



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION      FEBRUARY-APRIL 2011

## GREETINGS from Renee Blaschke, NGC PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to each of you and yours! May each of you enjoy good health and much happiness in 2011.

The New Year brought many different weather patterns across the country.

Mother Nature was playing tricks on us as many of you were enduring snow storms and blizzards. Others were wearing high rubber boots as you tolerated heavy rains and flooding and yet others were victims of vicious tornadoes. In many parts of Texas, we are experiencing yet another drought. To date we have had a mild winter, just a sprinkling of moisture but we have had several freezes with 30° or lower. Many of you laugh when I tell you how cold it was in Smithville for many of you probably experience 30° below zero. I cannot even begin to wonder what that must be like. When Minnesota was having their heavy snows I contacted our NGC Treasurer, Barbara Mikkelson, to see if she was faring alright and I laugh when I think of her response. It was something to the effect that Minnesotans know how to deal with a "little" snow! A little snow - with roofs caving in? My goodness, what would a lot of snow be like. I doubt that my Texas thin blood could handle it.

It is near time to be thinking about spring plantings. Under normal circumstances, my daffodils should be breaking ground very soon as I normally have blooms in late January and early February. It will be interesting to see what happens this year. Soil preparation will be necessary for your

spring gardens and the wonderful fresh produce that will be grown. I can hardly wait for that very first tomato - there is absolutely no flavor that compares to that first bite. And, naturally, the season of canning begins so that the fruits of your labor can be enjoyed throughout the year.



With the New Year upon us, we find ourselves from the local to the national level planning to complete the projects we scheduled and prepare for the "changing of the guard". I still find

myself overwhelmed with the tremendous support and participation of our NGC members in so many different areas of interest. Blue Star Memorials, Golden Days, Beautify Blight, Plant It Pink, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl and Pollinator Live, just to name a few. Members have generously supported the Haiti project; the many problems of that country from rebuilding to health issues will continue for many years.

Even though *The Garden for the Families of the Fallen* at Dover Air Force Base is not an official NGC project, garden club members throughout the country have financially supported the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. initiative beyond expectations, and it continues with each day. Several very nice grants have also been received by the Federation. This garden will be officially dedicated in April. Due to military authority, request and space

limitations, the attendance is limited to 50, but this president will be present to represent each of you, the members of National Garden Clubs, Inc., to reinforce our organization's support of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and to show the utmost appreciation we each have for those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Certainly, we extend our sympathy and our appreciation to the families who have endured the loss of their loved ones. The leaders and membership of the Delaware Federation are so appreciative and overwhelmed by your generosity. Your contributions and support will still be accepted with gratitude. Memorial Garden, PO Box 17, Greenwood, DE 19950.

As your president, it has not been my nature to solicit membership support of national initiatives. However, there is a concern that I want to share with you. It has been brought to my attention that Arboretum management plans to destroy two of the most important plant collections at the U.S. National Arboretum due to inadequate funding. These collections are the storied and histori-

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cal boxwood and azalea collections. (Washington Post Nov. 28, 2010). These collections have been identified as significant not only in DC but throughout the world. The Glenn Dale azaleas were bred and developed at the Arboretum in the last century and are noted for the horticultural symbol of springtime in the mid-Atlantic region. Hundreds of thousands annually visit the Arboretum for the spectacular vista. Additionally, the Boxwood Collection is the most complete in the country and its curator, Lynn Batdorf, is the recognized international authority on the genus and without the complete collection, he will no longer be able to serve in the prestigious position of international registrar of boxwood. Without immediate funding, critical collections and a major national investment will be lost forever. If you are willing to express your concerns over the loss of these two collections, please write to : The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. If you do send a letter, your president would appreciate having a copy for my files. It would also be appropriate to send a copy of your letter to your U.S. Representative.

The year 2011 will be a busy one for garden club members. I hope many of you will be attending the Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., May 27-30. Great programs and fun times are in store for all of you. If you have never visited our Capital City, this will be a wonderful opportunity to see and experience our nation's history as well as history in the making.

