities.

With recent concerns of our economy it is hoped that some new ideas will emerge at this meeting which will aid us in fighting the inflation in our registration, hotel and transportation fees. It is our desire to encourage all our membership to attend these conventions so any new approach to reaching that goal will be considered. If you have any suggestions as to how this can be accomplished please notify Joan Hood, Future Convention Co-ordinator, 1504 Ave A, Webster Groves, MO 63119-5220 [Tolewg@yahoo.com](mailto:Tolewg@yahoo.com)

### Deadline for the next issue of KIT - APRIL 1, 2009

Please send information, articles, etc. to

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### IN MEMORIAM

Mae Scott passed away January 7, 2009 in St Joseph Medical Center from her battle with cancer. Mae has been a long time garden club member and supporter of National Garden Clubs. She was serving on the NGC Organization Study Committee as the Bylaws Chairman. Notes of condolence can be sent to Bill Scott, 14308 Robcaste Rd., Phoenix, MD 21131-2308.

Clara Lewis Elmore passed November 12, 2008 at the age of 87. Charter member and past president of Bland Garden Club, Sumter, SC since 1950. She was president of the State of South Carolina Garden Club from 1973 to 1975. She also started the SC Highway Beautification Program.

**National Garden Club  
Website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)**

**MEMBER SERVICES: For a current  
catalog and orders 1-800-550-6007  
email [headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)**

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
4401 Magnolia Ave  
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492  
(314) 776-7574**

## MEMBERSHIP - Renee D. Blaschke, 1<sup>st</sup> VP-Membership Chairman

### Help Membership Bloom NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS MEMBERSHIP CONTEST June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009

Increase your state membership—participate in National Garden Clubs Membership Contest from June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009. The STATE with the greatest percentage increase in members will win the honor of having a new canna cultivar named for its state. This new canna variety to be named for the winning state being grown by Dr. Jack Roberson of American Daylily & Perennial Co. Inc., is 3-1/2 feet high with a red/red-orange bloom and dark purple/black foliage.

The contest runs from June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009. The winner will be announced at the NGC Fall Board Meeting.

This contest will have many beneficial results:

- Increase in members
- Increase in revenue for Clubs, States and NGC
- Increase in pride of membership in garden clubs
- Create positive publicity for garden clubs in their communities

Beat the competition! Grow your membership so that your state will be the first to win this prestigious honor!

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Adrienne Langan

### IDEAS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Motto of one club: *"I will not follow where the path may lead, but I will go where there is no path, and lead a trail"*

1. Host a "Paint Party" with local artists—invite public, have refreshments, have art judged. Artists supply all their own materials.
2. Hold a Gardening program at the Library either one club or neighboring clubs. Three or more members can each take a topic to discuss—bugs, perennials, or favorite shrub, etc.
3. Have a booth at a Home Show.
4. Choose a "Yard of the Month"—give them publicity—or leave a flyer on the door telling them that they won and invite to a meeting.
5. Send letters to new residents.
6. Provide flowers at City Hall, Library with signage "Courtesy of \_\_\_\_ Garden Club."
7. Have a beautification program in town.
8. Include meeting times in your church bulletin.
9. Have a club competition—challenge members to bring in new members.
10. Notice gardens and gardeners in your area and send complimentary letter and invite them to a meeting.
11. Have a Plant Party—invite the public.
12. Give a Certificate to the "Garden of the Month" and give them a one year membership
13. Have a "Mad Hatter Tea Party." Members and guests must wear hats—perhaps hats decorated for gardening. Everyone gets a prize—invite guests—have an interesting program to attract public—ex. "How to attract hummingbirds to garden."
14. Have a garden tour—invite the public—good money-maker too!
15. Have a "Special Night" party—give pansies to guests and the person who brought them.
16. If there is a parade in your town—have a garden club float.
17. Distribute posters in town and at garden centers and libraries inviting public to an event.
18. Distribute flyers to Realtors to give to new residents
19. Have a Landscape Nursery Tour—perhaps they will give you a workshop.
20. Have a Progressive Members' Garden Tour—ex. 9 am coffee and cake—11 am, salad—3 pm dessert—Invite new members and prospective members.
21. "Poppy Seed" Auction and Luncheon—open to public—fun and money-maker!
22. Christmas house lighting contest—with prizes
23. "Spring Fling" garden luncheon and demo on floral design.
24. Potluck Supper—invite a friend and feed them!
25. Plant flower beds at flagpole, nursing home, library, etc. with signs "by \_\_\_\_\_ GC."
26. Get bright tee shirts with club logo on front—one club had "Wednesday Weeders" on back so that they could be identified when working in public areas.
27. Invite non-members to assist with community activities.
28. Try to have at least one meeting in a public building to attract attention.
29. Always show enthusiasm about your club!
30. Start conversations about gardening when in super-market or garden nursery lines, especially if they are purchasing plants or flowers.

