



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

May - July 2011

## GREETINGS from Renee Blaschke, NGC PRESIDENT

Theme - The World Around Us—Love It—Beautify It—Protect It.

Spring has sprung! The roadsides in Texas are wearing their colorful spring wardrobe. The bluebonnets, Indian blankets and buttercups are beautiful. Even with the severe drought we are experiencing in this area, the wildflowers are popping up; perhaps not as many due to being thirsty, but we do have a decent showing. Many of you are still experiencing unpleasant weather conditions. The weather patterns have been drastic in many of the states. Everyone will welcome Spring with great enthusiasm.



This is my final message to you, dear members and friends of National Garden Clubs, Inc. I cannot begin to adequately express my thanks and appreciation for the phenomenal support you have afforded me during these two years. You have embraced me, my projects and goals and I am thankful. Every time I see a daffodil, I will say thank you to each of you for spreading golden rays of sunshine across our country. I will never know the exact number of bulbs you have planted, but I do know the numbers exceed several hundred thousand. I will remember the lives of your mentors and long time garden club members who you have honored

with daffodils. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Every time I see a community garden, I will say thank you for your participation with other organizations, both adult and youth, for providing those less fortunate with fresh produce. For leadership by example to the youth in your areas as to the importance of giving back to their communities. For teaching them the importance of volunteerism as well as good gardening techniques. We must encourage and support the future leaders of our communities, our organization and our country.

You have welcomed me into your states with friendship and love. I will be forever grateful to each member of NGC for honoring me with representing you as President. It has been an awesome experience and my life has been enriched by meeting each of you; hearing about and seeing the projects first hand that your clubs have sponsored in your communities. YOU ARE APPRECIATED and I know you are respected in your communities for your civic involvement. The World Around us has truly been affectionately loved, beautified and protected.

As I am winding down this administration, I am asked over and over again as to the one thing that I will remember. I simply cannot narrow it down to one thing. As I have traveled this country and NGC's Affiliate members, I remember you, the members. I have seen your community projects. I have listened to the reports of your dedicated members. I will remember your kindness, your hospitality, your love and support, your reaching out and so much more.

I will remember those who have walked before me in this office, my mentors and my friends. I will remember the times when I have asked for their advice that they have graciously offered. I will remember the dedicated members who have served with me on the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and the wonderful members of NGC. I will remember my friends and members of the

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Smithville Garden Club, Violet Crown Garden Club of Austin and Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. for 55 years of challenging and supporting me as I served with them and for them.

I will always remember and be thankful for the entire staff at NGC, Inc. who have dedicated themselves to the membership and for my every request.

I will remember Idalia and Vic Aguilar for their support and encouragement in my effort to develop a closer relationship with our International Affiliates; a very special couple who ran a great Bed & Breakfast for me.

In leaving this office to my successor, Shirley Nicolai, who has become a very dear friend, and who I know will provide wonderful guidance and provide direction for National Garden Clubs, Inc. during the coming administration. Shirley, Linda, Sandy, Nancy, Barbara and I have developed a special sisterhood, and together with the members of the 2009-2011 Executive Committee who come close to being a second family. They will continue to provide great leadership to this magnificent organization.

And to Deen, a longtime friend who has always been there.

And certainly I will always remember Ken, my children and grandchildren for their understanding when I could not be there for some special occasion because I had a commitment related to the office.

To each of you, thanks for the memories.

*Renee*

## NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Diane B. Herman, Chairman

Do you know that the new medical trend is that millions of Americans are deficient in Vitamin D? Doctors are prescribing Vitamin D pills left and right! We, as gardeners, know that spending time in the garden doing our favorite hobby is the cure for that!

While I keep staring at piles of snow with more flakes predicted, I know that deep under it all is my new planting of early, middle and late blooming daffodils in both the front and back yards! As we think Spring, plans need to be made to make the community aware of **National Garden Week—June 5 – 11, 2011** and all that Garden Clubs have to offer. The National Proclamation is available from your State President, the NGC Website and NGC Member Services.