Shortly after the convention, you will have another opportunity for a once in a lifetime experience attending the 10th World Flower Show (WAFA) June 14-18 in Boston. Can you just imagine 600 floral designs from designers of many countries under one roof? It will be spectacular. The floral extravaganza is held every three years and this will be the first time for the United States to host the show. We will put our best foot forward to assure visitors from all over the world a wonderful time. If clubs, individuals, districts,

states or corporations desire to help with the underwriting of the show, contributions may be made to WAFA USA and sent to Gerry St. Peters , Treasurer, 6329 E. 55th Pl., Indianapolis, IN 46226-1647. It is very costly to produce an extravaganza of this magnitude. For more information, visit the website, WAFAUSA.ORG.

Twenty-nine garden club members traveled to Peru in November for a well planned NGC tour. We visited the Sacred Valley of the Incas, Urubamba, Cusco, Machu Picchu and Lima. Several of the group, traveled to the very top of Machu Picchu but I have to admit I made it to a level below. What an experience. The horticulture of the area was unbelievably beautiful. The history of the areas we visited was so interesting. The people of Peru were so welcoming and friendly. Many of the group had the opportunity to judge the Florales Garden Club Flower Show. It was spectacular and staged in the beautiful Jockey Club. In between judging, we watched several horse races. A good time was had by all.

I arrived home one day prior to leaving for Lima from San Luis Potosi, Mexico and had the privilege of judging their flower show. Again, the hospitality received was absolutely phenomenal and their enthusiasm for their environment is tremendous. I participated in a partnered project with their clubs, the city and the local university in the reforestation of public lands. Five hundred trees were planted in one day. College students came in buses to assist. They are so proud of their country and this particular project. I was honored to be involved and observe the work they have done. Our International Affiliates are very environmentally conscious and the leadership they provide to the youth is outstanding.

The next few months will have me visiting many more states and regions and the opportunity to meet more of their members and learn of their interesting and varied projects. NGC is an organization of dedicated and creative individuals who participate in many different aspects of interest within their

## PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE



Feb	17-20	Orlando, Florida - CFAA
	21	Granbury, TX - District II Meeting
	23-25	Atlanta, GA - Southeastern Flower Show
Mar	11-12	Norman, Oklahoma - South Central Region
	15-18	Costa Rica (pending)
	20-22	Greensboro, NC - South Atlantic Region
	22	Columbia, Maryland - State Meeting
	28-29	Roswell, New Mexico - State Meeting
April	3-5	Opelika, Alabama - State Meeting
	5-7	Lexington, Kentucky - State Meeting
	8-9	West Virginia - State Meeting
	11-13	Youngstown, Ohio - State Meeting
	14-16	Scottsdale, AZ - State Meeting & Pacific Region Meetings
	17-18	Chicago, Ill - State Meeting
	19	Dover, DE - Memorial Garden Dedication
	20-21	El Paso, TX - State Meeting
	23	Minneapolis, MN - State Meeting
	28-30	Columbia, So. Carolina - State Meeting
	30-May 2	Richmond, VA - State Meeting
May	13-14	Canon City, CO - State Meeting
	15-18	Santa Rosa, CA - State Meeting
	23-30	Washington, DC - NGC Annual Meeting

communities. Each of you are appreciated for what you do to promote Love, Beautification, and Protection of The World Around Us. Thank you for all you do.

**Renee**

### Deadline for the next issue of KIT - April 1, 2011

Please send information, articles to

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### **Wanted: New Garden Clubs by March 31st**

With today's varied and busy lifestyles, NGC must offer more meeting times for its clubs. Sometimes, the easiest way to do this is to form an evening club in an area with a daytime club, or vice-versa. In an area without any clubs, prospective members can decide the best meeting time, which could even alternate between day and evening or weekends.

People typically join a garden club to gain information for their personal use. They want to attend a program and leave with some valuable information. Sitting through a long business meeting is not an incentive. Many want to spend a maximum of an hour and a half at a meeting; light-hearted efficiency is crucial.

Ideally, a mentor from an existing club will take a lead position for a year as an advisor or an officer, if that seems necessary for success. By asking attendees at an organizational meeting what they want to learn, programs for the first year can be determined. Assigning a program committee with each person in charge of one meeting spreads the responsibility. Local speakers often feel honored to receive an honorary one year club membership in lieu of a fee.

With the rising popularity of home grown food, this is an ideal time of the year to attract novice vegetable growers. Containers, raised beds, personal gardens and community plots can be the initial focus. Fruit options are numerous too.

