



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

MAY-JULY 2010

## GREETINGS from Renee Blaschke, NGC President

As I look out the window by my breakfast table, I am believing that spring is about to become a reality! What a winter not only those of us in Texas and the Southern states have experienced, but I know it really is very mild according to many other parts of the nation. Our members in the eastern part of the country have had more snow than I can even begin to imagine ...one small snow in my



city, which melted as soon as it hit the ground, allowed the schools to open the doors and let the students go outside to see and play in the snow, many seeing this for the first time in their lives. I cannot begin to imagine the excitement, or despair, of what numerous feet of snow would bring. My bridge club at my home that afternoon brought everything to a total standstill while we sipped hot apple cider by the fireplace and watched the flakes of snow fall to the ground. I was thrilled to see the first few open blooms of my daffodils crusted with the light snow. Shortly after, the mountain laurel lifted its branches to the sky and was covered with the lavender blooms and the first signs of bluebonnets appeared. The hills are alive with color. What a welcome sign for all.

But I know that each of you, in whatever part of this country, feel the same excitement as the first show of color from your wildflowers burst forth.. Mother Nature is indeed a wonder, isn't she?

I have had many fun experiences this winter visiting many member states of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Each has its own wonders, its own prides and its own majesty.

and the activities planned for us were magnificent in Mexico City and Acapulco. A fun time was had by all. Thanks to each of you for allowing me to include wonderful memories from all of my travels. It is hard to believe that we have almost completed one year of this administration. As the saying goes "Time flies when you are having fun".

The reports I am receiving across the country with the numbers of daffodils are overwhelming. I was in South Carolina recently for the South Atlantic Region meeting. I visited the Brookgreen Gardens where I was told that they alone had planted in excess of 300,000 daffodil bulbs. While there on my visit, some of the daffodils were showing color and I only wished I could have traveled back in another week or ten days to see the full impact. South Carolina alone planted in excess of 200,000. My goodness, I planted 200 in my yard and my back was telling me so. Can you only imagine what this golden ray of sunshine brought forth? But to each of you, who planted one of 200,000, thank you. As I read your state publications, I am learning of the many bulbs planted by NGC members. I have received reports of 500 to thousands from many of you and I

I have made many new friends and learned to know many of you on a more personal level. Your warm welcomes, your outpouring of love and appreciation have enriched my life. The recent tour to Mexico was great. The flower show in Mexico City was beautiful

hope you will share your pictures with me. I appreciate you and all of your efforts and I know those who enjoy the beauty of the color also say "Thank you". The two daffodil collections will again be offered through Colorblend this year.

I regularly receive invitations to attend dedications of a Blue Star Highway, By-Way or Memorial Markers. This is very rewarding, for we are making a strong statement of our support of our armed forces; those who have served, are serving or will serve to protect and defend our nation and our freedoms. So many men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice. We appreciate them and their families. Thanks to all who have and will support this wonderful program. NGC, Inc. has exceeded the 2000 mark and I thank you and appreciate all who have participated. *God Bless the USA. May it always remain a strong and free country.*

Participating in National Garden Week provides exposure for your club and an opportunity to gain new members. The dates are June 6-12, 2010. There are many ways you can celebrate and recognize this organization and say thank you to your community

### In this issue:

President's Message	1
President's Travel Schedule	2
NGC Life Membership Notice	2
Beautify Blight	3
Membership	3
NGC Garden Week	3
Horticulture Committee	4
Education Opportunities	4
Youth Activities	4
Flower Show Awards	5
On-Line Garden Study	5
NGC Government Action Edu.	6
News from the Regions	7
Member Services	8
Memoriams & Personals	8

and business district. If you need suggestions, contact the NGC Garden Week Chairman for more information.

I hope many of you are planning to attend the NGC, Inc. annual meeting in Atlanta, GA. Many wonderful events are planned for your enjoyment ... exciting speakers, tours, workshops and a tri-refresher. These conventions open many doors for the attendees...to meet new friends, find new ideas, and encouragement for exciting projects. Attend just one and you will be hooked!

This time of the year also inspires us to think about our gardens. The new variety of plants available in today's market increases with each year. The beautiful catalogues inspire and tempt us to buy more than what we sometimes have space for.

Today, I harvested fresh spinach, red leaf lettuce and romaine lettuce. There really is nothing as good as fresh produce, particularly if you have grown it yourself. The greatest reward is sharing your abundance with those less fortunate.