## NGC AWARDS - Gay Austin, Chairman

The 2008 NGC Awards deadline of January 15, 2009 has passed and now the work begins for the Awards Committee. We are excited about the many Books of Evidence, Yearbooks and Publications that have been received for awards consideration. An upcoming deadline includes - #44 Publicity Press Book- when all Regional winners are forwarded to Diane Hughes, P.O. Box 128, Chalk Hill, PA 15421-0128 - no later than March 23, 2009. Any questions, please contact Diane at [hughesjd@winbeam.com](mailto:hughesjd@winbeam.com)

All Awards are reviewed before forwarding to the various National Chairman for evaluation and judging. The amount of dedication and talent shown in these submissions makes us truly appreciate the efforts of all who participated in these worthwhile projects. Each member club, district, state and region continues to promote outstanding projects and programs, further strengthening our organization through projects that promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. We appreciate your continued dedication and success in all aspects.

The NGC Awards Committee sincerely thanks all within our national organization for completing outstanding projects and giving an extra effort to submit Books of Evidence (BOE) for awards consideration. We look forward to presenting many award certificates at the annual NGC convention in Houston in May 2009. Make plans to attend and join us with these exciting presentations!

## NGC RECYCLING - Carol Carter, Chairman

RECYCLING INITIATIVE—Recycle, Reuse and Reclaim!

WANTED! Additional ideas are needed for our NGC Recycle website. Go to [www.gardenclub.org/specialprojects/recycling.aspx](http://www.gardenclub.org/specialprojects/recycling.aspx) to see our current list of websites for recycling methods. There are also project and craft suggestions for items we frequently discard. Help expand the list! Email your ideas to the NGC Recycle Chairman, Carol Carter, at [carol@tcarter.com](mailto:carol@tcarter.com).

President Barbara May has encouraged us to use cloth bags when shopping—are you helping to eliminate the plastic bag blight? Thank you for preserving and protecting our environment!

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONTEST - Jo Williams, Chairman

### “COLOR OUR GARDEN” HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LANDSCAPE PROJECT CONTEST

This reminder notice is being written the end of December, 2008, so by the time you are reading this, State BOE's (1 entry per State) will have been submitted to Regional Landscape Consultant Chair for prejudging by January 31, 2009. The deadline for submitting Regional BOE's (1 entry per Region) to NGC Contest Chairman is March 15, 2009. Please note correct address below.

AWARDS ARE BIG! \$500 first place; \$300 second place; \$200 third place. Good luck to all who have entered and thank you to all who have “OPENED THEIR HEARTS AND HANDS” in support of the partnership between National Garden Clubs and Habitat for Humanity. In giving — we receive!