Garden clubs don't just happen; they need us to cultivate them. Your NGC Membership Committee reminds you that the State Garden Club with the most new clubs formed between June 1st and March 30th will win the honor of naming an African violet cultivar.

#### **NGC AWARDS - Bobbie Verser, Awards Committee Chairman**

The NGC Awards Committee is working carefully to complete certificates, order ribbons, trays, etc. to be presented during the Awards Banquet in May. It will be such a pleasure to reward so many deserving individuals, clubs, states, and regions.

As we look ahead and prepare for the 2011-2013 administration, many changes will occur. Please check the NGC website for an updated 'Listing of Awards' and for a revised 'NGC Awards Application Form'. You will find that completing entries for NGC awards will be much faster and easier than in the past.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact members of the NGC Awards Committee.

#### **REMINDER:**

**State Presidents and Regional Directors**

**Your one page history is due to Judi Davis by April 1, 2011.**

**If you do not have the form, contact Judi Davis, NGC Historian at [judi\\_d@hotmail.com](mailto:judi_d@hotmail.com).**

#### **"GOLDEN DAYS" PROJECT Lila Petersen, Chairman**

President's Project, Golden Days Award Summary Deadline is April 1, 2011. It is not necessary to wait until April 1st to send in the Summary. The 1 (one) page document, 3 photo maximum (if used; does not need to show blooms) can be sent anytime up to April 1st. Include at the top of the one page: Name of garden club; city, state, region, date. Summary should be short description of project. Send to: Lila Petersen, 860 Hunting Hills, Boone, NC 28607; cell 828-719-9810; email [flip12@charter.net](mailto:flip12@charter.net).

#### **NGC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Helen Prichard, Print Co-ordinator**

Communication is important.

We want NGC to shine in every way, for all the many things we do and share. Please, as you prepare anything for distribution - electronically or on paper, get a friend to 'proof-read' it - for meaning, as well as for spelling and grammar. Accurate writing gets more attention and better response.

Happy communication!

Helen Pritchard, Communication - Print Co-ordinator

## WORLD GARDENING GLOBAL PARTNERS - Barbara Wesley, Chairman

### WORLD GARDENING INTERNATIONAL DISASTER FUND SUCCESSSES

The generous donation of Water Filters from many NGC members has been applauded by Voices of Haiti, the group that is managing distribution of the filters. Their mission is to provide clean water, medical treatment and sanitation to rural communities and orphanages. An article thanking NGC members appeared recently in their newsletter. Over 95% of donations go directly to the project. Haitians are in charge of operations making it possible to react quickly to changing needs.

Inquiries requesting information about the Water Bucket Filter Donation Program continue to be addressed. Your donations have been effective in slowing the spread of the recent cholera epidemic. Water filters stop 99.99999% of cholera bacteria. Each bucket filter has at least a five-year life span and provides up to 1,000,000 gallons of clean drinking water. The cost of a water bucket filter is \$55.00.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. has been

credited with being the catalyst of one of the most successful programs undertaken since the earthquake. Thanks to funding for water purification buckets and training for their use, five orphanages, four schools and three health clinics have received aid.

Pam Schoessling, Program Director sent words of thanks for the recent donation of \$3,490.55 from NGC. She also told of how the Haitians are being helped with new projects. "Dry composting toilets are also a big push now because of the cholera outbreak. These give way to compost for growing food and lead the way for sustainable communities," said Schoessling.

#### Donations Beyond Haiti

If you wish to contribute there are two different funds. When sending a check, indicate Haiti or Global Partners/Running Waters. As donations are tax-deductible, a receipt will be sent to you for tax purposes. Donations of \$25.00 or more will also receive a certificate. More information about how to donate to both of these funds can be found on the NGC website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) under the Special Projects menu.

## HORTICULTURE - Cathy Felton Horticulture Coordinator

**Poinsettias** In December I attended an exciting open house at the University of New Hampshire - greenhouses full of poinsettias. Reds, whites, pinks, mottled, striped etc. and even orange colored poinsettias were displayed. Guests were asked to 'judge' the unnamed poinsettias in the large hallway. For the evaluating, each color or variation was placed on a separate table with a number assigned to each plant. As an NGC judge, this was extremely difficult judging/evaluating. All of the plants looked beautiful. Imagine trying to evaluate/judge 20+ different kinds of red poinsettias!