I know many of you are participating in *Beautify Blight* and encouraging the young people in your neighborhoods to get involved...teaching them the importance of community volunteer service and at the same time teaching them gardening skills.

I want to share a poem that was printed in the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa publication:

#### Advice from a Garden

Plant seeds of kindness  
Be outstanding in your field  
Listen to sage advice  
Don't let the little things bug you

Take thyme for yourself – take thyme for others

Cultivate lasting friendships  
Turn mistakes into rich compost  
Use common scents  
Celebrate the abundance of Your True Nature

Dig life's...  
earth rich colors, early morning light,  
moonglow on the magnolias,  
long shadows, deep roots  
Take walks in the sun to ripen your ideas  
Enjoy the fruits of your labor

Dew your best  
Keep smiling when problems turnip  
Grow your dreams in fertile soil  
Never squash others good ideas  
Or beet around the bush

Harvest row upon row of happiness  
Trust in the Cosmos  
Stay rooted in love  
No Vining!

Ilan Shamir

The second in a series of bird-houses will be introduced in Atlanta. Surely you will want to add this one to your collection. The latest number sold of the first house was over 750. This house is available through May 2010, but after that it will be discontinued. If you haven't purchased one, you need to place your order soon.

The new book, *Installations and Inspirations* has gone to print and will be available in Atlanta and from Member Services. In addition, three new NGC pins will be available. One, of course, is an enameled daffodil. Two lovely vine pins will also be offered; one is silver and the second is encrusted with Austrian crystals. All are affordably priced and will make lovely gifts plus I know you will want one of each for yourself. The 2011 *Vision of Beauty* Calendar will also be available. Carole Luso, Member Services Chairman and the Calendar committee have been very busy and we appreciate their time and efforts.

I encourage each of you to check NGC's website regularly for updates on projects, activities and general information. If you or one of your members has a question on any aspect of our organization, the answer can most likely be found there.

Let us all remember our friends and neighbors in Haiti and Chile who have experienced so much devastation. We send our thoughts and prayers to all of them. Due to much infrastructure damage, the NGC tour to Chile has been cancelled. A trip to Peru is being planned for November and Deanna Roberts, Tour Chairman, will have up to date information on that tour in Atlanta.

Happy Gardening to each of you and remember "The World Around Us- Love It, Beautify It- Protect It".

Renee D. Blaschke, President

## PRESIDENT'S 2010 TRAVEL SCHEDULE



May 10-17 Atlanta, GA  
NGC Convention  
24-25 Battle Creek, MI  
State Convention  
26-27 New Hampshire  
State Convention  
June 2-3 Brunswick, NJ  
State Convention  
6-7 Burlington, VT  
State Convention  
8-10 Ogunquit, ME  
State Convention  
24-25 Ft. Dodge, IA  
State Convention

JULY - SMITHVILLE, TX - ALL MONTH!

#### NOTICE:

Calling all NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS  
To the  
NATIONAL LIFE MEMBER BANQUET  
"NGC LIFE MEMBERS A BLOOM"  
Please wear a flower, (fresh, dried or constructed) to the Banquet  
DATE — Thursday, May 13, 2010, 7:00-10:00 p.m.  
PLACE — Omni Hotel at CNN Center – Atlanta, GA  
INTRODUCTION of New Life Members  
ENTERTAINMENT  
LET'S HAVE A "BLOOMIN" GOOD TIME

Gloria Blake, Chairman

#### Deadline for the next issue of KIT - July 1, 2010

Please send information, articles, etc. to

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**BEAUTIFY BLIGHT - LOVE IS -  
CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY GARDEN -  
Jeanne Nelson, Chairman**

**BEAUTIFY BLIGHT.....Love Is.....Cultivating A  
Community Garden**

Many thanks to the contestants that submitted Books of Evidence for an Existing Community Garden, showing how "Community Vegetable Gardens" work in blighted areas and the produce supplied to the needy by the filled wheel barrels and market baskets.

In CATEGORY 1, a team of garden clubs, organized community groups and young people have started to develop joint community gardens to supply vegetables to soup kitchens such as "Meals on Wheels", "People to People", and church oriented community kitchens.

This year 2010-2011 gives us another opportunity to get involved with our individual towns, villages and cities and "make a difference".

It is time for all of us to join together to "plant healthy" and share that produce with our neighbors. As a group we have accomplished so much. Lets join hands and keep digging with our community and the youth of today.