Jo Williams, NGC Chairman  
Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project Contest  
1040 S.W. 22nd Avenue, Villa 15-4  
Delray Beach, Florida 33445  
561-266-5996 cell: 954-816-6489 [owewjo@aol.com](mailto:owewjo@aol.com)

## NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL - Wini Applegate, Chairman

Good news in recycling!  
Until now, plastic caps have been tossed in the garbage, on the ground or in the water. The Aveda Company <http://aveda.aveda.com/aboutaveda/caps.asp> launched a new program to recycle plastic caps. It is a win-win situation. Plastic caps will be reused in making new caps and containers for their products. Please share this information and become involved. The information on the Aveda website is for parents, schools and the general public to take action. In the first week that I became involved with spreading the news, I was heartened by the positive reaction. I was also amazed to find out that many were recycling plastic containers WITH THE CAPS ON, thinking that this was the proper thing to do. Actually there is no provision for the cap to be recycled and if it does not pop off during compression the bottle is tossed from the conveyor into the garbage and ultimately into the landfill. According to statistics plastic caps are one of the largest number of items collected at clean ups. Here is a very small item, that we can work together collecting to make a difference. Please spread the word to your local municipality, library, county recycling department, schools, churches, businesses, clubs and organizations. Let me know about your responses at [winiapplegate@hotmail.com](mailto:winiapplegate@hotmail.com).

This chairmanship is to promote awareness with general information of the hydroelectric power in the United States. I would like to make you aware of the main usages, advantages and disadvantages, the affects on recreational areas, wildlife protection and agriculture land and products. There is award eligibility at state, regional and national levels. A list of awards and requirements are printed in the fall issue of the National Gardener in the odd-numbered years. Any changes are printed in the fall in even-numbered years. A list of awards, requirements and NGC Awards Application Forms may be obtained from the State and Regional Awards Chairman or from the NGC website [www.gardencub.org](http://www.gardencub.org)

If you'd like to give me any input into hydroelectric power concerns in your region, please do so. Pat Babcock, 1650 Appaloosa Lane, Fairbanks, AK 99709 [pbabcock@acsalaska.net](mailto:pbabcock@acsalaska.net)

### ADVANTAGES TO HYDROELECTRIC POWER:

1. Fuel is not burned so there is minimal pollution.
2. Water to run the power plant is provided free by nature.
3. It's renewable - rainfall renews the water in the reservoir, so the fuel is almost always there.
4. Comparison with other methods of power generation.
5. Hydroelectricity eliminates the flue gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion, including pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitric oxide, carbon monoxide, dust, and mercury in the coal.
6. Compared to the nuclear power plant, hydroelectricity generates no nuclear waste, nor nuclear leaks. Unlike uranium, hydroelectricity is also a renewable energy source.
7. Compared to wind farms, hydroelectricity power plants have a more predictable load factor. If the project has a storage reservoir, it can be dispatched to generate power when needed. Hydroelectric plants can be easily regulated to follow variations in power demand.
8. Unlike fossil-fueled combustion

turbines, construction of a hydroelectric plant requires a long lead-time for site studies, hydrological studies, and environmental impact assessment. Hydrological data up to 50 years or more is usually required to determine the best sites and operating regimes for a large hydroelectric plant.

9. Unlike plants operated by fuel, such as fossil or nuclear energy, the number of sites that can be economically developed for hydroelectric production is limited; in many areas the most cost effective sites have already been exploited.
10. New hydro sites tend to be far from population centers and require extensive transmission lines. Hydroelectric generation depends on rainfall in the watershed, and may be significantly reduced in years of low rainfall or snowmelt. Long-term energy yield may be affected by climate change. Utilities that primarily use hydro-electric power may spend additional capital to build extra capacity to ensure sufficient power is available in low water years.

### DISADVANTAGES TO HYDROELECTRIC POWER:

1. Recreational users must exercise extreme care when near hydroelectric dams, power plant intakes and spillways.
2. Warnings on embankment about sudden water release.