I asked the staff about the poinsettias and learned that the plants arrived as plugs in the spring. UNH grows and evaluates the plants for commercial producers. The public is then invited for the two day open house. It was a wonderful experience. Many other state universities have plant evaluations and open houses throughout the year. University of Massachusetts has a spring/summer turf open house. Check out your state's university agricultural sites for open houses in your area. Please let me know about any plant evaluations in your state.

### 'Peggy Martin Rose' Fund for Restoration in News Orleans

The 'Peggy Martin Rose' was one of only two plants surviving two weeks of 20 feet of salt water over the garden of Mrs. Peggy Martin of Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, following the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in late August 2005.

Since then, it has been introduced into commerce in the United States and has become a symbol among gardeners and rose lovers of a tenacious plant. It is associated with a spirit of renewal and regrowth in the aftermath of a devastating blow of Nature against those living and gardening in the Gulf Coast area.

In 2003, Dr. Bill Welch had taken cuttings of this rose from Peggy Martin's garden and established it at his country home in Texas. When the Greater Houston Community Foundation created the Zone IX Horticulture Restoration Fund, with the goal of

raising funds for garden restoration in New Orleans, Beaumont and other Gulf Coast locations, Dr. Welch wanted to help. His inspired idea was to use the 'Peggy Martin Rose' as a fundraiser. He approached several rose growers with the idea of donating some of the proceeds from the 'Peggy Martin Rose' to the fund. He provided cuttings to six growers who have made the rose available to rose lovers everywhere. These growers generously donate \$1 per plant to the fund. With its good looks and healthy vigor, the 'Peggy Martin Rose' (z6-9) is well on its way to becoming a classic garden mainstay for those wanting a mannerly climber that is thornless, with abundant pink clusters of small flowers. After it has become established, it reblooms in the fall when the hot temperatures abate.

Dr. Welch recently sent this email update "Friends.....The 'Peggy Martin' rose funds

were generated by one dollar per plant donations from the following growers: Antique Rose Emporium, Chamblee Rose Nursery, King's Nursery and Petals from the Past over the past several years. We were able to gather and distribute \$12,000.00 through the Greater Houston Community Foundation for restoration plantings in New Orleans at Pilot House, Beauvoir House-Jefferson Davis' Home and Garden, Mississippi Coast gardens and Beaumont community beautification project."

Dr. William (Bill) C. Welch is a Professor and Extension Horticulturist at TAMU and has served as Chairman of NGC's Landscape Design program. For the complete story of the 'Peggy Martin Rose' see the following website: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/PeggyMartin-rose.html>.

Congressional action in December was minimal - typical for a Lame Duck Congress. Most Congressional members returned to their Districts and families to enjoy Christmas and their Holiday Season. The work of the new 112th Congress officially begins on January 17, 2011. Unfortunately, there wasn't any significant environmental legislation completed by either the House or Senate in the final months of the Second Session of the 111th Congress. Committees met, heard testimony, and discussed, but significant voting did not happen.

**Oil Drilling Report** Early December 2010 the Interior Department's Inspector General released a report which examined the practices of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. It echoed findings of an earlier investigation by the Department released in September 2010 -- based on much of the same raw material. According to the report Federal inspectors charged with ensuring the safety of offshore oil drilling are overwhelmed, insufficiently trained, work without official procedures for some of their most crucial decisions. An example -- To avoid being caught in "incidents of noncompliance" platform operators would "suspend operations until the inspector left the platform." An item of concern was the report's statement that enforcement practices at the agency were inadequate. In many cases companies were issued notices of noncompliance with no penalty attached. When penalties were imposed, the dollar amounts were too small to encourage compliance --- it was cheaper to pay them than delay an operation to fix the problem.

**OMB Watch and OMB** This chairman has enjoyed learning more about the work of another group - OMB Watch -- a nonprofit government watchdog organization, formed in 1983 to lift the veil of secrecy shrouding the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). (Reader beware - keep from confusing OMB Watch and OMB. They are distinctly different.)

