



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Feb-Mar-April 2013

GREETINGS from Shirley Nicolai, NGC President

2011-2013 Theme - NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities

This is the time of year when many of us eagerly look forward to implementing the arm chair decisions we've made for the gardening season ahead. Often, a reality check is in order, as our enthusiasm tends to far exceed our physical energy.



Despite the fact that optimism is a positive factor, more realistic goals can result in feelings of success, rather than frustration. This is true, whether we are thinking on a personal level or in terms of our garden club. Some points to consider include:

- A maintainable size
- A highly visible site (unless you want a secret garden)
- Appropriate plant material
- Irrigation needs (A local nursery with a tank truck may be your garden club's answer in some situations.)
- Reaching out to others to help in some way
- Remembering that a simpler, well-tended project will bring more enjoyment and recognition than a larger project that is a constant struggle

Clubs that have participated in Plantings for Public and Special

Places (with edibles, containers, and/or trees and shrubs) are encouraged to receive recognition and perhaps a monetary award at the Seattle Convention. The deadline for the simple application, which is to be emailed or mailed to project committee members, is April 15th.

Applications for projects involving Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems are to be submitted to Chairman Mary Sue Colvin by March 15th to be eligible for monetary awards.

Details for both initiatives can be found under President's Projects at gardenclub.org.

As always, I urge you to help your club grow. Sharing your expertise by holding open workshops or lectures on practical topics, issuing an invitation and a ride to meetings, offering meeting time alternatives and creating a project which unites both members and the community are ideas that may attract new recruits. We all know that happy members who make others feel welcome promote our overall mission.

With best garden club wishes,
Shirley

2013 NGC CONVENTION "RainShine" Seattle, WA Jeanette Pruin, Chairman

HAVE YOU REGISTERED????
"RainShine"
the 2013 NGC Convention
is being held May 24-26,
in Seattle, WA

You don't want to miss the exciting tours and educational seminars. A Tri-Refresher has been approved.

Check www.gardenclub.org for the convention information. Tentative schedule, registration form, tours, seminar and speaker information can be found there. Information can also be found in the winter issue of *The National Gardener*.

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ASK ... Increasing Club Membership
Linda Nelson, President-Elect, NGC Membership Chairman

ASK friends and neighbors, even strangers in the gardening centers, to join your garden club activities, or to come along as you visit a garden, attend a garden program to SHARE knowledge. Invite them to come with you and help when your club is busy working on a planting project, school garden, hospital planting, weed pulling at the park ---or whatever your club does that **KEEPS** you involved by **learning- sharing -doing**. Membership growth in your club largely depends on you, the members ... Do you like what your club does? ... share that with others ... Think your clubs needs some updating? ... be willing to help get that done. Gaining knowledge and doing good things in your community are strong magnets to draw new members.

Let's ** ASK THEM TO JOIN
 ** SHARE KNOWLEDGE
 ** KEEP THEM INVOLVED

*March 31, 2013 is the deadline to forward new members' dues to your state so your state can be considered for the **ASK** Award for Increase in Membership.*

- A. \$100 for the greatest increase in paid membership from March 31, 2012 to March 31, 2013
 - B. \$100 for the greatest per capita increase in paid membership from March 31, 2012 to March 31, 2013.
- (Deadline for dues was October 31; deadline for additional dues paid is March 31.)

Club Awards:

*Your state membership chairman has National **GROW** award certificates for every club that gains a new member*
Grow by Reaching Out Welcoming all

IN MEMORIAM:

Deana C. Roberts July 18, 1941 - December 2, 2012. Deana travelled the entire world with small and large groups of people. She was presently serving as NGC Tours Chairman and had arranged and escorted many Garden Club Tours for NGC and Texas State Garden Club. She was also an Accredited Flower Show Judge. Donations may be made to the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs specifically earmarked Houston Garden Center Building Fund of Houston Garden Center. Condolences may be sent to her daughter, Rachel Ann Roberts at 9306 Bonhomme Road, Houston, TX 77074.

Guyneth Priem, age 91, passed away on December 5, 2012, after a massive stroke. She was a Master Flower Show Judge and Design Instructor for the NGC, and was named Texas Garden Club Woman of the Year in 1984. She was serving as NGC Tour Vice-Chairman where she judged Flower Shows in many foreign countries and presented programs. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the charity of your choice in memory of Guyneth.

