



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Nov-Jan 2010-11

GREETINGS from Renee Blaschke, NGC President

It has been a joy to travel to numerous states in the early fall and experience the beauty of the color that has broken through the horizon. The NGC Fall Board Meeting in Great Falls Montana was delightful. The wide open spaces (similar to parts of Texas, I must admit) made a spectacular vista. The historic and educational values



certainly expanded my knowledge of the Indian heritage. My Indian heritage roots go back to the Comanches and Chief Quanah Parker. I am reminded on a regular basis that we were known as the "mean Injuns". ME? Certainly, that cannot be true! The tours provided expanded my knowledge of this part of the country. It is beautiful land. As we toured the Buffalo Jump, I acquired the name of the "Lead Cow"! Can you believe that? I will never live that down.

Even though the tour to the glaciers was hampered somewhat due to snow and some road closures, the sights were beautiful. I have to admit I was cold. I purchased hooded jackets and sweats that I will have very little opportunity to wear in Texas, but with the vast weather changes we experience across the country, who knows?

The fall has taken me to different areas of the country and I only reinforce the feelings and beliefs I have that National Garden Clubs, Inc. is a wonderful organization and a Force for Good. The projects reported are interesting and inject a community spirit that is

unmatchable. Our members are dedicated to their cause. They are assets to their local communities and their states. The accomplished and successful projects are phenomenal.

Many positive actions were approved in Great Falls. New member services items were approved and when pre-

viewed by the Board, the response was so favorable that this officer felt she would be stripped of the samples. New items include a beautiful orange Austrian Crystal Pumpkin pin and earrings, lovely Austrian round cut Crystal Holiday Wreath pin, and an Austrian Crystal Snowman pin. The enameled daffodil earrings should be available at Headquarters by the time you receive this issue. Each of these new items is sure to be an asset to your jewelry collection and in time for holiday giving. I hope your clubs will purchase the new book "Installations and Inspirations" that is also available. This will be a nice addition to any library.

The new Horticulture Book is well on its way to completion and I hope it will be available for sale at the Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. The book, when completed, will be included on the Required Reading list. This committee has worked long and hard and is to be commended for their dedication and expertise in the development of the book.

Golden Days has been embraced by our membership and our lands have

been covered with golden rays of sunshine with daffodils popping up around the United States. The collections are still available through Color Blends. I encourage you to continue with this project and if you have local hybridizers in your area, please support them. I thank you for your support of this project as well as "Beautify Blight" and "Plant It Pink". The new birdhouse is available and will be a nice addition to your garden. NGC is making a difference in so many areas.

Concerns with Internal Revenue Service requirements and mandates are being researched as to the Form 990 reporting for clubs, districts, and regions. When definitive assessments/requirements have been received from NGC legal counsel, members of NGC will be notified of their responsibilities or any changes necessary in reporting. This new concern will also address the responsibilities of NGC as the sponsoring entity for final reporting of National and Regional meetings. As the parent organization, it is our hope to make reporting as easy as possible for we do appreciate states who offer

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to host NGC Conventions and Fall Board Meetings.

A new document, *Therapy Gardens for Visually and Physically Impaired*, was approved and will be available on NGC's website, www.gardenclub.org. This new document will be updated as new gardens are reported and added to the brochure. I am appreciative to Sara Brooks for her research in compiling the list.

If you know of gardens that need to be added, please contact Sara or Headquarters for the additions.

With approximately seven months remaining in this administration, I once again express my thanks and appreciation to the Regions, States and general membership for their continuing support of this President and I look forward to the upcoming visits that are scheduled.

For those of you who were not in attendance in Montana when I presented my report, I would like to close with the last paragraph of that report.

*Allowing me to represent you
Is a lifetime memory given to few.*

*I am humbled and honored by your
support of me
And I trust it is everything you hoped
it would be.*

*But if it is not, please let me know
And I will work to improve the faults
I show.*

*My hat is off to each of you my garden
club friends, one and all
I appreciate and thank you—you
answered the call,*

*To each of you I send my undying love
And I thank MY LORD who watches
over me from above.*

My very best wishes to each of you and yours for a wonderful, happy and peaceful Holiday Season and a healthy New Year.