There are many different activities clubs may do to make the community aware of this Week. For instance:

- Have a membership tea at your local library with a guest speaker on an interesting garden topic.
- Work with a local nursery to sponsor a workshop on how to create planters using a variety of new flowering plants for the summer.
- Contact a neighboring school to determine a project where garden club members and students could combine their knowledge and enthusiasm to create a planting. Daffodils provide a beautiful setting and are not bothered by the deer!
- Contact the Activities Director at an area nursing home and organize a Garden Appreciation Day during the week. The residents will enjoy the event.

Whatever the project, share the news with local newspapers and TV stations. You'll be promoting publicity for your garden club and for NGC, as well as outlining their objectives and demonstrating how much satisfaction can be achieved through gardening. Remember Renee Blaschke's message: The World Around Us—Love It—Beautify It—Protect It.

## PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

May 13-14 Canon City, CO -State Meeting  
15-18 Santa Rosa, CA - State Meeting  
23-30 Washington, DC - NGC Annual Meeting

### 2011-2013 President's Travel Schedule

June 2 Natick, Massachusetts  
4 Las Vegas, Nevada  
5-8 Richland, Washington  
12-2 Boston, Massachusetts  
21-23 Calais, Maine  
23-24 Newport, Rhode Island

July 8-9 Dell Rapids, South Dakota



### SPRINGTIME

*Oh, spring came to my garden  
And caught it unaware  
Wearing just a few old leaves  
And a dejected air.  
But when spring left my garden,  
Its work so deftly done,  
Many, many daffodils were dancing in the sun.*

*Written by Velma D. Bates*

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

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to

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## MEMBERSHIP - Alice DeSomma, Membership Committee

### Alert! Only You Can Help NGC Grow in the 21st Century

Our garden clubs have been sustained by generations of women, men and youth members through years of change in our country and world. The 21st century poses new challenges for our organization; more women pursuing careers and global communications systems which give them access to volumes of information on innumerable topics including gardening. NGC is now facing the powerful challenge of attracting this new audience.

Their interests are predominately horticulture, conservation, landscaping and now vegetable gardening. And they are concerned with gardening "environmentally safe".

"Time" is an extremely valuable commodity for them. Only by addressing their needs, interests and demonstrating a willingness to adapt to changing times shall we continue to achieve our goals. The one issue that is a true turn off for a busy person is a long business meeting. Except for financial or special event issues (Flower Shows---Fund raisers) on which members must vote, all other committee concerns may be addressed at the board meeting. Individual committees may meet during the month.

Perhaps, reaching out to universities, plant societies, urban planners, etc. would stimulate our members and hit the mark of new members. Our garden clubs in-house talents are superior, but sometimes looking beyond our sphere we may discover new ideas.

Our clubs are unique, each with its individual concerns for its members and communities. And our members are dedicated, talented people who give 100% of their time to the education and beautification of America.

Our continued success is relying on you.

## NGC AWARDS - Bobbie Verser, Chairman

### NGC AWARDS REMINDER – NON-COMPETITIVE AWARDS

State and club presidents are reminded of a few awards presented by NGC, where no applications are needed. The winners of the following are determined by the information your state sends to NGC Headquarters. An important part for each award is to be aware of deadlines.

Award #15 – Membership, silver trophies may be awarded to:

- A. A State Garden Club showing the greatest increase in paid membership as of Oct. 31.
- B. A State Garden Club showing the greatest per capita increase in paid membership, percentage-wise, as of Oct. 31.

To be eligible for this award, please make every effort to pay NGC membership dues by Oct. 31.

Award #31 – The National Gardener Award, silver trophy may be awarded to:

The State Garden Club having the greatest number of subscriptions to TNG (*The National Gardener*) as of Dec. 31, figured on a state membership percentage basis and officially recorded number of paid subscriptions. (State must have a minimum of 150 paid subscriptions and a 10% increase for the year).