Addie Lou Harris, passed away October 28, 2012 at the age of 98. She was an irreplaceable friend and benefactor of FFGC. Donations may be sent to FFGC HQ for the Headquarters Fund. Addie Lou Harris was a member of the NGC Board of Directors for many years and presently was a member of the Golden Circle Committee. Condolences: Robert Gomez (adopted son) 967 Belvoir Way, Spring Hill, FL 34609-2072 or Jerry and Elke Harris (longtime friends and caregivers) 483 Cressida Cir., Spring Hill, FL 34609.

PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE



- Mar 5-6 Philadelphia Flower Show
- Mar 13-14 Southeastern Flower Show
Atlanta, GA
- Mar 19-21 New Mexico State Convention
Albuquerque, NM
- Mar 22-23 SCR Convention
Albuquerque, NM
- Mar 25-26 Maryland State Convention
Ellicott City, MD
- Mar 27-29 Kentucky State Convention
Lexington, KY
- Apr 1-3 Arizona State Convention
Sedona, AZ
- Apr 7-8 West Virginia State Convention
Morgantown, WV
- Apr 15-16 Georgia State Convention
Marietta, GA
- Apr 17 Ohio State Convention, Akron, OH
- Apr 20 Minnesota State Convention
Bloomington, MN
- Apr 21-22 Illinois State Convention
Downer's Grove, IL
- Apr 25-27 South Carolina Convention
Florence, SC
- Apr 28-30 Florida State Convention
Ft. Myers, FL
- May 8-9 Virginia State Convention
Charlottesville, VA
- May 14-16 Missouri State Convention
St. Joseph, MO
- May 20-27 NGC Convention, Seattle, WA

Deadline for the next issue of KIT -
APRIL 1, 2013

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Water quality is no laughing matter!

In Idaho, my home state, students from a local high school participated with the city storm water program's public education and outreach component. It is a 3 year, \$25,000 per year contract. Some of the money went to buy wet suits, cameras and water testing equipment for the students to study the water quality of several miles of river. Working with the Environmental Protection Agency, they tested the water starting from a dam, through a city, parks and agricultural farming land to their hometown. The students were cold, weary and exhilarated after they snorkeled the river and were sobered by what they saw. Just a few miles downstream from the dam, algae covered everything and the visibility of the water became less clear. Countless miles of gutters and storm drains funnel untreated water into the river along with whatever soap, oil or fertilizer humans have discarded in yards and streets along the way. The teachers who supervised the program are experienced on lesson plans and environmental education. The students learned what you dump in storm drains goes straight to local waterways and eventually into our drinking water.

Several miles up-stream from the dam is an open-pit operation near the Wyoming border which yields more than 2 million tons of phosphate ore each year. Now the Department of Environmental Agency is deciding whether to allow a higher level of selenium from the mine to enter creeks below the plant. Selenium in high concentrations can cause human neurological disorders and trigger wildlife deformities. It has been linked to livestock kills in phosphate mining country.

The Pacific Whale Foundation in Hawaii is training teachers from grades K through 2nd on direct and indirect connections between healthy watersheds and healthy oceans. The teachers are taught ways to incorporate field trip experiences and hands-on science projects in Maui. Students learn about

the water cycle, microclimates, plants and animals on land, in streams and oceans and invasive vegetation.

In Honolulu a grant for \$50,000 from the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and another \$50,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will be used to clean up the marine debris from the 2011 tsunami in Japan. The bulk of the debris is expected to end up in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. Some has already washed up on the shores of the Big Island of Hawaii near Kona. This debris no doubt will affect our marine life for the entire Western coastline. Some of the debris already has reached the shoreline which included two docks, fishing boats, soccer balls and even a shipping container with a Harley-Davidson motorcycle with Japanese license plates inside of it. The debris still adrift is three times the size of the United States.

Two teenagers hurt in the Joplin tornado in Missouri developed an antibiotic-resistant infection that doctors blamed on the use of drugs in livestock. The infection was traced to dirt and debris blown into their wounds. Antibiotics that pass through cattle can wind up in their manure which is spread as fertilizer on their fields. What's next? Shopping for organic manure for our home gardens?