#### A. ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

a. Hydroelectric projects can be disruptive to surrounding aquatic ecosystems. For instance, studies have shown that dams along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America have reduced salmon populations by preventing access to spawning grounds upstream, even though most dams in salmon habitat have fish ladders installed. Salmon spawn is also harmed on their migration to sea when they must pass through turbines. This has led to some areas transporting smolt downstream by barge during parts of the year. Turbine and power plant designs that are easier on aquatic life are an active area of research.

b. Generation of hydroelectric power changes the downstream river environment. Water exiting a turbine usually contains very little suspended sediment, which can lead to scouring of riverbeds and a loss of riverbanks. Since turbines are often opened intermittently, rapid or even daily fluctuations in river flow are observed. For example, in the Grand Canyon, the daily cyclic flow variation caused by Glen Canyon Dam was found to be contributing to erosion of sand bars. Dissolved oxygen content of the water may change from pre-construction conditions. Water exiting from turbines is typically much colder than the pre-dam water, which can change aquatic faunal populations, including endangered species. Some hydroelectric projects also utilize canals, typically to divert a river at a shallower gradient to increase the head of the scheme. In some cases, the entire river may be diverted leaving a dry riverbed. Examples include the Tekapo and Pukaki Rivers.

c. Large-scale hydroelectric dams, such as the Aswan Dam and the Three Gorges Dam, have created environmental problems both upstream and downstream.

d. A further concern is the impact of major schemes on birds. Since damming and redirecting the waters of the Platte River in Nebraska for agricultural and energy use, many native and migratory birds such as the Piping Plover and Sandhill Crane have become increasingly endangered.

#### B. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

a. The reservoirs of hydroelectric power plants in tropical regions may produce substantial amounts of methane and carbon dioxide. This is due to plant material in flooded areas decaying in an anaerobic environment, and forming methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. According to the World Commission on Dams report, where the reservoir is large compared to the generating capacity (less than 100 watts per

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**You are invited to attend the NFA Annual Meeting!**

The National Flower Arrangers Annual Meeting will be held Monday, May 18 at the Hilton North Greenspoint in Houston. It will be held immediately following President Renee Blaschke's Board Meeting.

A short meeting will be held for the installation of the new officers. A box luncheon will be served. Then we will have hands on workshop. The workshop will cover several of the new techniques in the **NGC Handbook for Flower Shows** and the new **Designing By Types** book. There will be four work stations.

The cost of the event includes the box luncheon and a kit of materials for you to participate in the workshop. You will need to bring scissors.

Please send a check for \$48.00 made out to NFA and send to Audrey Coyle, Registrar, 15778 Open Sky Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80908. Her email is [afloris@g.com](mailto:afloris@g.com) Phone number: 719-495-3880.

Hope to see you there. You will still be able to make flights that are scheduled after 3:00 p.m.

Diane B. Herman, NFA President

**PROTOCOL - Pat Grulke, Chairman  
JoAnn Guise, Vice Chairman  
Nancy Donaldson, Vice Chairman**

The Protocol Committee works behind the scene with the Chairmen of the Convention or Fall Board Meeting to help those meetings run more smoothly. They contact those with special seating and see that those people find their seats.

Protocol is basically 'good manners'. It does need to be considered, thought about, and planned BEFORE the meeting or event starts: changes and emergencies do arise, and meeting those demands is easier if a plan is already in place.

Protocol involves greeting guests and making them feel welcome—from a first time visitor to a Garden Club Officer—either local or visiting.

NGC members stand whenever the National President is introduced as a show of respect for the office.

'ONE NATION UNDER GOD' - all said in one breath—is the correct phrasing for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

'A Protocol Handbook' is available from National Garden Clubs, Inc. headquarters; it is an excellent resource.

square meter of surface area) and no clearing of the forests in the area was undertaken prior to impoundment of the reservoir, greenhouse gas emissions from the reservoir may be higher than those of a conventional oil-fired thermal generation plant.

b. In boreal reservoirs of Canada and Northern Europe, however, greenhouse gas emissions are typically only 2 to 8% of any kind of conventional fossil-fuel thermal generation. A new class of underwater logging operation that targets drowned forests can mitigate the effect of forest decay.