Renee

"GOLDEN DAYS" PROJECT Lila Petersen, Chairman

2009-2010 NGC President's Project Golden Days received 255 Award Summaries. Congratulations to each of you for saying to 'A Senior Member of your Garden Club ... Thank You ... for the work you have done in the garden club, city and community' and for planting Daffodils in their honor. Especially, thank you to the clubs, councils and states who sent an Award Summary to me. The projects were varied and fantastic.

It's now time to encourage participation once again in this beautiful project. There are 4 categories to apply in:

- A. Senior Plantings
- B. Youth Plantings
- C. Mass Plantings
- D. Potted plants

If a Daffodil will not grow in your area, yellow Marigolds and yellow Daylilies will be approved.

Award Application: One page Summary, may include up to three photos. Include at top of page: Name of Garden Club; city, state, region; date. Summary should be short description of project. Deadline: April 1, 2011...it is not necessary to wait until deadline to submit.

Send to:

Lila Petersen, NGC Golden Days,
860 Hunting Hills,
Boone NC 28607
email - flip12@charter.net
828-719-9810 cell

National Garden Clubs, Inc
Website: www.gardenclub.org

**MEMBER SERVICES: For a current
catalog and orders 1-800-550-6007
headquarters@gardenclub.org**

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

PRESIDENT'S 2010 TRAVEL SCHEDULE



Nov	3-6	San Luis Potosi
	8-14	Lima, Peru
	17	Delaware
Dec	1-2	Rhode Island
	3	National Capitol Area
2011		
Jan	17-20	Winter Executive Committee San Antonio, TX
	20-22	Instructors' Symposium San Antonio, TX
Feb	17-19	CFAA
	21	Granbury, TX - District 2

NGC HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE AWARD & ESSAY CONTEST Elva Davidson, Chairman

NGC HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

The 2010 - 2011 theme:
"The Environment -
Our Personal Responsibility"

Essay contest rules, scale of points and additional details can be found on the NGC website - www.gardenclub.org

The High School Essay Contest is open to all High School students attending 9th through 12th grades. A \$1,000 NGC Scholarship will be awarded to the National Winner. The second place winner will receive \$100.

Contest Deadline Club entries must be sent to your State Youth Chairman: observe state deadline. State Winners must be sent to Regional Chairman by January 1, 2011. Regional Winners must be sent to National Chairman by February 1, 2011.

Elva H. Davidson, NGC High School Service Award & Essay Contest Chairman,
31136 Cheltenham Road, Lewes, DE 19958
Phone: 302-645-7677, elvadavid@aol.com

Deadline for the next issue of KIT - January 1, 2011

Please send information, articles, etc. to

SRGOSSMAN@aol.com
Sandra Gossman, Editor 'KIT'
2506 Northwestern Ave, Ames, IA 50010

Shirley Basista, Assistant Editor 'KIT'
8623 Hollis Ln, Breckville, OH 44141
sjbasista@yahoo.com

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

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

This chairman has been invigorated by the many emails and phone calls concerning this National Project. Your concern for your own individual communities is to be commended and the desire to leap the many hurdles placed before you is a testament to garden club's tenacity to succeed.

CATEGORY 1: This category is eligible to enter the Regional Contest area. Deadline is January 20, 2011. All Books of Evidence are to be sent to this Chairman. Requirements for BOE are easy, so everyone should be entering the contest. A plastic cover with name of project; name & address of the person BOE should be returned to; contents should include a few photos showing workers & the vegetables produced; financial statement; and any publicity with the groups involved. BOE does not need to be more than 3 or 4 pages.

Category 1 was the original idea of having a garden club join with an adult community group like Rotary, Church, Chamber of Commerce and a community youth group to establish a vegetable garden, where the produce could be harvested and given to a homeless shelter, a soup kitchen or a community help center.

For many communities, the local garden club is the mainstay of activities for both adults and youth. As a group, our aim is to make our small place in the surrounding world a better place for not only ourselves but also for our town and our community. It is very much like dropping a stone in a pool of water and the ripples continue to enlarge and encompass the surrounding area. As garden club members we are very much like that first ripple. As we continue to spread our gardening our community and then our town benefits from the continuing influence our good deeds establish for many to join and follow.