As gardeners and home owners, our mission to protect our environment does not end with this administration. We need to support our school's science programs of our youth. Extra chemicals, paints, solvents and garden care products should go to a hazardous materials' collection site and not down your sink or storm drain. Choose phosphate-free detergents, soaps and household cleaners just to name a few things we can all do. Your local Environment Protection Agency is a great source of information that needs to be shared with our fellow gardeners and the general public.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB QUIZ

Match these special NGC happenings with the correct year. Choose from:
1929 1943 1945 1958 1959 1977 1993 2001 2006 2012

1. The Blue Star Memorials project was adopted. _____
2. Landscape Design School was first offered. _____
3. Our National Headquarters in St. Louis was dedicated. _____
4. National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. became National Garden Clubs, Inc. _____
5. The first Flower Show School was held. _____
6. The organization we now call National Garden Clubs, Inc. was organized. _____
7. Gardening Study School was officially launched. _____
8. NGC's Butterfly Garden within the National Garden was dedicated at the US Botanic Garden. _____
9. Environmental Studies School was started by NGC. _____
10. Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl Poster entries numbered 21,975! _____

Answers: 1-1945 2-1958 3-1959 4-2001 5-1943 6-1929 7-1977 8-2006 9-1993 10-2012

NGC President's Project - 2012-2013 PLANTINGS FOR PUBLIC AND SPECIAL PLACES

Betsy Steele, Coordinator

You don't have to wait until the April 1st deadline to send completed forms to the chairmen for this 2013 NGC President's Project! Send form as projects are completed. Visit the NGC website www.gardenclub.org and complete the form under Special Projects. Clubs apply directly to NGC for recognition and possible monetary awards! Questions: Contact Betsy Steele, PPSP Coordinator, betsysteele@truvista.net or 803-789-5451

CONTAINER GARDENS: CREATIVE CONTAINERS – STACK EM

CREATING A STACKED CONTAINER GARDEN UNIT IS EASY. First we need a source of clear glass containers that will be strong enough to support one on top of each other. I chose three heavy clear glass goldfish bowls that are about seven inches tall, with a six inch base that fits into the six inch wide opening on top of the bowl. I found them at my local pet store. A thrift store is also a fun place to find great stackable containers. The secret is thick clear heavy glass for strength and bases that fit snugly into the openings on top of the containers. Remember those old turtle bowls we had as kids, perfect for this kind of project. Next prepare the containers for plantings. Place a one inch layer of washed Charcoal on the bottom of the container to help with drainage. Make a soil mix of two cups potting soil, ½ cup vermiculite, ½ cup perlite and add water to moisten. Double or triple this recipe if needed. Fill each container

with two or three inches of moistened soil mix on top of the charcoal. Select your small or miniature plants that are similar in type. Some suggestions: Create a succulent or cactus container with plants that love heat and warm climates. Plant a colorful cool container with plants like tiny ferns, mini trees, cyclamens and mosses. Make a great fragrant herb container with tiny cuttings or small plants of basil, thymes and mints that will reward you when you use the herb cuttings for crafts or cooking. Remember water well after you plant your container. An effective way to decorate some containers, would be to use small pebbles to cover the soil around succulents or cactus. The rocks hold heat and moisture in the soil and you would not have to water them as often. The thin leaves of cool growing plants could have a sprinkle of perlite around each plant for moisture and to enhance the beauty of each plant. Aquarium gravel in different colors would also be effective. Let the containers rest after planting until the plants become established. Then stack them in a secure spot with bright light and no direct sun.

Remember that the top container is not covered and open to the air. You will need to rotate the bottom container to the top every three or four days; be very careful as the containers are heavy. Watch to see that the containers are not overwatered as moisture will condense on the glass and some plants will love it and others will rot. The plants are relying on your good judgment as we all live in different climates.

Miniature or small containers are also fun using clear glass containers that stack. Start cuttings of mini African Violets, tiny ferns and ivys that will love to grow in your clear glass sugar bowls, candy bowls or small containers that come with a lid. Stack three or four containers together, keep out of the sun, and watch the progression of growing plants. All the instructions above are used to plant these smaller containers. Just think small or mini for the ingredients and rotate the containers as directed above. Keep the clear glass lid on the top container for moisture. Have fun!

by Mary Ann Moreno, NGC Container Gardens Committee

NGC MEMBER SERVICES - Candace Morgenstern, Chairman

Spring will be here soon and with that freshness in the air we have, new growth, new gardens, new officers, new club activities and of course new fashion! The good news is Member Services is prepared for all...plus we offer discounts!