Jeanne T. Nelson,  
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**NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK -  
Diane Herman, Chairman**

**NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK - JUNE 6-12**

Gather some of your garden club members and plan an exciting event to celebrate National Garden Week in your community.

Some possible thoughts:

- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers and Shrubs For Your Garden" workshop with an area nursery.
- Select a manageable blighted area with the cooperative efforts of another group and beautify it.
- Have some of your members conduct a garden tour that week. Include a water garden, a vegetable garden and a rose garden to name but a few.
- Have a "getting to know us" event at the public library.
- Whatever you do, publicize the activity so you get maximum garden club visibility and the benefits of being a member.



—Diane B. Herman, National Garden Week Chair. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at: [dbherman10@atlanticbb.net](mailto:dbherman10@atlanticbb.net) or call: 814-255-1645.

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB'S BOOK REVIEWS**

The book reviews are available in print in THE NATIONAL GARDENER and on the website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). See Resources/Forms, Book Reviews.

Marilyn K. Alaimo, NGC Book Review Chairman

**MEMBERSHIP - Doris Jackson, New Club Chairman**

Organizing a new club in your area can be a good project for clubs and can renew enthusiasm among the club members. Think of creative ways to start a new club by using the NGC website information for educational programs, schools, Bylaws and some of the following ideas:

- A. Try recruiting unaffiliated garden clubs in your area for NGC membership.
  1. Offer ideas for organizing an NGC, Inc. garden club.
  2. Exchange some exciting ideas for programs, plant sales, horticulture or flower arranging.
  3. Include ideas that prospective club members want to learn.
  4. Borrow some program books from other garden clubs for ideas.
- B. Contact newcomer groups or gardeners in subdivisions near your community.
- C. Try recruiting friends of your children or grandchildren and form a junior garden club for these young people.

Suggestions for new clubs:

1. Keep meetings short, as people have a limited amount of time.
2. Meetings should be meaningful and interesting.
3. Meet in the evening to accommodate the working members.

Having a neighboring club in your area can provide opportunity for shared programs, speakers and fresh perspectives.

## HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE - Cathy Felton, Horticulture Coordinator

### Vegetable Gardening at the White House

In 2009 under the direction of Michelle Obama an organic vegetable garden was created as an example for educating citizens and especially children about eating healthy foods. This story received a lot of news coverage throughout the U.S. Some of the plants that were grown last year were spinach, lettuce, shallots, shell peas, broccoli, fennel, onions, chard, kale, collards, carrots and many different herbs. Planted along the border of the beds were zinnias, nasturtiums and marigolds. To see a layout of the 2009 garden go to ([www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/garden\\_layout.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/garden_layout.pdf)). This gardening project is very exciting for all of us who want to promote good and healthy gardening.

At different times of the year there are tours of the garden (the Spring Garden and Grounds Tour was held on April 17-18, 2010.) As I read the stories on this project I wanted to learn more (how did they prepare their soil (soil testing), what kind of compost/fertilizers did they use, and where did they get their seeds, what plants will be grown in 2010?) Most of us might not be able to travel to D.C. this season to see this garden but perhaps in your own state/region there is a horticulture/ non-profit or nursery site that is promoting the same values. Find out if your state/region has organic gardening sites that are open to visitors and encourage your membership, family, friends and community to go for an educational visit.

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES /NGC SCHOOLS Elizabeth Coffey, Schools Coordinator

Recent changes in scheduling schools have been met with enthusiasm. Back-to-back schools are a real challenge but are worth the effort if well planned. We hope many states will consider this time and financial saving arrangement.

The **requirements** for Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design schools **have not changed**. Scheduling the time allotments for lectures, field trips, exams, lunch and breaks have created some problems. Our schools are regarded as being of very high standards and compromises in scheduling cannot be permitted in the interest of uniformity and maintaining standards of quality of all our NGC schools.

Gardening Study and Landscape Design schools require ten hours of instruction and three hours for exams—a total of thirteen hours. Environmental Studies school requires eight hours of instruction, a two-hour field trip and three hours for exams—a total of thirteen hours. These required hours necessitate at least a two-day school and more realistically—two and a half days. One back-to-back Environmental Studies School for Courses I and II was held in 2009 within a three-day time frame. These students did not receive the quality educational experience that our NGC schools offer.