Jeanne T. Nelson, jtnelson@optonline.net
143 S. Harrison Ave., Congers, NY 10920-2229 (845) 268-6220

WORLD GARDENING - GLOBAL PARTNERS - Barbara Wesley, Chairman

World Gardening/International Disaster Fund Receives Support

NGC has come forward to ease the suffering of many Haitians. Members have donated \$11,657.62, and this money has already been put to use for relief through the water-bucket filter program. As of September 20, 2010 an additional \$6,889.20 has been received. The cost of one water-bucket filter is \$55 and many people have been helped by your generosity.

How have the NGC donations for Haiti been spent?

Four orphanages in Cap-Haitien have received buckets and learned how to assemble their filters. The director of these orphanages reports that the children are drinking from them every day.

The Cap-Haitien Health Network serves some very poor areas that

are difficult to reach and have no other connection to non-profit groups. The buckets give patients easier access to water and allow them to take their medications regularly.

A nurse in Labadie was trained to assemble filters for her public clinic.

The Clinic Extere in Shada was also gifted with filters.

Children at the Ecole de la Lumiere, St. Marie Labadie School and the National School, which is run by the Haitian Government, received filters.

The great gift of life-giving water has provided much relief.

In Port au Prince a center which houses 50 children had no clean water prior to NGC's generous donation.

Water-bucket filters were also given to the CCL, Labadie's governing body, for use at their meetings. This group also works to educate the public on the importance of clean water. Information has been sent to answer inquiries from members.

Board members of Global Partners/Running Waters are very impressed with our organization. You are all to be commended on your generosity.

Donations beyond Haiti

The Global Partners/Running Waters fund continues to grow. \$10,842.59 is currently in that account and NGC members will fund a complete project when enough money has been collected.

If you wish to contribute, remember there are two different funds. Please send a check made out to NGC World Gardening. Indicate Haiti or Global Partners/Running Waters on the memo line to make sure your donation goes to the fund of your choice. All donations are tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt for tax purposes. Donations \$25 or more will also receive a certificate from NGC.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS -
Sharon Yantis, Chairman**

How to Develop a Strong Public Relations Program

Just as a gardener uses tools to plant a garden, we need tools to get our garden club's message out in the media.

How is this accomplished?

1. Develop a strong Public Relations program. Consider different ways to promote the club's positive image. Perhaps it is an outstanding project or event which is newsworthy.
2. Next promote club programs through all media (press, radio, TV, Internet and website). Know the tools in developing a good relationship with those involved in the media. Personal contact with the editors is vital to the success of getting the message out to the community.
3. Develop good community relations by encouraging members to participate in community-wide projects (planting of gardens and parks, recycling and cleaning of parks and streams). Have your club logo on shirts advertising this is an excellent way of gaining recognition.
4. Another excellent tool for name recognition would be to have members participating on conservation, environmental education, civic beautification and park development boards. Garden club members can share valuable information in giving the knowledge of what has been learned at the schools.
5. Write letters to the editor. Well written current topics have a very good chance of being printed. This may be a way to gain support for a club project.
6. Send items to the Garden Columnists - know what news items or topics the readers might enjoy reading.
7. Contact the Sunday feature editor about human interest stories. Perhaps they would like to have photos along with the article.
8. Check the calendar in the newspaper and list your club's meetings and speakers or other important information.

**NGC GARDENING STUDY -
Greg Pokorski, Chairman**

We have continued to receive a few inquiries about the online course, so this is a reminder that Online Course One has been terminated (see KIT, Aug-Oct 2010, page 8).

The traditional Gardening Study School (and other NGC schools) are alive and well. Club presidents, do you know that your club can sponsor and host a Gardening Study School? This was a successful and rewarding project for my garden club. Schools can also be sponsored and conducted by the district, a council or state.

Presenting an NGC school gives you and your club members an opportunity to learn more about gardening and garden-related subjects, provides an opportunity to make this education available to the community (promoting local, state and national garden club organizations and projects), creates an opportunity to attract new members and could result in making some money for your club.