Award #52 – Life Membership Award, monetary awards presented to:

- A. State Garden Club with the greatest increase in NGC Life Memberships from May 1 to April 30.
- B. State Garden Club with the greatest per capita increase in NGC Life Memberships from May 1 to April 30.

Again, no application is necessary for the above awards. Your information sent in a timely manner determines the winners.

**PEAT MOSS 2011**

Gardening Study Schools (and all NGC schools) are inspiring and filled with useful information. They present wonderful opportunities for your club, district or state to work, learn and socialize together. Your NGC Gardening Study Schools Committee is here to answer your questions and help you (in conjunction with the Handbook) put on schools. It's not that hard!

Our current Accrediting Chairmen for the Central Atlantic and South Atlantic Regions (Sally Priebe) and for the New England and Pacific Regions (Joan Pryor) will continue on in these roles for the new 2011-2013 administration, as will our International Affiliate Chairman, Guadalupe de Quirago and this Committee Chairman. We will have a couple of staffing changes for the new term (effective May 30) that will affect those in the Central, Deep South, Rocky Mountain and South Central Regions. Mary Ellen Alden from National Capital Area will take over Accrediting Chairmen duties from Jane Bersch (Central and Deep South Regions) and Judy Pitcher from Wisconsin will take over Accrediting Chairmen duties from Idalia Aguilar (Rocky Mountain and South Central Regions). We are pleased that Jane and Idalia will have new roles on the Educational Opportunities/NGC Schools Committee.

Let's keep learning, teaching, sharing and growing through Gardening Study Schools. For more information, contact me at [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)

Peat bogs cover only 3% of the earth's surface and store more carbon than most other ecosystems. Gardeners have been using peat in potting mixes for nearly one hundred years for its ability to store water and nutrients.

As a garden additive it is relatively inexpensive to purchase and almost all peat sold in the U.S. comes from Canada. Many environmentalists are asking whether peat is a sustainable resource. Questions about the slow growth of sphagnum moss, harvesting/collecting of the peat and the release of carbon dioxide into the environment have many people concerned. All gardeners should consider using compost over peat in their gardens. For more information read: Organic Gardening (Vol. 58:2 - pp.26- 28). FYI - The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew have been peat free since 1992.

**NGC WATER QUALITY CONSERVATION - Maxine Huff, Chairman - Regional Report****PACIFIC REGION - NAN JEAN ROLLER**

Water supply of the northwest depends on the snow pack in the mountains. Recent years the PR has only received between 60% and 70% of normal precipitation. The PR needs to have more snow and rain or they will have shortages this summer. There will be substantial impacts on water use in the west.

**SOUTH ATLANTIC - JO JEAN**

Three states in South Atlantic region have a controversial and extremely serious water concerns. It is caused by the deep coal mining removal. Mountaintop removal of coal also destroys habitat for hundreds of species. There are some estimates that over 2,000 miles of streams have been destroyed by dumping waste from this. Fact is that we all live downstream.

**DEEP SOUTH - JOAN OCK**

Florida continues to support "Florida Forever Programs" which buys lands for the specific purpose of preserving conservation and restoring Florida's Natural resources. Florida has 700 springs that are threatened by lack of protection of the water that occurs in the spring shed. We are working with legislators to pass legislation to protect the springs.

**CENTRAL ATLANTIC - JACKIE HANDLEY**

Their major issue is the Chesapeake Bay which affects six of the seven states. The Chesapeake Bay watershed is 64,000 square miles has 11,600 miles of tidal shoreline, including tidal wetlands and islands approximately 17 million people live along the shores or near them. They suffer from an overload of pollution from many sources- agriculture, sewage, storm water and air pollution.

**CENTRAL REGION - ELAINE GILHOUSEN**

Every day sewer pipes break in America, because the pipes are 50 to 120 years old. They spill hundreds of different chemicals that seep into and contaminate the ground water. Each chemical has its own specific biography and some never die. All these chemicals end up in the ground water.