State Presidents—please make sure the schools held in your states meet the requirements in the Handbooks and uphold NGC high standards.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Jennifer Moreno, Special Education Activities Director

### One Child...One Bulb

As the Special Education Youth Activities Director for NGC, one of my missions is to educate and encourage interest in gardening and garden clubs with children in mind. “One Child...One Bulb” has become the mantra for a starting point that can be easily accomplished by anyone interested in working with children.

It began by talking to teachers in schools about starting a small garden club with their students. In this case, the students are in special education classes, grades 1-5 and are challenged with different disabilities ranging from learning disabilities to emotional disturbance. As the mission is to encourage children to learn about gardening, each child's involvement is the key to making this collaborative effort work.

In encouraging children to learn more about gardening, a hands-on approach is really necessary to stimulate and maintain interest. Our newly-formed youth garden club began by forcing daffodil bulbs and planting a small daffodil garden. Each child received a daffodil bulb, a clear plastic cup and some gravel. Gravel was poured filling the cups approximately half-way, the children then planted their bulbs and stabilized them with additional gravel.

Cups were placed on a sunny windowsill and we waited for the first signs of growth. Charting, graphing and measuring was incorporated into the curriculum. The children enjoyed seeing the results of their efforts as the bulbs grew.

The daffodil garden site is situated behind one of the classrooms. Discussions with the children included; amending the soil to provide ‘food’ for the bulbs, weeding and watering needs of the garden, location of the garden for optimal sunlight and planting the bulbs correctly. Twelve children participated in weeding, amending and planting the bulb garden with over 100 daffodil bulbs and excitement grew as the garden began to take shape. Children signed up to take turns caring for their garden. After approximately a month, excitement ensued as the bulbs started to sprout!

Engaging children in the joys of gardening and garden clubs is the key to our future in National Garden Clubs, Inc. By starting simply with a program such as “One Child..One Bulb”, we can all promote our youth to become involved at the local, state and national level. Our President Renee Blaschke states “You and I have a responsibility to help guide, direct, and involve children in making choices about their future”. Remember, a child who plants a bulb will garden forever!

**THE ADVANTAGES of GARDEN TIME, NGC's ON-LINE GARDEN STUDY SCHOOL**

**Flower Show Achievement Awards  
Flower Show Schedules**

Flower Shows are probably in full swing by now, but if not, then clubs and schedule writers should be aware and pay particular attention to following the directive when writing a flower show schedule that hopes to apply for a Flower Show Achievement Award.

The past year's Books of Evidence that passed through this chairman's home had many schedules that had omissions in them, or simply errors in writing. The best advice that anyone can receive as a schedule writer is to go to the Handbook for Flower Shows, 2007 revised edition and look on pages 306-308 for the directive for writing a flower show schedule. If one does this, one cannot go wrong when writing a schedule. These rules are double checked by the Books of Evidence evaluators when judging the books.

Also Judges, you are not being diligent in your duties when you mention faults but fail to take off a fraction of or all of a point when evaluating the show. That is your duty. Several of the past year's books did not receive awards and the biggest fault was in the schedule. Judges you are not doing these clubs any favors by not evaluating properly. It is very expensive to compile a Book of Evidence with no hope of winning an award.

So write a proper schedule, stage a beautiful show and merit a score that is high enough to apply for a National Garden Club Flower Show Achievement Award and the following year your state president will love you as he/she stands on the stage and receives your states awards.

Remember I'm here to help in any way that I can.

Jo Krallman, Flower Show  
Achievement Awards Chairman  
krallman@sbcglobal.net

**1. Garden Time is convenient.** The biggest advantage of an online course is that your classroom and instructor (theoretically) are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your only excuse for missing class is not getting online! You make your own schedule for completing the course, based on the course completion date of 30 days.

**2. Garden Time offers flexibility.** You can study any time you want. You can study with whomever you want. NGC's Garden Time gives you the flexibility to spend time with work, family, and friends, significant others or any other activity, all the while you are taking one of NGC's accredited schools.

**3. Garden Time brings horticultural education right to your home.** Online members often find that their family, friends and/or boy/girl-friends get involved in the course. Having the support of your family and friends makes you more likely to succeed. **And anyone can take the NGC Garden Time course, it is open to everyone. Although promoted by National Garden Club, Inc., it is not exclusive to garden club members.**

**4. Garden Time offers individual attention.** Because you have a direct pipeline to Learn2Grow, via e-mail, you can get questions answered directly. Many times you think of a question after class or while you are studying. Rather than trying to remember to ask it or forgetting it, you can send an e-mail to Learn2Grow. Your opportunity to learn is enhanced.