For more information, read "Suggestions for Staging a Gardening Study School" (The National Gardener, Summer 2010, page 22) or contact your NGC Gardening Study Schools Committee (The National Gardener, Winter 2010, page 40).

Greg Pokorski, NGC Gardening Study Schools Chairman,
gregpokorski@earthlink.net

**SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL -
Elaine Dates, Chairman**

Celebrate NGC's 50 years of collaboration with the Forest Service by entering the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest for 1st through 5th graders. All children are eligible whether they come from a school, Scouting group, 4-H groups, after school groups, etc. Special surprises and materials available to all. Tips and rules are on NGC's web site or contact Elaine Dates at elainedates@comcast.net.

**NGC ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
Judy Newman, Chairman**

Members of the NGC Environmental Studies School Committee are striving to ensure that the ESS Courses meet NGC standards, assist the State Chairmen in planning the schools and provide help to ESS Councils and Consultants whenever possible.

In addition to consultants' records being maintained by the State Chairman, NGC ESS Accrediting Chairmen and NGC School Secretary, a data base has been created by Judy Newman, NGC ESS Chairman. Copies of the data base are provided by NGC ESS Accrediting Chairman and the NGC School's Secretary. Copies of the state records and/or individual records are available upon request from Judy Newman.

State Chairmen may also request power point presentations based on chapter(s) of our text book, "Living in the Environment" by Tyler Miller, from Judy Newman.

As of August 2010, a revised ESS Handbook is available from NGC Headquarters. It includes: Required Reading List for the 16th Edition of "Living in the Environment," an updated Supplemental Reading List, Duties of ESS Regional Chairmen and a page of the Consultant Cards plus additional corrections which have been printed in the The National Gardener.

We appreciate your suggestions.

Judy Newman, NGC Environmental School Studies Chairman,
newman9641@aol.com

ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS:

Please be sure to share the information from *The National Gardener* and *Keeping In Touch* with your club members.

If your club is installing new officers this fall the new "Installations and Inspirations" book will offer new ideas for the ceremony as well as wonderful inspirational reading for any event.

“TIS THE SEASON”

Member Services is pleased to present its “Hot List of 2010 Gifts” for that special person in your life, just in time for the holidays (photos of all items available in the Member Services page of the NGC website - www.gardenclub.org.)

“HOT LIST OF 2010 GIFTS ”

These are new items - see the NGC website and the Fall 2010 issue of The National Gardener for more ideas and great gifts.

New: **Daffodil Earrings** match our President’s Daffodil pin - (pierced only) \$12 per pair, quantity price, 24 or more pairs \$9.50 each ~ plus shipping and handling. No other special offers apply.

New: **Swarovski Crystal Pumpkin Pin** \$25 each - plus shipping and handling. This pin is perfect for fall and especially Thanksgiving!

New: **Swarovski Crystal Pumpkin Earrings** (pierced only) \$15 each - plus shipping and handling. These earrings match the pumpkin pin.

New: **Austrian Crystal Holiday Wreath** \$18 each - plus shipping and handling. The rich colors and cuts of the Austrian Crystals used in this wreath are unique!

New: **Austrian Crystal Snowman Pin** \$18 each - plus shipping and handling. This pin is the perfect addition to your “Sparkle Collection”

New: The **“Bloomin’ Bag”**(Item 5439) \$36 each. Colors may be viewed on the NGC website.(Bronze continues to be the number 1 color selection followed by Pewter, yellow, red and the remainder of colors) Black has already sold out! Combine orders to save on shipping.

Look for Holiday Coupons - only on the website! All orders totaling \$12.00 or more will receive a FREE copy of “Holiday Happening”.

President’s Daffodil Pin (Item 5436) is designed with a bale on the back so this pin may also be worn as a necklace. Hand crafted in enamel - \$12 each, quantity price 24 or more pins - \$9 each plus shipping and handling.

Vision of Beauty Calendar \$3.50 - \$5.95

Designing by Types (Item 1336) \$44.95 each - plus shipping and handling. This beautiful 200 page book is dedicated to flower arranging.

Inspirations and Installations \$15.00 - plus shipping and handling - the newest NGC publication and a must for every garden club!

As this year draws to a close, I want to thank everyone for their dedication and support of Member Services. We look forward to serving you during 2011!!!