**C. POPULATION RELOCATION**

a. Another disadvantage of hydroelectric dams is the need to relocate the people living where the reservoirs are planned. In many cases, no amount of compensation can replace ancestral and cultural attachments to places that have spiritual value to the displaced population. Additionally, historically and culturally important sites can be flooded and lost. Such problems have arisen at the Three Gorges Dam project in China, the Clyde Dam in New Zealand and the Ilisu Dam in Southeastern Turkey.

**D. DAM FAILURES**

a. Failures of large dams, while are potentially serious - the Banqiao Dam failure in Southern China resulted in the deaths of 171,000 people and left millions homeless. Dams may be subject to enemy bombardment during wartime, sabotage and terrorism. Smaller dams and micro hydro facilities are less vulnerable to these threats.

b. The creation of a dam in a geologically inappropriate location may cause disasters like the one of the Vajont Dam in Italy, where almost 2000 people died, in 1963.

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### NEW ENGLAND REGION

**Sonia Cianchette , Director**

New England Region garden club members opened their hearts to the plight of others this winter. During this time of dire economic stress, clubs went far beyond the usual town hall decorations to meet the challenge. Special projects provided for neighbors less fortunate. Proceeds from Christmas Teas, House Tours, Festival of Trees, Wreath Sales, etc. raised funds for those in need. Mitten Trees were especially successful. Clothing, food baskets, Christmas gifts, grocery store debit cards, fuel assistance funds were distributed through churches or civic associations. Decorated Christmas trees were donated and distributed to those who might otherwise have none. Not to be forgotten, Pet Trees assisted those best friends in animal shelters. In the NER, garden club members stepped up to the plate and made a difference. The holiday season is over but the need goes on. Members plan to continue their magnificent response to these exceptional times right into summer and beyond.

### CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

**Marilyn Whitmore, Director**

The members of the Central Atlantic Region are experiencing the effects of winter; wind, snow, and ice. This is a great time to ponder over the garden catalogs and dream of spring and our gardens. It is also a time when many clubs are making plans for the coming year. The use of native plants in landscapes, projects and education remain a priority for the coming year.

The Flower Show Symposium held following the Fall Conference was a first for CAR and proved to be successful. It was an educational and financial advantage to hold the Symposium at this time.

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. held a Holiday Standard Flower Show "Winter Wonderland" at the Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore, a beautiful beginning for the holiday season. This area will be the location for the new permanent home for the FGCM.

Many clubs continue making plans for the installation of Blue Star Memorial Markers.

Membership is on the rise in the Central Atlantic Region. The committee and all members have done a superb job as we continue to "Restore, Preserve, and Grow Membership".

### SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

**Anne Brown, Director**

Members of the South Atlantic Region are looking forward to saying farewell to winter and putting on gardening gloves. We are looking forward to the SAR Convention to be held on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg in March. The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs has planned a wonderful convention with excellent activities. They are fortunate to have a number of extremely qualified people available to present interesting programs and workshops .

Special emphasis is being placed on increased membership in each of the states in SAR. Information on increasing membership will be given to the state presidents in time for their spring conventions. Suggestions will include activities for National Garden Week. Activities will emphasize informing the public about garden club activities and increasing awareness of ways in which they improve the quality of life in their respective communities. It will encourage individuals to become interested in seeking out an organization in which they can participate, enjoy and learn.

Members in our region are becoming more aware of the opportunities of communicating via internet. This will result in a network by which they can keep up to date and informed.