**5. Garden Time helps you meet interesting people.** Many of us don't really take the time to get to know our fellow garden club members outside our local club. Garden Time provides an opportunity to get to know other students/refreshers via bulletin boards and chat rooms.

**6. Garden Time gives you real world skills.** When you complete Garden Time Course 1, you will be able to include e-mail and web browsing as technical skills on your resume. Learning how to get information via the Internet opens up a world of possibilities for your personal and professional life.

**7. Garden Time promotes lifelong learning,** It has been substantiated that most of what we learn in a course is forgotten within a week or two of the end of classes. Having that spark of interest and knowing how to find information online insures that what you're learning is always available to you.

**8. Garden Time courses have financial benefits.** Consider what it costs you in gas, parking, eating out, child-care, pet care, etc. Consider the cost of missing work or not being knowledgeable because you can't attend garden study classes to advance your educational level. These are very tangible benefits of having access to education at home.

**9. On-line courses teach you to be self-disciplined.** Perhaps the greatest foe of online courses is procrastination. Most of us put off the things we need to do. When it comes to education, the last moment is the worst possible moment to learn. Sometimes that lesson is learned the hard way in the form of poor performance on an exam. But ultimately, you succeed because you realize the importance of doing things on time or even ahead of time. The motivation to study in an online course comes from you. It is referred to as active learning. The online students takes responsibility for their course studies and mature individual for whom learning and accomplishments are highly valued. In short, your success depends on you!

*continued page 6*

Please note that all shared legislative information was accurate up to, and including the day it was prepared. Legislative reporting is like trying to catch mercury from a box of broken thermometers.

**LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH.** On March 19, 2010, by a vote of 244-170 the House of Representatives, passed the Ocean, Coastal and Watershed Education Act (HR 3644) introduced by Representatives Lois Capps, Vernon Ehlers and Sam Farr plus twenty-eight additional co-sponsors.

The Act would improve and expand outdoor educational opportunities for children. It includes authorization and expansion of two education grant programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): the regional Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) and the National Environmental Literacy Grants programs. These programs connect youth with the natural world and the great outdoors, improve student achievement and prepare kids for the green economy by equipping them with skills to understand complex environmental issues.

A strong coalition of more than 50 national organizations is working to get the House authorizing bill introduced and passed in the Senate. Some of the programs noted in HR 3644 have been funded for a few years through the appropriations process. Passage in the Senate would codify the programs and allow them to be put in the Department's annual budget. The programs have already proven their effectiveness. If you agree, and believe that it is important to legislatively establish funding to provide for Outdoor Environmental Education Programs for Youth — CALL and/or WRITE your state's senators, tell them how you feel, then ask for their support and vote for America's youth.

**LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT ON NATIONAL FORESTS.**

On March 17, 2010 USDA (United States Dept. of Agriculture) Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced that holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports and Interagency Senior and Access Passes would continue to enjoy the same 50 percent discount at Forest Service Campgrounds run by private concessions. Concessionaires are not required to accept passes at day use sites. This decision came after considering public comments on demonstrated proposed changes. "Each year more than 175 million people enjoy recreational opportunities on National Forests and Grasslands, and that includes more than 15 million visits to our campgrounds," said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "Particularly in these difficult economic times, it is very important to maintain affordable access to our National Forests and Grasslands, giving people easy way to recreate and find respite in the great outdoors." For more information visit: [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us).

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INVITATION ... ENJOY THE OUTDOORS FOR FREE.** The National Park Service says "Come Visit" ... Entrance to all 392 National Parks is free during National Park Week ... **April 17 - 25, 2010.**

To make it easier to experience America's Great Outdoors, the National Park Service is waiving entrance fees during National Park Week. In addition, many national park concessionaires are offering special promotions that are certain to add to your fun. What a wonderful opportunity to explore the stunning beauty and amazing stories found in our national parks.

Many parks also are hosting special events and volunteer projects on Earth Day - April 22 - and throughout the week. There are Wildflower Days, guided walks, talks, and special programs that celebrate the wildflowers, wildlife and history found in each individual park. For more details go to <http://www.nps.gov/npweek/>.