Carole Iuso, Member Services Chairman

NGC HEADQUARTERS

The Permanent Home of National Garden Clubs in St. Louis, MO, was originally built in 1959, an addition was added in 1999. Time has taken a toll over those years making it a priority to upgrade and repair areas requiring attention. The roof has been replaced. Asbestos has been removed, the chiller replaced, an additional server installed and fresh carpeting and painting of the office area is in progress. The stone pavers are beginning to crumble to a point of being hazardous and will be replaced. The current computer system will be upgraded. The walls, too, are crumbling which will require resetting and recaulking. Windows in the old section of the building would benefit by replacement. Bottom line is that necessary funds be available to cover the costs. There are a variety of ways to contribute to the Permanent Home and Endowment Funds. Donations may be made for specific projects or in general as follows:

PERMANENT HOME: Contributions of \$25 or more will be acknowledged by a Certificate, suitable for framing, with name of honoree and donor. The donor may request Headquarters to send the Certificate to the donor or to the honoree.

STEWARDS OF TOMORROW: a. A contribution of \$2,500 or more is recognized by an individual nameplate 12” X 18”.

b. A contribution of \$1,000 (or contribution of \$1,000 to \$2,499) is recognized by an individual nameplate 5 1/2” X 18” applied on the adjoining brick columns.

FRIENDS OF THE FUTURE: A gift of \$500 (or a sum to \$1,000) is recognized by an individual nameplate hanging in the east Foyer.

HONOR BOOKS: a. The Book of Appreciation, second edition, \$25, to honor anyone who has given support to NGC (computer generated).

b. The Book of Club Presidents, second edition, \$50, to honor any club president (computer generated),

c. The Book of Remembrance, second edition, \$50, to honor the memory of anyone (computer generated).

d. The Roll of Honor Book, first and continued edition, \$100, in calligraphy to provide great honor to anyone.

MEMORIALS: Permanent Home contributions of \$25 or more, paying tribute to one honoree or memorializing one person, are listed in The National Gardener. Listing of two honorees or two memorials requires a gift of \$50 or more.

As the new administration is installed in 2011, the above amounts will be doubled. This makes it a perfect time to donate as a State, Club, individual, etc. It is hoped that you will consider making a donation to keep our headquarters in prime condition.

NGC has several NEW offerings on the internet!

SHARE YOUR GARDEN CLUB PHOTOS VIA - FLICKR®

As announced in Fall 2010 *The National Gardener* - NGC recently launched a new public Flickr site --designed to create and nurture a photo archive for garden club members nationwide--showcases award-winning gardens, floral arrangements, conventions, news and projects. Anyone can view the NGC site simply by going to the link listed; you do NOT need to be a Flickr member. Photos on the official NGC photostream are licensed appropriately through Creative Commons; this allows the images to be used for publicity purposes in the news media as well as by NGC-affiliated clubs.

Initial groups include:

www.flickr.com/groups/NGC_conventions/
www.flickr.com/groups/NGC_flowershows/
www.flickr.com/groups/NGC_projects/

For more information on photo sharing through Flickr, please contact Robin Pokorski, NGC Photo Archives Chair, at robinp@juno.com.

National Garden Clubs' News Room Adds Blog

In an ongoing effort to spread the word about our mission, our members and their accomplishments, National Garden Clubs has set up a news room blog at <http://nationalgardenclubnews.blogspot.com/>.

The blog features NGC-generated original content plus compiled online news stories from a variety of media. Bringing together interesting information about local, regional and national garden club projects and activities, the blog is designed to engage and inform garden writers and journalists as well as garden club members.

Your comments and contributions are invited.

Blue Star Memorials Is On Facebook

The Blue Star Memorial project began in 1944 with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. The following year, National Garden Clubs adopted and expanded the program by initiating the Blue Star Highway system, which involves placing permanent memorial markers along the nation's highways. "The Blue Star Memorial program is our oldest and most revered program," says Renee D. Blaschke, NGC president. "We are proud to play a visible role in honoring our nation's servicemen and servicewomen." Since the program's inception, more than 2,163 Blue Star Memorials have been erected across the United States. The large, handsome metal markers are placed in national cemeteries, parks, government facilities, veterans homes and hospitals, and along highways across the U.S.