OMB oversees federal regulations, the budget, information collection and dissemination, proposed legislation, testimony by agencies, and much more. By explaining governmental processes and monitoring OMB, OMB Watch helped bring sunshine shining-in on the powerful White House agency. OMB Watch works on a national, state and community level. OMB Watch believes that access to a wide range of environmental data will allow citizens, cities, states and industries to make more constructive environmental choices

The 2010 Work Plan and longer-term goals for OMB Watch is impressive and detailed. They state "Specifically, we seek to restore, protect, and advance public protections in health, safety, civil rights, civil liberties and the environment ..... and disseminate information on activities by governmental, public, and private sector groups affecting public protections."

Learn more about OMB Watch: <http://www.ombwatch.org>. their information headquarters housing reports and other resources -- all in one place.

**U.S. Geological Survey Released 9/23/2010** *Complete findings, as well as a USGS fact sheet, podcast, and graphics are available online <http://water.usgs.gov/nawga/nutrients/pubs/circ1350/>*

ELEVATED NITROGEN and PHOSPHORUS STILL WIDESPREAD IN MUCH OF THE NATION'S STREAMS and GROUNDWATER was stated in a recent report by the USGC, the nation's water monitoring agency which, for more than 125 years also reports on flow and (or) quality in selected streams and rivers across the U.S. USGC works closely with the EPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the States and local watersheds to assure that USGS monitoring and assessments provide useful information for managing nutrients throughout the nation.

According to the EPA, nutrient pollution has consistently ranked as one of the top three causes of degradation in U.S. streams and rivers for decades. Nutrients occur naturally in water and are needed for plant growth and productive aquatic ecosystems; however, in high concentrations nutrients often result in the growth of large amounts of algae and other nuisance plants in streams, lakes and estuaries. The decay of these plants and algae can cause areas of low dissolved oxygen, known as hypoxic, or "dead," zones that stress or kill aquatic life. Some forms of algae release toxins that can result in health concerns.

While many of us may be familiar with concerns about high concentrations of nutrient conditions in rivers and streams, the USGC study also found that nitrate is a continuing human-health concern in many shallow aquifers across the Nation that are sources of drinking water. In agricultural areas, more than one in five shallow, private wells contained nitrate at levels above the EPA drinking water standard. The quality and safety of water from private wells -- which are a source of drinking water for about 40 million people -- are not regulated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and are the responsibility of the homeowner.

**Comment:** *Environmentalists, nonprofits and water collaborative groups attended EPA hearings, submitted comments and spoke out at area sessions held across the nation by the EPA as part of its information gathering process toward revision to its water quality standards rule, including pollutant-specific standards to define impaired waters, stricter oversight of anti-degradation implementation plans and more public participation in state regulatory efforts.*

**WE want to hear from YOU.** Contact a member of the NGC GAE Team with topics of specific interest. Sue Robinson - [rerob@mac.com](mailto:rerob@mac.com); Wanda Davis - [wdsdavid2@verizon.net](mailto:wdsdavid2@verizon.net); Dottie Sivess - [dotsivess@yahoo.com](mailto:dotsivess@yahoo.com) and Marion Hilliard - [marionh@bellsouth.net](mailto:marionh@bellsouth.net)

## NGC MEMBER SERVICES - Carole Iuso, Chair

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! January is a time for new beginnings and resolutions. If you are ready to set some new goals to transform your garden club or personal life, you will discover great inspiration in the line of products offered by Member Services.

Begin 2011 by ordering the Vision of Beauty Arrangement and Engagement Calendar which will inspire you with beautiful designs, in addition to keeping all your engagement dates organized. (Prices \$3.50 to \$5.95)

Resolve to welcome spring with our President's Daffodil Pin #5436 \$12.00 each, quantity pricing 24 or more pins \$9.00 each and the newly arrived matching daffodil earrings #5440, \$12.00 pair, quantity pricing 21 or more pairs \$9.50 each. No other offers apply.

Resolve to order NGC's Nature Inspired Jewelry. The Silver Vine Pin \$12.00 each, quantity pricing 24 or more pins \$9.00 each and the Crystal Vine Pin \$15.00 each, quantity pricing 24 or more pairs \$9.50 each. No other offers apply. View these pins and earrings on the NGC website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

Resolve to add excitement and interest to your upcoming garden club programs with suggestions included in our "Program Ideas for Garden Clubs" #5432, \$10.00 each.

Begin to prepare yourself and your club for spring flower shows with the many flower arranging Lesson Plans available from Member Services. Lesson Plan #1 covers basic flower arranging, Lesson Plan #2 covers basic table settings and Lesson Plan #3 covers miniatures. All lesson plans are \$10.00 each.