Some reminders of what is offered to all NGC members:

- **Partnerships** with Gardener's Supply, Oasis Floral Products, Bloomin' Bucks (Brent & Becky's Bulbs) and **flower** magazine. Information is listed on the NGC homepage under News & Events ~ click on Shopping Partners.
- **2013 Vision of Beauty Calendar** offers ample room to record all your meetings and appointments, plus enjoy exquisite photos.
- **NGC Official Pins** at affordable prices to present as gifts for outgoing and incoming officers, new judges and all others in between!!!!
- **Custom Magnetic Name Badges** ~ name, state, title or any combination you desire.
- **Books** ~ some required for the NGC schools, others just enjoyable to read and dream of gardens and designs.
- **Educational Tools** ~ DVDs, study plans, lesson plans... especially helpful for new presidents or program chairs.
- **Certificates** to honor those members that deserve special recognition for making your club so special ~ also Emeritus certificates for Flower Show Instructors and Judges.
- **Flower Show Ribbons** ~ official ribbons that can be customized to your club's celebration of a special flower show, award stick-on seals, entry cards, identification ribbons or mini ribbons.
- **Hellebore Collection** ~ with a special hellebore honoring our NGC President, 'Shirley's Snow', which is gorgeous!
- **Luggage Tags** ~ oversized recycled tags with the NGC logo and slip-in for your business card.
- **NGC Silk Scarf** ~ designed after the carpet at NGC Headquarters. The 100% silk georgette scarf contains all the logos of each state, NGC & International Affiliate logos with the columbine running through it ~ just stunning! Scarf measures 22"wide x 67"long, so can be worn in a variety of ways.
- **Special Gifts** ~ fashion pins, weeders, official Wafa umbrella, plus, plus!

Shopping is easy on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org or contact Teri Virga at 800-550-6007 at the NGC Headquarters. Be on the lookout for new products!
Candace Morgenstern, candacemorgenstern@gmail.com

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS - Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator

Happy New Year to all our NGC Consultants and students and to all who conduct, support and attend our schools.

NGC is a not-for-profit educational organization. Our Mission Statement says, "National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility." Our schools are a significant educational asset and benefit of membership in NGC.

It is my hope, and that of your NGC Schools Committees, that our schools will be many in 2013 and that they will be well-attended. They provide useful and interesting information to garden club members and are open to the general public (who will hopefully decide, while attending class, that they too want to become garden club members).

Consultants are encouraged to continue sharing what they have learned in our schools by assisting with programs in their clubs and communities, by maintaining Consultant status attending refresher courses and events, promoting school courses and refreshers and assisting those who conduct schools and refreshers. Offer to be a proctor, or help in whatever way is needed.

Club presidents, district directors, and state presidents are encouraged to know who the Consultants are in their clubs, districts and states. Recognize and acknowledge their accomplishments in attaining Consultant status, and to provide opportunities that utilize their knowledge and ability.

We invite you to attend and promote and learn from Environmental Studies Schools, Gardening Study Schools and Landscape Design Schools in 2013. You will be glad that you did.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS Greg Pokorski, Chairman

My garden club, Southern California Garden Club, is currently sponsoring a Gardening Study School (our third Series). As we were preparing for Course II, which includes the class on Understanding Plant Diseases and Garden Pests, my wife (serving as Local School Chairman) happened across (in a nursery) Mac's Field Guide, a laminated 11" by 7" chart with Bad Garden Bugs of California on one side and Good Garden Bugs of California on the other side. Since the school budget was in the black, she thought this would be a useful "freebie" to provide each student. She contacted the publisher and was able to negotiate a discount for a bulk order. The students were happy to receive this little extra take-away when they came to class.

Consider providing such perks to your students as additional benefits of school registration. This field guide is available in versions specific to other states and regions. Additional ideas are: provide seed packets for Plant Propagation class or soil mixes or amendments for Soils class. You might purchase or seek donations of gardening magazines (might be applicable to any number of classes). You might also purchase or seek donation of containers (Container Gardening class), pruners (Pruning Techniques), and plants (applicable to any number of classes) and give these to a student by raffle or other award process.

These are some suggestions for increasing the value of school registration. This might just be one added enticement to help keep students interested in returning for the next course and might also create some favorable word-of-mouth publicity for your school. I would be glad to hear what similar suggestions you have, especially about successes at your school.

Greg Pokorski, 512 Newton Street, San Fernando, CA 91340-2421, 818-361-7873, GregPokorski@earthlink.net

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOLS - Judy Newman, Chairman

Environmental Studies School
Textbook

While the NGC Environmental Studies School Committee continues to search for an alternate textbook, it is suggested that those Environmental Consultants who have completed the four courses loan/donate their texts to those taking the courses. It is hoped that the *Living in the Environment* text will be passed along as students complete the four courses.