To help NGC members keep up on Blue Star Memorial activities across the nation, NGC has set up a special Facebook page named "Blue Star Memorial Project of National Garden Clubs." On the page, you'll find photos, discussions and links to news articles about new memorial markers, dedications, fundraisers and restoration efforts. You can also share your own Blue Star news and photos by posting to the site. If you're on Facebook already, simply search for the page by name and join in. You can also access the page at this URL: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Blue-Star-Memorial-Project-of-National-Garden-Clubs/311974175292?ref=ts>.

The news is continually reporting on floods, fires, tropical storms and other natural disasters affecting many areas throughout our country. It may take time to actualize a plan for an area that has been destroyed by one of these phenomena. Please do not hesitate in sending in your request for help with your project, even though the devastation may have occurred a while ago.

The application process is simple, and can be completed by email. Information that is required: Nature and severity of disaster, location of area to be restored, proposed restoration plan by garden club/s, estimated itemized cost of your project and other funds received toward the restoration project.

The Natural Disasters USA program was started to assist clubs who have suffered a natural disaster. The restoration project is to be sponsored by State Garden Club or Member Club/s. A member club may receive up to \$500.00 per disaster. Individual states may not receive more than \$2000.00 per disaster within the NGC fiscal year. For example, if a community garden was struck by a tornado on the east side of town that would be one disaster. However, if the tornado continued on to the west side of town and destroyed the children's garden that would be another disaster – both within the same town and two grants could be applied for.

All the Natural Disasters information is on the NGC website under Special Projects. Sending the application by email is preferable which can then be sent to the committee members for review. Be sure to include all the information required on the application form; name, garden club, contact information and project chairman.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding your project, send application to ms.candace@cox.net.

Candace Morgenstern
Natural Disasters USA Chairman

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

NEW ENGLAND REGION KATHLEEN M. THOMAS

The New England Regional states are a blaze with fall colors. Celebrating the autumn beauty we held our NER Annual Meeting at Stratton Mountain in Vermont. This was my final Annual Meeting as Director and I would like to thank Sue Robinson, meeting chairman, for all her efforts. At this meeting we had excellent speakers and a Standard Flower Show - "Recycle". Thanks to Elaine Dates and her committee for putting on this show. Every state participated and "Do We Have Talent".

Although we may be small in square miles the NER is a powerful force. Clubs have been following the NGC mission, planting unbelievable quantities of daffodils, harvesting rewards through "Beautify Blight" and doing all they can to spread the word for breast cancer while "Planting Pink".

I have visited all the New England states. We have the most wonderful presidents, each and everyone is dedicated and hard working. They truly care about improving their states and are working to accomplish increased membership, better communication, fiscal responsibility and civic projects. They do it all with style and grace. For this I thank each of you.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION CARMIE DEVITO

A few reminders: Now is the time to plant our daffodil bulbs and continue with the "Golden Days" projects! Think ahead now to enjoy a delightful opening act in your garden next Spring.

Also let us not forget our "Plant It Pink" project. This gentle reminder to "think pink" continues to raise awareness of the fight against breast cancer.

Don't forget the 2009-2010 NGC #23 Award of Excellence for a non member of NGC and #24 Award of Excellence for State Garden Club. A medallion and \$500 award may be awarded to a State Garden Club for an outstanding State project. Contact Sandra Robinson, NGC Award of Excellence Chairman.

Our region has been involved with many great projects. One important one is Delaware's Healing Gardens for Fallen Heroes at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware.

The National Capital Area is hard at work planning NGC's 2011 convention in May. We look forward to celebrating the installation of a National President from

our Region and invite all NGC Members to come and enjoy the many activities, exciting tours, workshops and programs planned for you.

Our Central Atlantic Conference will be October 24-26, 2010 in Long Branch, NJ on the Jersey Shore. We look forward to our visit and will enjoy the "Glory Days" with the 'Jersey Girls' where they will delight us with tours, programs and workshops.