Resolve to order Designing by Types, the magnificent 200 page color book, a wonderful guide to NGC designs #1336, \$44.95 each.

If you or your garden club could benefit from some inspiration, consider ordering the newest NGC publication "Inspirations and Installations", a book every garden club should have #1338, \$15.00 each.

Resolve in 2011 to attend one of the NGC sponsored schools! These schools are inspiring and will allow you and your garden club to establish and achieve impressive goals. The Required Reading Lists for all these schools are listed on page 4 of the Member Services Catalog. Get an early start on your reading!!!

Resolve to have the garden of your dreams this year. Order some of the wonderful horticulture books listed on page 11 of our catalog.

Resolve to visit Member Services often on the NGC website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), for coupons, new introductions, and to view the Member Services catalog.

Resolve to let the wonderful products provided by Member Services educate and inspire you in 2011!

Our Membership Team looks forward to assisting you with all your garden club needs. Happy new beginnings from all of us at Member Services!!!!

## NGC LIFE MEMBERSHIPS - Gloria Blake, Chairman

### NGC LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Have you wondered what to give your outgoing officers, husband, wife, or someone in the community who deserves an honor and who shares our garden club interests? Give them a gift of a NGC Life Membership. Or you can treat yourself to a gift of a Life Membership.

The recipient receives a life time subscription to The National Gardener magazine, and may attend the NGC Life Membership Banquet at all conventions. Application forms may be obtained from National, Regional or State LM Chairmen, or from the NGC website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

#### ATTENTION STATES:

The following awards will again be presented at the National Life Membership Banquet in May:

1. \$100 for the state with the largest increase in National Life Members.
2. \$100 for the state with the largest Life Member increase per capita.

The goal of Life Memberships is education as the gift of \$200 is shared equally by the Scholarship Fund and the Permanent Endowment Fund.

"EDUCATION = A GIFT FOR A LIFETIME"

#### ATTENTION NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS, NON-LIFE MEMBERS, & GUESTS

WHAT: The National Life Membership Banquet  
WHERE: Washington DC, The JW Marriott Hotel  
WHEN: Thursday evening, May 26, 2011

This is a first as this year non-life members and guests are invited to attend the Banquet. The only requirement is that you must be registered for the Convention.

Let's Go Patriotic --- Wear something red, white and blue or red, or white or blue, It can be as simple as a scarf for the ladies or a tie for the gentlemen.

New NGC Life Members will be honored at the Banquet.

The Banquet will be extra special this year as a former White House Chef Walter Scheib will oversee the re-creation of an actual meal that was served at a White House function for us as well as give a talk, complete with a question and answer session.

We are looking forward to a wonderful evening.

### **NEW ENGLAND REGION KATHLEEN M. THOMAS**

On a personal note I would like to thank all my garden club friends for the many cards, notes and phone calls expressing your sympathy over my younger sister's sudden death. Having a support team makes even the most difficult experiences bearable.

Now down to business. I hope all the New England Garden Clubs have survived the winter wonders and are looking forward to getting back into the gardens and are planning your spring community plantings and civic projects. Don't forget that the NER has new and revamped awards; The New England Wild Flower Society Award, for projects using native plantings; the Jean Merriman Williams NGC Unified Project Award, for any of the NGC projects you participated in; the Excellence in Teamwork Award, for a project you did with another organization; National Gardening Association Award, for work with children or junior garden clubs who created an edible garden and the Virginia Thurston Civic Development Grant for \$200. Please go to the web site and check out if your club can apply for any of these awards or any of the other NER awards. Remember you do wonderful things and if you do not apply you cannot win.

### **CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION CARMIE DE VITO**

Our region had a great fall conference in New Jersey. Jan Warshauer and Vivian Morrison planned such an enjoyable event, a flower show was included along with excellent programs, workshops and tours. I sincerely wish to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this possible. New Jersey and their President Mary Warshauer definitely rolled out a long red carpet to make all of our members feel so welcome. Many awards were passed out to our seven states and Blue Star Memorial Markers were installed throughout our Region as well.

Throughout our United States the weather has been turned upside down which is such a concern, many people lost homes and lives in the months of November and December. Please remember NGC's Natural Disaster Fund that any state can apply for if you have a natural disaster in your area.