The committee welcomes suggestions as to possible texts of equal quality and depth at a more reasonable cost.

Judy Newman, NGC ESS Chairman,
414-861-7134; newman9641@aol.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS Jane Bersch, Chairman

The 2012 NGC Landscape Design Schools Operations Guide should be shortly available at NGC Headquarters. When the LDS Forms are made interactive, they, along with the Documents for Reproduction, will be on the NGC website, www.gardenclubs.org.

Until this happens, the 2012 Forms and Documents for Reproduction may be obtained from this Chairman at Janebersch@aol.com. The 2012 Forms must be used beginning June 2013 and may be used for events prior to June 2013.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK Elaine DiPietro, Chairman

"National Garden Week"
To All Garden Clubs---Get ready to show everyone how great you can decorate for National Garden Week which is **June 2-8, 2013**. Enter the contest with just 3 pages. For rules and procedure see Awards Lists information on the NGC web site:
www.gardenclub.org.

NEW Horticulture Book is Here!!!!

Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging

*Packed with pages of invaluable
text and photographs*

\$40.00 each

Available through
Member Services
at www.gardenclub.org
1-800-550-6007

VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR Jan Warshauer, Chairman

Vision of Beauty 2015
Entry Deadline August 1, 2013

Individuals may submit a maximum
of five (5) entries, with one (1)
background for each entry. Check the
website for future updates.

NGC 4 and 5 STAR MEMBERS Julie Schoenike, Chairman

4-5 Star Forms

Interactive 4 and 5 Star Application
forms can be found on the public side
of the web site. To access:

www.gardenclub.org
[click on member](#)
[click on clubs](#)
[click on forms](#)
[scroll to 4-5 Star](#)

1. Type in your information
2. Print 2 copies (can't be saved)
3. Send to your state president to sign
4. Presidents must verify your credentials

It is imperative that state presidents
check your credentials with their
state school chairmen and sign
your form before submitting the
form to Julie Schoenike, 82 Eighth
Street, Clintonville, WI 54929-1442
jwschoen@frontiernet.net.

NGC SCHOOLS - MULTIPLE REFRESHERS Elizabeth K. Coffey, Chairman

Attention: State Presidents and State Multiple Refresher Committees

Tri and Bi Refreshers can be a
rewarding school activity. Consultants
in Environmental Studies, Gardening
Study and Landscape Design enjoy
the varied lectures/tours on subjects
other than the school in which they have
an accredited status. Many Master
Consultants delight in being allowed
to refresh in more than one school--
but only if they are Masters in those
schools.

The success of a Tri or Bi Refresher
rests entirely on the ability of the
Event Chairman. It is extremely
important that an industrious, qualified
and knowledgeable Consultant be
appointed in this position. There should
be a committee with Co-Chairmen
from each school to assist with the
required paperwork. Instructions for
conducting a Multiple Refresher are
on the NGC School Website. There
have been some unhappy "campers"
among our Consultants because of
the inability of some of our Chairmen
to follow instructions. State Presidents:
please pass this information on to your
incoming state officers. Let's keep our
Multiple Refreshers a fun and learning
experience during and after the special
event.

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL - BIRDS Beverly Heidelberger, Chairman

Did you know?? The national symbol of the United States, the Bald Eagle, was chosen in 1782. Since then the number of birds kept decreasing until there were only about a thousand left when it was placed on the Environmental Protection Agency's Endangered Species List in 1967. Why? The eagles' only enemy is **mankind** and he caused the birds decline due to the loss of habitat, the thinning of egg shells (caused by DDT), illegal shooting, poisoning of its prey, power lines, and the contamination of its water ways. So mankind can be its savior by improving the way he takes care of our and the birds environment. Guess what!! It has helped!! The eagle has come back to over twenty thousand in the lower forty eight states. See what can be done when people work together for a cause. The eagle was officially removed from the Endangered Species list in 2007. Concerned people **can** change the habits of others if they are correctly educated. President Shirley's Protecting the Aquatic Ecosystems Project will continue to help save our national United States symbol "the eagle".

NGC PRESIDENT'S PROJECT PHOTO ARCHIVING - Robin Pokorski, Chairman

You've Done It on Flickr!