### DEEP SOUTH REGION

**Mary W. Summerville, Director**

Members of the Deep South Region are "gearing up" for their 48th Annual Convention to be held March 27 – 29 at the Huntsville Marriott Hotel. The theme, "Botanical Blast", tells us that a trip is planned to Huntsville's outstanding Botanical Gardens and the Space and Rocket Center which is adjacent to the hotel. We are sponsoring the first ever Deep South Region Flower Show. We, in the Deep South, are noted for our southern hospitality, so what better theme than, "Southern Hospitality." Each of our six states is unique. The diverse weather and soil conditions support a wide variety of plant growth. Everyone will be waiting in eager anticipation to see just how well their exhibited specimens and artistic arrangements "shine up" to the judges. We just know that this Flower Show will be an overwhelming success. Of course, the highlight of the convention will be awards; especially, the culmination of the two-year Regional Project, "Dollar\$ for \$cholars."

### CENTRAL REGION

**Karen Hix, Director**

With thoughts of Spring, we're already thinking of our gardens and what we want to plant this coming year. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to plant a "new cannabis bulb" named after one of the states in the Central Region. The State with the largest percentage of increased membership will be the winner. The deadline for the NGC Membership Contest is May 31st. By increasing membership in all of our states Central Region will continue to "Propagate Beauty through Gardening".

Become a "Gold Star" member in 2009. You can become a member or give a gift to a member, who has given of their time to your State, District or to your garden club, for a \$25.00 donation to the Scholarship Fund. Contact Judy Newman, National & Central Region Life Members Representative.

Plan to attend the National Convention in Houston, Texas, May 13-18th. At the Central Region Luncheon we will welcome our new Central Region Director Joan Hood and our Alternate Director Mary Ann Meador from Missouri.

### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

**Linda Whetsell, Director**

The four states of South Central Region have been busy this fall planting native plants and trees, dedicating Blue Star Memorial Markers, and applying for awards. Our Region is looking forward to May and the NGC, Inc. Convention in Houston as we get ready to welcome everyone to "The Lone Star State".

Arkansas has four new garden clubs and soon a fifth one. Their Recycle, Reuse and Reduce Contest is coming to an end and the member with the best idea will win a prize.

New Mexico members are preparing for our Region Convention in March, in Albuquerque – "Going Native In New Mexico". President Barbara May, NGC, Inc. will be our guest.

Oklahoma has dedicated two more Blue Star Memorial Markers with plans being made for another one. Members are working on Oklahoma Garden Clubs' 80th Anniversary celebration.

Texas garden club members are preparing for the 2009 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention in Houston and look forward to the installation of Renee Blaschke as 2009-2011 NGC President.

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### **PACIFIC REGION**

**Jeanette Pruin, Director**

It has been an unusually cold winter for most of Pacific Region. There has been lots of snow, even in Seattle AND Las Vegas. So PR is really looking forward to SPRING and an exciting convention in Las Vegas, "Desert Daze and Neon Nights", March 31 to April 2 at the Flamingo Hotel. We are honored to have NGC President Barbara May as our guest. Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual \$1000 scholarship winner will be announced along with PR Awards. We will also acknowledge Pacific Region's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Reprints of "We Were There - 1933-1973" and "The Second Twenty Years" will be available. The as yet untitled "next 15 years" should also be ready. Another highlight will be Barbara May's installation of the 2009-2011 officers. Sandra Ford from Idaho will be the new Pacific Region Director. A Lake Mead cruise and a tour of the Nevada Test Site and Atomic Test Museum are among the pre-convention tours the convention committee has planned. A post-convention tour that will include Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park is also being planned.

### **THE NATIONAL GARDENER - Ruth Moorhead, Chairman**

Members: Please consider gifting a subscription to The National Gardener (TNG) to your new club members, and new officers. What better way of reinforcing all of the options and benefits of our national organization than to introduce them to the information contained in this fine magazine.

To subscribe, call 800-550-6007 or go to the NGC website and download subscription form(s).

### **National Garden Week June 7 - 13, 2009**

**Remember also there is an Award . It is # 53. A simple Book of Evidence is all that is required.**