## NGC BEAUTIFY BLIGHT - Jeanne T. Nelson, Chairman

### “BEAUTIFY BLIGHT.....LOVE IS.....CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY GARDEN”

As Beautify Blight Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the states and individual clubs who have embraced the idea of Community Gardens. The national Beautify Blight committee members salute you and commend the hard work, often meeting challenges beyond your initial endeavor, to share your knowledge and the vegetable produce grown to those less fortunate.

To members of the committee, it has indeed been a yeoman's chore and you met the task admirably. Many thanks.

A special thanks to National president Renee Blaschke, for entrusting us with one of her National Garden Club Projects.



## NGC MEMBER SERVICES - Carole Iuso, Chairman

### WELCOME TO SPRING!!!

I want to take a moment to thank you for your wonderful support of the Colorblends Bulb Program. NGC garden clubs have certainly spread “the golden rays of sunshine” throughout our magnificent country these past two years. I hope you know how much your commitment and steadfast support have meant for our daffodil program!

Welcome the daffodil season by ordering and wearing our President's lovely Daffodil Pin #5436, \$12.00 each. Quantity pricing for 24 or more pins, \$9.00 each. Be sure to also order the daffodil matching earrings #5440, \$12.00 a pair. (Pierced only) Pierced Earring Adaptors #5434 convert pierced earrings into clip earrings. Price \$6.00 for two pairs.

The 2012 Vision of Beauty Arrangement and Engagement Calendar will be arriving at headquarters in April. Be sure your club takes advantage of quantity discounts.

As garden clubs begin preparing for installation ceremonies of new officers, the new book *A Collection of Inspirations and Installations*, #1338, \$15.00 each, will certainly inspire and delight clubs.

Many NGC sponsored schools will be held this spring and summer. Be sure to review the required reading lists for all schools on pages 4 and 5 of the Member Services Catalog. Please place book orders early, so books will arrive in time for your school/s.

Flower Show ribbons and supplies are well stocked, and ready to be shipped for spring and summer flower shows. Consider imprinted ribbons with club or flower show names and dates. Personalized ribbons have been growing in popularity. These ribbons add a very special touch to any flower show.

Remember to order the wonderful NGC jewelry to honor club presidents and past presidents. Member Services also has many certificates available to present to special members. As clubs begin to prepare for next year, I invite you to review our catalog often. Visit Member Services on the NGC website for coupons and new merchandise to be introduced this month, along with our complete line of garden club merchandise.

I invite you to explore the many wonderful products Member Services sells to help you discover how the love of gardening and garden club work can make your life truly inspired. NGC website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

Spring brings out our optimistic nature, the hopeful spirit that makes everything seem possible again. We are planting seeds, doing community projects, watching new leaves sprout on our plants, and setting new goals for ourselves and our garden clubs – both humble and challenging. Welcome to a season of hope and renewal. Welcome to spring!

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### DAFFODILS

A house with daffodils in it is a house lit up whether or not  
The sun be shining outside  
Daffodils in a green bowl - and let it snow if it will.

A. A. Milne 1882-1956-*Perennial Pleasures*

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

The New England Region has shov-  
eled out from a bitter winter and looks  
forward to the thousands of blooming  
daffodils that will replace the blankets  
of snow. Every state has participated  
in "Golden Days" projects and this is the  
time to reap in the rewards.

It is hard to believe that my two years  
as director have come to a close. I  
urge you all to support Joyce Kimball  
as you supported me. I would also like  
the opportunity to thank the Presidents  
of the New England States for their  
accomplishments and their efforts to  
promote the NGC's mission. I was hon-  
ored to have such dedicated individuals  
to serve with me. I would also like to  
thank my board for their commitment  
and great team work.

We may be a small region in square  
mileage, but we are a force to be reck-  
oned with. There is unbelievable talent  
in this group and each and everyone is  
willing to share their knowledge helping  
new members achieve Garden Club Ex-  
cellence. I am so proud to have had the  
opportunity to lead this amazing group.  
I thank you all for your kind words dur-  
ing my family's losses and I am truly  
blessed to have you as my friends.