Also, Saturday, April 24th is National Junior Ranger Day, and children can take part in kid-friendly activities and earn their very own junior ranger patch. The patch features the well know Teddy Roosevelt hat and has the words Explore - Learn - Protect along with Junior Ranger across the top. For details go to -<http://www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.htm>.

*Marion's note : "What a great economical way for families to get out and enjoy our nation's environmental resources — our forests and grasslands"*

Marion Hilliard - [marionh@bellsouth.net](mailto:marionh@bellsouth.net)  
NGC Government Action Education Committee Chairman

**GARDEN TIMES continued from page 5**

**10. Garden Time connects you to the global village.** No technological invention in the history of man has connected people of the world like the Internet. The mere fact that we can communicate across the globe speaks to the importance of this medium. Our national organization numbers 198,345 members, encompassing 6,095 clubs, plus 248 affiliate members' organizations and 491 International Affiliate (IA) organizations. We're BIG!! Vast and global. Web sites you visit may be based in another country. What better place to find out about the NGC's IA's youth program in Peru or about the Amazon rain forest, etc. than to visit those places' online? And if you participate in Garden Time you may even meet and make friends with someone in another country. Via the internet, it is a (NGC) small world, after all. There are many advantages to internet-based courses. We live in an ever changing world that is ripe with new possibilities. The ability to learn new information or a skill whenever you want, and wherever you want offers far greater opportunities for education. The scope and reach of horticultural education broaden to far greater horizons than perhaps ever imagined.

All this...while you reduce your carbon footprint and help save the planet!! So..."*The World Around Us – Love it – Beautify it –Protect it!*"

Bonni Dinneen, NGC Garden Time, On-line School  
Chairman - [bonni.dinneen@gmail.com](mailto:bonni.dinneen@gmail.com)

# NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

## NEW ENGLAND REGION

### KATHLEEN M. THOMAS

Wow, what a winter we have had. And the spring is not looking much better with record breaking rain and flooding. But as Gardeners we are resilient and forge forward. Many of the New England Region States and Clubs are planning their community gardens and despite the rain the Daffodils are appearing everywhere brightening the dreary days.

After spending many weeks working on finding a web host and recreating a web site for the NE Region we are up and running at - [www.NGCNER.org](http://www.NGCNER.org).

In the next month I will be visiting all the NER states at their Annual Meetings and Flower Shows. It is such a joy to speak with Garden Club members from other areas, sharing ideas and plans for future plantings. Each one of them is committed to serve their communities with educational seminars, civic projects, community gardens, youth groups and garden therapy. I do not know a Gardener who is afraid of hard work. I thank you all for what you do and look forward to another year as your Region Director.

## CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

### CARMIE DEVITO

The Central Atlantic Region is just waking up from a long winter's nap! It has been a difficult winter in more ways than one and we all have had cabin fever.

The states in our region are planning one or two day conventions that will be coming up shortly. Exciting programs and workshops are planned with awareness of going Green, reducing waste and keeping our environment safe and healthy. Our members have worked hard on our NGC President's projects and continue to follow through to do their very best under the great leadership of state presidents!

Poss Tarpley from the National Capital Area has worked on a new web-site for our region - [www.ngccar.org](http://www.ngccar.org). We are looking forward to attending the National Convention in Atlanta and hoping to merit some great awards.

Congratulations to the thirteen members of CAR who have received 4 Star Certificates in the four NGC schools.

The transformation of Mother Earth is about to perform, don't miss out! Nurture relationships you can cultivate by bringing in a new member to your garden club, "Invest in a Member - Just Reach Out!"

## SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

### CAROLYN GOLDEN PATTERSON

The South Atlantic Regional Convention was held at the Lichtfield Beach and Golf Resort on Pawley's Island, SC in March. Pre-convention meetings included work on the SAR Standing Rules and a workshop on "Good Soil". Evening dinner featured a harpist, a motivating talk by President Renee and a program by the Dimensions in Art Study Group from Charleston interpreting famous paintings with their floral *Painted Ladies*. Monday attendees enjoyed a visit to Brookgreen Gardens and a river cruise to former rice plantations. Evening program featured an inspirational singer and an illustrated lecture on historic gardens. A dessert reception was given by West Virginia and South Carolina Garden Club members in honor of the NGC President and Regional Director. Tuesday's awards presentation by Convention Chairman/Awards Chairman Pat Abercrombie sent state presidents home with a bag of awards for their states. This Director went home with wonderful memories of South Carolina hospitality and a beautiful Pawley's Island hammock – a convention gift!