We look forward in May to our National Garden Clubs Convention in the National Capital Area when we will install a new National President from the Central Atlantic Region. It is a great honor to have our own President Elect Shirley Nicolai. She will be a very dedicated and deserving President.

### **SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CAROLYN GOLDEN PATTERSON**

Members of the South Atlantic Region are busy finishing up on their state's Award Applications. Each state will have one club selected for their best "Good Soils" project and one state will be selected as overall best "Good Soils" winner. Scholarship applications are due March 1, 2011 to the SAR Scholarship Chairman Gaytha Jones. Members need to make reservations at the Proximity Hotel in Greensboro, NC for March 20-22 for the SAR Convention. Details and application are available on the SAR website - southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org under the latest Keynotes or from chairman Gail Hill at rbrthill@aol.com. Incoming SAR Director Mary Dixon is getting her chairmanships filled and is making plans for her term which begins after her installation at the NGC Convention in May. Hopefully many SAR members will plan to attend this exciting convention in our nation's Capitol as well as their state and regional conventions. Member clubs also need to take good pictures of their blooming daffodil projects and apply for these awards available on the regional and national level.

### **DEEP SOUTH REGION MARY SUE COLVIN**

Plans are underway for a 50th anniversary celebration of the existence of the Deep South Region at the 2011 DSR Convention, a "Bayou Festival - Fun, Food, Flowers" - in Lafayette, Louisiana, in March. This will be the first time for many Deep South members to experience authentic Cajun culture.

A convention highlight is a DSR Advanced Standard Petite Flower Show. The Flower Show theme: "Protecting Our World: Living Green - Living Clean" is in correlation with the DSR Unified Project of the same name. The Horticulture Division: "Living Green" complements the Design Division: "Living Clean" in which the classes reflect the themes of the six DSR states. The Special Exhibits Division: "Making a Difference in Our World" completes the Show theme. (Schedule is available at [www.dsregion.org](http://www.dsregion.org)) A continuing project at our DSR Conventions is the Great Jewelry Exchange. States collect gently used jewelry items for sale (reuse and recycling) at the convention. The money garnered by each state is allocated for Habitat for Humanity Landscape projects in that state. This 50th DSR Convention will be the venue for recognizing the accomplishments of the past two years as we anticipate the beginning of a new administration. All y'all are invited to join us!

### **CENTRAL REGION JOAN A. HOOD**

As we face another year full of challenges for NGC we are reminded of the many wonderful tasks regions performed in 2010. As I write this our soils are frozen and covered with snow and ice, but looking ahead a few months will be a different story. Central Region always looks forward to spring and the many programs that can be accomplished by its membership; Plant it Pink, Golden Days and Beautify Blight, just to mention a few. One recent challenge was a program set forth by the state of Delaware to build a memorial garden at Dover Air Force Base for families receiving their fallen loved ones back from overseas. Michigan's membership recently met that challenge and proudly sent a check for more than \$5,000 for the project. Others from our region have also participated. Blue Star dedications will get under way soon. Our region has reached an all time high with this program. We honor those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom and to date CR has dedicated 418 memorials in our 7 states. Illinois leads the way with 118 dedications but the others are gaining and closing in. With the start of the New Year our thoughts also turn to World Disaster programs and the many ways we can assist those less fortunate. Disasters are many here and abroad and we are asking our members to choose a cause and support it. The disasters have been numerous and one must find it within his/her heart to answer their call for help. The possibilities are many.

### **SOUTH CENTRAL REGION MARY ANN MORENO**

You are invited to "Golden Days," the 78th South Central Region (SCR) Annual Convention in Norman, Oklahoma, March 11-12. National President, Renee Blaschke, from Smithville, Texas, will be attending the Convention. Oklahoma Garden Clubs has planned wonderful programs and are gracious hosts. The Convention registration form can be emailed to you by contacting Mary Ann Moreno at [jbmamoreno@gmail.com](mailto:jbmamoreno@gmail.com). Spring will quickly be upon us and all those daffodils and spring bulbs we planted will be in bloom. SCR will have lots of entries for the "Golden Days" contest! Our SCR states are all working hard! Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. members have planned many flower shows and garden tours this spring. Texas Garden Clubs reports several Blue Star Marker Dedications and are working to restore the gardens at the Governor's Mansion in Austin, Texas.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION SANDRA DENNIS

One of my first thoughts for the Gardeners of the Rocky Mountain Region and throughout the membership of the National Garden Clubs is that your New Year be most Blessed and Happy, and that your gardens may flourish.