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

A change of seasons provides the  
perfect opportunity to get to work.

Delaware Federation has met  
their goal fundraising for their Memo-  
rial Garden for Fallen Heroes in only a  
year with the kindness of sister clubs  
and federations around the country, as  
well as the support of National Garden  
Clubs and several grants. The dedica-  
tion is planned for April 19th with NGC  
President Renee Blaschke attending.  
It will be a wonderful day for this hard  
working federation. Congratulations on  
this great achievement!

The National Capital Area will cel-  
ebrate a 50th Anniversary with the open-  
ing of "Fern Valley", a garden within the  
U.S. Arboretum grounds of native plants  
created in partnership with U.S. National  
Arboretum. A major fundraiser is

underway to provide private funding for  
curators' salaries.

In May The Federated Garden Clubs  
of Maryland will celebrate the opening  
of their headquarters in the Vollmer  
Education Center at Cylburn Mansion  
thanks to a generous donation by Pau-  
line Vollmer.

Our region will host back to back  
National Conventions, in Washington,  
D.C. 2011 and Buffalo, NY 2012. We  
look forward to the installation of Shirley  
Nicolai who is one of our own and we  
wish her our "Congratulations" for a  
successful term in office.

Jeanne Nelson from Congers, NY will  
be installed as the new CAR Director at  
the National Convention in Washington  
D.C.

It has been my honor and privilege  
to serve as your CAR Director. I have  
been fortunate enough to have worked  
with alternate director Shirley Basista  
as well as an outstanding group of state  
presidents; board members; and com-  
mittee chairmen. Thank you for your  
support and confidence! I have appreci-  
ated the wonderful hospitality received  
when visiting each of the states in our  
region as well as the many friendships  
I have made. There is a wealth of good  
leadership as well as a dedicated gar-  
den club members who make things  
happen "To make our World a Better  
Place"!

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

This Director recently returned  
from the region's Golden Anniversary  
Convention at the Proximity Hotel in  
Greensboro, NC. Two workshops were  
held on March 20: Dennis Quaintance,  
owner of the Proximity, spoke on the  
development and energy savings of  
this first-ever LEED's hotel built in the  
United States and Eleanor Farlow spoke  
on the "Edible Schoolyard Garden" at  
the Greensboro Children's Museum.  
Designer Marie Cruse illustrated her  
floral artistry skills at the evening pro-  
gram "Creative Designs from Nature's  
Treasures".

The majority of the business at this  
Convention was discussing and then  
adopting the updated SAR Standing

Rules that had been suggested by the  
Organization Study, Policies and Pro-  
cedures, and Executive Committees.  
These updated Rules are now available  
on the website [southatlanticregiongar-  
denclubs.org](http://southatlanticregiongar-<br/>denclubs.org). Monday afternoon was  
spent in two lovely Greensboro gardens  
enjoying beautiful marsh marigolds, ca-  
mellias, flowering bulbs and the warm  
sunshine. The Anniversary dinner fea-  
tured inspiring talks from Mary Dixon,  
incoming SAR Director, and Rebecca  
Shilling, DVM who is SAR's Award of  
Honor winner. Then the attendees "let  
their hair down" dancing to sixties songs  
performed by Lisa Woods.

Tuesday's Memorial and Awards pre-  
sentation concluded the convention's  
activities. An invitation was given to the  
2012 SAR Convention in West Virginia  
at The Greenbrier Resort. The incoming  
Board then met to get started on begin-  
ning the next fifty years of SAR work.

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

For the past two years, garden  
club members of the Deep South  
Region have joined together to make  
our homes, schools and communities  
greener and cleaner. Recycling proj-  
ects have proliferated and ramped up  
to a higher level; educational camps  
for youth and the community have  
focused on cleaning and greening the  
environment. Campaigns to rescue  
land, waterways, city lots and school  
grounds from waste and rubble with  
activities (such as flower shows and  
jewelry sales) have featured creative  
concepts for "Protecting Our World...  
Living Green - Living Clean."