I continue to be amazed at the work that is being done in our Region to make our "World a Better Place". I am proud of the presidents in our region, they work hard and it is my pleasure to be able to work with them.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CAROLYN GOLDEN PATTERSON

At the recent NGC Fall Board meeting held in Great Falls, MT in September I met with the state presidents from our Region and conveyed to them some upcoming changes from NGC, including putting all the Regions under the NGC umbrella for 501-c-3 status. NGC will also now have a central database to keep information/credentials on the various schools that our members attend. The NGC scholarship form has changed and applicants may now fill the forms out online - available on the NGC website at gardenclub.org. The NGC Awards of Excellence are due by November 15 to NGC. States may apply for both a non-garden club member and an outstanding project done by the individual state. We also discussed plans for the SAR 2011 Convention March 20-22 at the Proximity Hotel in Greensboro, NC. This will be SAR's Golden Anniversary and we plan to CELEBRATE! I also met with Emily Floyd Stephens, SAR Organizational Study Chairman, to review and clarify changes to the SAR Rules of Procedure discussed by the Committee at the 2010 SAR Convention. These will soon be available on the SAR website at southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org and will be voted on in Greensboro. Most are housekeeping changes and others are to help SAR be more efficient and user-friendly. This should help our incoming Director, Mary Dixon from Virginia, get off to a good start.

DEEP SOUTH REGION MARY SUE COLVIN

While experiencing one of the longest, hottest, driest summers on record, DSR garden club members have been working on many exceptional projects. Louisiana

Garden Club Federation dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the World War II Museum in New Orleans on D-Day and members are collecting funds for By-Way Markers at all military installations in the state. The Garden Club of Alabama filled 285 boxes with personal care items, seeds and "scents from home" for delivery by the Alabama National Guard to military forces in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq. The Garden Clubs of Mississippi are sponsoring a State Flower Show at the Brookhaven School of Arts in October. Staging will be in different campus buildings and involves active participation by the students of the school. Each district in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs will adopt at least one impaired water surface body by implementing recommended practices to reduce water pollution to protect the aquatic ecosystem. The Garden Club of Georgia has received a \$10,000 grant to promote awareness of threatened historic landscapes and gardens. GCG grants will provide seed money to organizations and/or communities for preservation and conservation. Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs is partnering with the Cumberland Trail Linear Park (a 300 mile hiking trail). The trail will be one of the featured topics at the Fall TFGC Conservation Camp.

CENTRAL REGION JOAN A. HOOD

After an extremely long and hot summer we finally turn the page to fall with its cooler days and brilliant colors. After our unusual summer putting our struggling flower beds to sleep for the winter is an annual chore that saddens most of us, but indeed is a necessary event. My trip to Montana for the NGC Fall Board Meeting was certainly a highlight of the year. Many issues were presented and voted on and we saw necessary price increases indicating the changing times. Now I look forward to greeting the many members of this region at our October Central Region Convention in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Tours, seminars and meetings will fill each day and the sharing of friendships among our seven state representatives will fulfill our get together. Our hours will be filled with reports on the activities of Blue Star Markers, Plant it Pink, Golden Days, Beautify Blight and many more projects. All chairmen will have the opportunity to share their accomplishments with the members of the region. The Unified Project has been completed and the results of those "Helping Others Learn to

Grow" will be known next May in Washington D.C. With the approaching holidays many of us will now take time to finish our fall chores and gear up to celebrating time with family and friends til 2011.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION MARY ANN MORENO

South Central Region members are always exploring ways in which we can protect the environment and use our resources responsibly. Our regions theme "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle", To Protect Our Beautiful World, is mentioned frequently in SCR state presidents' reports and Chairmen's articles in our Newsletter "The Communicator". All of us should be planting those glorious yellow daffodils and documenting the progress for our NGC President's "Golden Days" Project. SCR members have several large projects going in all four states: Texas continues to work on the Governor's Mansion Gardens in Austin, with massive plantings of flowers and daffodils; New Mexico's youth garden club the "The Blooming Gardeners" are planting flowers and daffodils in landscaping areas on the grounds of the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque; Arkansas's Garvan Woodland Gardens continues to add daffodils to this impressive Woodland Botanical garden in Hot Springs; The Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden in Tulsa, is going to be a yellow spot in the city with beautiful daffodils and spring bulbs come spring. Our SCR Convention will be in Norman, OK, on March 11-12, 2011. Renee Blaschke our NGC President will honor us with her visit.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION SANDRA DENNIS