Visits to each state's convention have begun, I am looking forward to meeting the members and speaking about "Good Soil". Members are encouraged to get their hands in the soil and teach others about keeping our soils fertile. Most of all, they are encouraged to have fun!

## DEEP SOUTH REGION

### MARY SUE COLVIN

In March 2010, the members of the Deep South Region met in Natchez, MS, for their 49th Annual Convention. The Garden Clubs of Mississippi and their president, Gay Austin, welcomed DSR members for three days of southern hospitality and DSR business meetings. Members toured five antebellum homes on Sunday afternoon. Convention activities included lunch at the legendary Carriage House with Atlanta designer John Grady Burns and attending the renowned Natchez Pilgrimage Pageant. Festivities continued with a reception for NGC President and DSR Director at historic Magnolia Hall. The first DSR Plant Sale, chaired by Tina Tuttle, proved to be a big success with proceeds rewarded to the DSR states. The second Great Jewelry Exchange chaired by Jo Williams and Kit Cashman, has become a favorite as recycling jewelry is not only

fun for members but profitable for Habitat for Humanity projects.

A new project for DSR was launched at this convention - the DSR POWER ANGEL PINS. Proceeds benefit breast cancer research and the production of a DSR book of empowerment, "Together as One – Our Hands and Hearts are POWER", for those facing the challenge of breast cancer.

## CENTRAL REGION

### JOAN A. HOOD

I truly think spring may be upon us although the weather man tells us we still aren't out of the woods. At this writing most of the states in Central Region are gearing up for a wild month of April and their state's conventions. I am looking forward to attending several of these and getting to meet more of my region's members and learning how each state operates independently from each other. I am also anxiously awaiting the NGC convention in Atlanta and our CR luncheon on May 16th. Our speaker owns and operates her own shop in Atlanta. Her program will be on container gardening and is titled - "No Brainer Containers". No matter how large or small our garden we can't miss with the mobility of a container garden to enhance any spot we want to emphasize with color or foliage.

Our members are also working on the CR's Unified Project. This term it is "Helping Others Learn to Grow". How open a field is that? This allows CR clubs to pursue projects in many directions and each state will develop their evidence and send it on to our Alternate Director, Mary Ann Meador, Unified Project Chairman, by Aug. 30, 2010. She in turn will compile a regional book of evidence by November 15, 2010 and present it to NGC for judging. Many of the present National President's projects are open possibilities for this Unified Project.

## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

### MARY ANN MORENO

South Central Region is having their Convention April 23-24, in Addison, Texas. Our Ways and Means Committee will be selling named Daylilies at the convention to raise money to send to World Gardening for the Haiti and Chile relief project. We hope to raise at least \$500.00. Our SCR will have an Exhibit table for "Golden Days" at the NGC

*continued page 8*

## MEMBER SERVICES - Carole Iuso, Chairman

### NEW PRODUCTS AND COLORBLENDS' DAFFODIL BULB PROGRAM

I want to thank you for your wonderful support of the Colorblends' Bulb Program. I hope you know how much your commitment and steadfast support of this daffodil programs means.

I am delighted to announce Colorblends will continue this program for another year. All prices, terms, and conditions remain the same. Beginning April 2 orders may be placed directly with Colorblends at 888-847-8637 or [www.colorblends.com](http://www.colorblends.com). Bulbs will be shipped at planting times for your area. Billing will be at time of shipment. Last year Colorblends sold out of the **Master Daffodil Blend** and **Golden Harvest**. Please order early so you are not disappointed when bulbs sell out. (I have received many compliments on the quality of the bulbs.)

**Exciting new introductions!!!**  
**"Installations and Inspirations"** the new NGC eagerly awaited publication has just arrived and will delight your members \$15.00 each.

**Our President, Renee Blaschke's Daffodil Pin** is a beautiful profile of a daffodil, hand crafted in enamel. The pin has been designed with a bale on the back, so it may also be worn as a necklace. Price \$12.00 each. Quantity pricing: 24 or more pins \$9.00 each. No other offers apply. A great fund raising opportunity for your club.

**A nature inspired vine pin** has also been designed. This pin is crafted with a mixture of metals ~ 50% silver over brass ~ has five leaves, with delicate tendrils placed along a slightly curved stem. Pins may be viewed in the *National Gardener's* latest issue and on the NGC website. This pin is so good, Member Services has decided to offer this vine pin in two options.