Serving the DSR as Director has been  
a priceless opportunity for me. DSR  
garden club members embraced the  
vision of "Together as One - Our Hands  
and Hearts are P.O.W.E.R." and with  
their projects and teamwork - especially  
the DSR Bosom Buddy Bottle Bags and  
the Breast Cancer Survivor's Booklet,  
have proven just how extraordinary our  
region is.

Working with the six state Presidents  
has been such a joy. Together we have  
achieved many goals, changed our

environmental footprint, educated, enlightened and motivated our members, our youth and our communities.

Now it's time for a new agenda under the leadership of Sara Lanier, the 2011 – 2013 DSR Director and the six incoming State Presidents. *Laissez les bon temps rouler!*

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

Beginnings and endings...I guess those in administrative positions all recognize the importance of those two words. It just seems like yesterday that I was beginning my new position as Central Region Director and now I am saying a fond farewell. I can't emphasize enough the value of this job and the joy it has brought to my life working with members across Central Region's seven states. I have learned how each state is alike as well as different. Working with issues involving different environments enables each state to program NGC's projects in accordance with their gardening zones and temperatures.

This is the time of year when all states are measuring the academic climate and judging the applications they receive for Scholarships for the up-coming school year. Central Region is once again providing a Scholarship for the most worthy student in a plant science program from the region.

Also hard at work are those states planning a Blue Star Dedication to honor our armed forces. Our count is climbing and soon will have reached the 500th dedication.

All the notable NGC projects are well underway for another season and Central Region once again is putting forth a great effort to help maintain the honorable position of 'Helping Others Learn to Grow'. What a great Unified Project it was to watch our seven states communicate from youth to the elderly citizen by giving them helpful ideas how to grow in all phases of the gardening world. My hat is off to them for a project well done. I also congratulate my successor, Florence Smith from Michigan, and wish her administration continued success as they promote the National Garden Clubs, Inc. through Central Region. After all, the "Future is Now".

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

South Central Region's 78th Convention, "Golden Days," was held in Norman, OK, in March with National President Renee Blaschke in attendance. Many wonderful SCR projects have been completed along with thousands of daffodils planted, to enhance and beautify our part of the world. Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas report that flower show schools, environmental studies, gardening studies and landscape design courses are being planned and available in our region. Blue Star Memorials continue to be established with a total of 138 Blue Star Memorials in SCR. Can you imagine six junior garden clubs being started in one year? Give New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., President, Shirley Tetreault, a big applause.

The Memorial Garden for the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, is receiving two thousand dollars from our region: Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. voted to give one thousand dollars at their convention and SCR convention voted to contribute one thousand dollars. A wonderful tribute to our fallen heroes.

I am grateful for the opportunity of serving as SCR Director for 2009-2011. It is such an honor to be a member of this wonderful region. Please plan to attend the NGC Convention, May 24-30 in Washington, D C. We will enjoy warm hospitality, exciting programs, and the fellowship of NGC, Inc. members. All of us need to walk for Habitat for Humanity, so get your garden club to sponsor you. Consider being in Boston, MA for WAFAs World Flower Show (June 14-18): a once in a lifetime event, with breathtaking designs and horticulture you rarely get to see. Adios Amigos, Mary Ann Moreno.

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION SANDRA DENNIS**

In reflecting on my two years as Regional Director—I have had the opportunity to visit wonderful gardens, discovered Blue Star Markers around our states, began understanding the work necessary to host an NGC School, viewed the incredible artistic creations

of many floral design members, met gardening experts generously sharing their knowledge, and reacquainted myself with the beauty of our country, "from the Plains to the Peaks."

Two states in the RMR have headquarters buildings, a wonderful benefit for the clubs but one that brings with it the duty and challenges of maintenance—roofs, outside landscaping, and a variety of interior items. These duties are managed by dedicated teams who find their reward, as each building is available for rent when not booked for club activities - earning income for ongoing maintenance.