I would also like to say to the members of our Montana Federation of Garden Clubs—Thank You for all your efforts at hosting a wonderful NGC Fall Board Meeting.

Now it is time to look forward to the new year of 2011—I'm sure many of us are poring over the seed catalogues recently received. I have even taken inventory of my existing seed supply so that I might not unnecessarily order duplications as I prepare this year's order of veggie and flower seeds.

Throughout the eight states of the Rocky Mountain Region, we have had Holiday parties and exhibitions, clubs ordering the North Dakota Sunrise Daylily, and plans are developing for spring flower shows, NGC Schools and civic projects.

This Director is preparing for the Winter Executive Board Meeting, planning trips to springtime State Conventions, and preparing to hand off the Rocky Mountain Region leadership to our next Regional Director.

## PACIFIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR SANDRA FORD

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who lost their homes just before Christmas along the western coast of Washington, Oregon and California due to flooding and mud slides. Planting trees through Penny Pines to prevent soil erosion has been promoted in these areas to restore the thousands of acres destroyed by wildfires.

Spring is around the corner and Mother Nature will try to heal the scars. Spring will also begin with the great migration of birds and butterflies heading north. Thousands of bee hives will be shipped to California to pollinate the almond orchards and food crops to start another new growing season.

Conventions will start in Scottsdale, AZ in April (14th – 16th) for the Pacific Region at the beautiful Scottsdale Hilton Resort and Villas where Renee Blaschke will install the next Director, Debbie Hinchey, from Anchorage, Alaska. Tours will be to the Solari Bell Factory, Desert Botanical Garden and Butterfly Pavilion, and Old Town Scottsdale for the shoppers. Then on to the National Convention in Washington, DC in May.

## WAFSA - Gerry St. Peters, Treasurer

### League of Donors

Your monetary support is needed for the 10th World Flower Show, "This Glorious Earth". For a \$1,000 donation, you will receive:

- 2 tickets to the World Flower Show
- Listing in the Newsleaf Newsletter
- Recognition in the Program Donor Booklet

The following states have joined the League of Donors: Arkansas, California, Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. The following region has joined: Deep South.

We are deeply grateful to those who have contributed thus far. We need to continue building donations through the League of Donors. We ask that regions, states, clubs and individuals seriously consider a tax deductible contribution to the League of Donors.

Please make checks payable to WAFSA and send to:

Gerry St. Peters, Treasurer  
6329 East 55th Place  
Indianapolis, IN 46226-1647

### CHECK IT OUT...

[www.wafausa.org](http://www.wafausa.org)

Our new website makes it easy to...

- Learn about WAFSA
  - History
  - Mission statement
  - Member countries
- Register for tickets
  - World Flower Show
  - Demonstrations
  - Lectures, etc.
- Make a purchase from Gift Shop
  - Book
  - Scarf
  - Umbrella
- Donate and receive incentive gift
  - Item dependent on amount
  - 5 items available/ \$50-\$500 donation

WAFSA is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible. Your generosity enables us to promote and support the art of flower arranging and encourage the care and conservation of our natural resources.

### Memoriam and Personals...

Joyce DiGiovanni's husband, David passed away in April of 2010. Joyce is serving as TNG Advertising Chairman. Joyce DiGiovanni, P.O. Box 1321 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816-1321.

Pat Grulke's son, Pete, passed away in mid Oct from lung cancer. Pat is presently serving as NGC Protocol Chair. Pat Grulke at 9811 Wildginger Dr SW, Fort Myers, FL 33919-4928

Jean Ladson passed away on November 1, 2010 at 94. During the 1980's she was a member of the Executive Committee and Treasurer. Cards of condolence may be sent her daughter, Judy Ladson, 17836 Hidden Garden Lane, Ashton, Maryland 20861.

Mary Ann Moreno's mother, Helen Marazskiewicz passed away December 24. Mary Ann Moreno is serving as South Central Region's Director and Jennifer Moreno (granddaughter) is serving as Special Education Activities Chairman. Mary Ann Moreno, 4420 Avenida Del Sol NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110-6179