With so many Garden Club achievements in the Rocky Mountain states, it has been an exciting summer - Flower Shows, symposiums, garden tours, county fairs, plant sales, Annual State Meetings, Blue Star Memorials, community garden work and many civic beautification projects! As fall begins, NGC Schools—Flower Show, Landscape Design, and Environmental Studies, are being offered in several of our states. One of the highlights of my summer garden is the planter containing 'Wyoming Wildfire' cannas that have been blooming since July. This lovely Canna has dark green leaves with deep red stripes, and vivid orange-red blooms. It seems that as one spike of blooms die back another is opening! At our RMR Annual Meeting this September, NGC President Renee and Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska President Del Hemsath presented the Member Award of Honor to

our 2010 recipient, Ardis Smith of Dalton Garden Club, Nebraska. Ardis was recognized for her All Around Excellence as an active and energetic garden club member of long standing.

PACIFIC REGION SANDRA FORD

Thank you Montana for a great Fall Board Meeting! Our state presidents and board members enjoyed the spectacular mountain scenery with its light dusting of snow and fall colors.

A lot of business was taken care of in a short period of time. We were reminded it is time to plant more daffodils or yellow and pink flowers to start another year next spring. New websites are completed, more state and local scholarships awarded and Blue Star dedications are planned with daffodil plantings. Penny Pine projects for reforestation and states are offering grants to their clubs for more flower shows, workshops and plantings of native plants and trees to improve our environment. Community Gardens sprang up everywhere with some states offering cash prizes for contests held to help with expansion and continuation. And, of course, workshops on Birds, Bees and Butterflies are ongoing.

Plans for our Regional Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona on April 14-16, 2011 are well underway.

HELP MEMBERSHIP BLOOM Adrienne Langan, Chairman

National Garden Clubs, Inc., continues its Membership Contest with a fabulous new award and a new deadline: June 1 2010 to March 31, 2011.

In this NEW contest your state has a chance to claim victory and have the honor of naming a magnificent new variety of African violet by being the state with the greatest number of new clubs.

This African violet, grown by Lyndon-Lyon Greenhouses, Inc., is a semi-miniature variety with single/semi double pansy shaped blooms of white with a distinct wavy green edge and light purple highlights randomly scattered about the flower face. Wavy medium green foliage enhances the striking blooms.

HELP MEMBERSHIP BLOOM by creating new clubs in your state, and proudly compete to have this beautiful African violet bear your state's name!

Memoriams and Personals...

Peg Newill, passed away on Saturday, July 17th after suffering another stroke. Peg served on numerous NGC committees over the years. Condolence cards can be sent to: William J Newill, 1333 Primrose Lane, Lancaster OH 43130.

Judy Newman's husband Larry passed away August 22 after a long illness. Judy is currently the Environmental Studies Schools Chairman, a past state president of Wisconsin as well as serving on other committees in the past. (Judy Newman, N49 W18935 Joetta, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-6433)

Guyneth Priem's husband Martin passed away earlier this summer. Guyneth is currently the Tours Vice Chairman, Flower Show Instructor and served on numerous committees. (Guyneth Priem, 5427 Jackwood St., Houston, TX 77096)

Phyllis Wood's husband W. L. (Woody) Wood, Jr. 91 passed away late July. Phyllis Wood is a long time board member, serving NGC on numerous committees. (Phyllis Wood, 409 Norwood Ave., Satellite Beach, FL 32937-3158)

Gay Austin, State President, The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., father Albert Ray Lee passed away in June. (Gay Austin, 405 Marion Ave, McComb, MS 39648-2709)

Ed Healey passed away July 4, 2010. He was a long time board member and last served as NGC Men's GC chairman. His wife Margaret Healey served as Columbine chairman for many years. Margaret Healey, 4807 Kildeer Circle, SW, Roanoke, VA 24014-5734.

Jeanne Stafford a past president of The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. passed away in July 2010. Although Jeanne was not presently serving on the NGC board she served on the Board in past years.