During this past winter our membership has been inspired by their state garden club newsletters with ideas about how we renew our gardens each spring; we renew ourselves; how our clubs endeavors not only beautify but generate community pride; and tips on hanging birdhouses - when appropriately designed, the birds will come! Now with the pending arrival of spring, many are anxiously awaiting their shipments of the North Dakota Sunrise Daylily.

### **PACIFIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR SANDRA FORD**

The past two years seem to have gone by so fast, and I am so thankful for the support and hard work of the Pacific Region members in making our Theme, "Birds, Bees and Butterflies; Protect, Feed & Enjoy", such a success.

In a Region with very different climates, and growing conditions, thousands of trees and daffodils, new butterfly and vegetable gardens have been planted, and new backyard habitats created or expanded. Our birds, bees and butterflies are still in decline and need all the help we can give them. I am very gratified by the involvement of school children in many of these projects. Hopefully the lessons we have taught our children will last into their adulthood and we will have a cleaner, greener, more beautiful earth. Without each and every one of you, we could not have accomplished so much!

The 67th Annual Regional Convention will be held April 14-16 in Scottsdale where Debbie Hinchey, from Alaska, will be installed as our next Director.

**THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF FRIENDSHIP**

Friendship is a golden chain.  
The links are friends so dear,  
And like a rare and precious jewel  
It's treasured more each year.  
It's clasped together firmly  
With a love that's deep and true,  
And it's rich with happy memories  
And fond recollections, too.  
Time can't destroy its beauty  
For, as long as memory lives,  
Years can't erase the pleasure  
That the joy of friendship gives.  
For the golden chain of friendship  
Is a strong and blessed tie  
Binding kindred hearts together  
As the years go passing by.

Author unknown

Submitted by Mary Sue Colvin

Editor's note - I've sprinkled just a few of the poems from NGC's new 'A Collection of Inspirations and Installations' in this 'KIT'. I've only had my copy a few months and wish I had bought it sooner. There is a wonderful 'Daffodil Installation' ceremony written by June Wood that would be perfect for clubs installing new officers this spring. If you and/or your club doesn't already have this book consider adding it to your library (see page 5 Member Services for ordering information)

**Memoriams and Personals...**

Pat Pickett passed away March 3, 2011. Pat was a past president of the Maryland Federation, Alternative Director of CAR and active on the NGC Board for many years. Pat had served as a Accrediting Chair, Chairman and currently Advisor on the Gardening Study Schools Committee. Condolences may be sent to: Charlie Pickett, 115 W Ring Factory Dr. Bellaire, MD 21014.

Connie Snell passed away February 2, 2011 after a long fight with lung cancer. Connie was Michigan's GC State President in 2003-2005 and a dedicated garden club member. Sympathy cards may be sent to: Mr. Hilary Snell, 1065 Plymouth Ave SE, East Grand Rapids, MI.

Marilyn Whitmore passed away January 10, 2011. Marilyn was a longtime and dedicated member of NGC and was currently serving on the NGC Board of Directors as Nominating Committee Chairman. In lieu of flowers the family requested donations be sent to The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania to establish a scholarship in her memory. That address is Garden Club Federation of PA, Inc., Lee Ann Stine, Secretary, 1525 Cedar Cliff Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011-7707.

Betty Alloway passed away Jan.10, 2011. Betty's service to regional, state and NGC boards were many including Missouri's State President 1999-2001. She was currently serving as Environmental Education Coordinator for NGC and parliamentarian for Central Region. Cards and letters may be sent to her husband, Curtis Alloway at 701 W. 100th St., Kansas City, MO. 64114

Doris Jackson lost her husband February 19, 2011. Doris is from New Mexico and is the Credentials chairman for SCR. She is presently serving NGC's Board as Membership - New Clubs Chairman. Doris Jackson, 316 Venado St., Los Alamos, NM 87544.