**Option #1 All Silver:** This pin has a soft rich look. The quality and detail of this pin will be appreciated. This option has it all! This pin is elegant! Price \$12.00 each. Quantity Pricing: 24 or more pins \$9.00 each. No other offers apply.

**Option #2 Austrian Crystal (white)** The stem and tendrils are a soft rich silver

with Austrian Crystals hand placed in the leaves. This pin is elegant! Price \$15.00 each. Quantity Pricing 24 or more pins \$9.50 each. No other offers apply.

**The new 2011 Vision of Beauty Flower Arrangement and Engagement Calendar** has arrived. Combine orders and take advantage of quantity discounts.

Remember the wonderful NGC jewelry to honor present and past club presidents. Member Services has many certificates available to present to special members. Visit NGC Member Services at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) for coupons, new introductions, and all your club needs.

*Everything we accomplish at Member Services and NGC is possible because of the dedication and support of friends like you.*

### REGIONS NEWS continued from page 7

Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. All four States; Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, have been planting Golden Daffodils to honor our National President, Renee Blaschke. We will see you all in Atlanta, Please visit our SCR Display.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION SANDRA DENNIS

It is the end of March and finally there are signs of the coming 'Spring in the Rockies'! News for the Rocky Mountain Region.... "Favorites of Montana!" A special collection of almost 500 recipes from garden club members including a selection of hand-me-down family favorites. The cookbook will be available in April and will be the MFGC's major fundraiser when they host the NGC Fall Board meeting in Great Falls, September 21-25, 2010. Plan to get your copy as a souvenir of the wonderful time you will have at the NGC Fall Board Meeting-2010 and maybe an extra copy as a gift. Several other projects developing in the RMR this spring include – a partnership with the Wasatch Community Gardens which currently have 164 acres of growing space available and still there is a waiting list of people wanting their own garden plot. This is just more proof of how popular community gardens are.

Trees, Trees, Trees—one state club awarded cash grants to member clubs for tree planting projects, another gave actual trees to be planted and in one state, a member has 83 markers ready to be placed at the trees and shrubs in her yard. All represent samples of this Regional Director's project on Trees.

### PACIFIC REGION SANDRA FORD

Daffodils have bloomed in our southern states and will continue for another month as it warms in our northern states. Meetings in Hawaii in January and February were a great place to spend part of winter. El Nino has affected the islands with unusually cold temperatures, if you consider 60 being cold, but flowers are always in bloom. Spring flower shows and gardening symposiums are in full swing across our region. School butterfly gardens are being built. Programs are being held at club meetings for attracting butterflies and bees to your garden as well as bee keeping programs. Contests and grant money have been made available for photo contests or to build a new or expand an existing butterfly garden. How to attract wildlife to your backyard programs are planned for the regional convention in Spokane - April 22-24. The theme is "Near Nature, Near Water". The hotel overlooks the Spokane River. Arizona State Convention will be in Mesa April 9-10 with the theme "It's Showtime". California will sponsor a State Flower & Garden Show and Symposium in Sacramento April 8-11.

### Memoriams and Personals.....

Peg (Margaret) Newill suffered a severe stroke in early February 2010. Peg Newill is a member of the Mentors Committee and has been a NGC Board Member for many years. Her address is: 1333 Primrose Lane, Lancaster, OH 43130.

Joan Wiperman's son, "Whip", passed away suddenly in March. Joan is presently serving as a PH&E Trustee and Golden Circle member. Joan Wiperman, 7808 Wolf Creek Ct., Louisville, KY 40241-1080

Dixie Freudenberg passed away earlier this year. Dixie was active at National and Regional and attended National Conventions for 30 years.

Elene Combs, President of Virginia, lost her 42 year old daughter to breast cancer in February. Elene Combs, 318 E. Fincastle, Tazewell, VA 24651.

Dorothy Yard's husband David Yard, passed away in February 2010. Dorothy Yard is a NGC Flower Show Instructor and NGC FSS Accrediting Committee Member for DSR. Dorothy Yard, 1117 Old Wattsburg Rd., Waterford, PA 16441.

Sara Townsend's husband, C. Vincent Townsend, MD, passed away in December 2009. Vincent was known by many garden club members. Sara Townsend presently serves on the Golden Circle Committee and the Mentors Committee of the NGC 2009-2011 Board of Directors. Sara H. Townsend, 123 Old Mill Rd., Martinsburg, WV 25401-9212.