Our NGC Flickr site can now boast that
all states are represented with more
than 3,500 pictures – making their state
and NGC proud of the accomplishments
and the positive difference garden clubs
make in our communities and states.
Now we want a **Blue Star Memorial
Marker** planting site from every state
and we are still missing several states.
Share with us your planting site. Share
with us how the marker is situated.
Show us your stuff!

The deadline for pictures of your
members' gardens for the *This Old
House* magazine article has passed but
we thank all those that submitted 455
pictures of their gardens. You not only
are working for your garden club, you
are working in your own gardens and
those gardens are looking great!

Email pictures, particularly of a project
rather than a group of people, to
Robin Pokorski at RobinP@juno.com.
Then visit our Flickr site ([Flickr.com/
NationalGardenClubs](http://Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs)) - **YOUR** online
idea book!

**State and Club Presidents,
Please share the KIT with your
board and club members for further
distribution.**

NEW ENGLAND REGION

JOYCE A. KIMBALL

Members of the New England Region are still reeling from the recent tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. We know that each and every one of our members and virtually every human being on the face of the earth is devastated by this great loss as well. We are therefore encouraging our members to plant special flowers or memorial gardens this spring in memory of those little children and their brave caretakers.

As we hunker down during these long winter months, we will all be utilizing many of our non-gardening hours to plan out the months ahead, reviewing the past year's activities and accomplishments and pouring over all those seed and bulb catalogs and on-line offerings with the expectation of glorious spring and summer blooms ahead. Some of our local garden clubs still meet during the winter months and not during the summer, allowing more time for actual gardening, they say. Others choose not to meet during the winter, negating the possibility of having to cancel presenters and/or programs when "Old Man Winter" comes calling, making traveling to these meetings unsafe. Regardless, "the wheels are always turning" and there is a constant presence of dedicated officers, committees and helpful club members at-the-ready to plan out the year (or more) ahead. Thank goodness for all our wonderful fellow garden club members who so freely give of their talents, time and efforts for the greater good. "Happy Winter"!

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

JEANNE T. NELSON

Warmest greetings to everyone from all of us in Central Atlantic Region. It has been a dramatically tragic time for our region. It is gratifying to see so many clubs helping other clubs with devastated community gardens. Our help will be needed to rehabilitate when the time comes in the spring.

My personal thanks to all CAR officers, board chairmen and members who braved Hurricane Sandy to attend the CAR Regional Conference in Ohio. The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly was chosen as our region's representative in the world of "flying flowers." Our continuing effort to support the Blue Star Memorial project "Trail of Blue Stars" is an outstanding accomplishment and a tribute to clubs who are honoring our service personnel. The introduction at the

Ohio conference of procedures on how, why, where to set up "leadership workshops" throughout our seven states was embraced with enthusiasm. It is hoped that with these workshops, informing clubs & members who we are and what we do will encourage increased membership. "Let's Do It" attitude certainly is encouraging. It was an honor for me to present the "Golden Perennial Bloom" Award to Nancy Heber of Ohio for her many garden club activities. The region has done an outstanding job with the community gardens projects. Clubs that have participated have an opportunity to send photos that appear on the CAR website (www.ngcCAR.org). Seeing projects on the site makes for a positive motive to continue doing gardening that works. The projects have enabled us to bring school children into the gardening community. The development of our CAR Life Membership, which endeavors to promote additional scholarship funds, has been an outstanding success. Thanks to all those members who have joined as Charter Members. CAR now has its own pin that is available by contacting me at my new email J.T.Nelson7@gmail.com. Check out our website for our latest issue of the Regional Review and its talk on soil and trees.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

MARY DIXON

This Director wishes everyone a Happy New Year. I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season with family and friends.

The South Atlantic Region clubs have had holiday home tours, Flower Shows, National Garden Clubs, Inc. accredited schools and many other celebrations. Communication has been an emphasis for this director and every effort has been made to keep the process moving. Our Key Notes editor has kept all chairmen and state presidents reminded about articles for her issues. This Director has worked to get important dates put on the redesigned Web Site. Our Web Site is a tool for all our states to have their schools information on so attendees from surrounding states can boost attendance. Membership still remains a problem; but I am confident that while some clubs have disbanded, some interested members are joining other clubs because they were invited to join them.

Our hearts go out to those families in the North East states that were struck by hurricane Sandy and those families that lost loved ones from the tragic shootings in the

school or at the mall. We pray for there to be peace in our world. We strive to carry the message that we are a force for good and make our world a better place to live.

DEEP SOUTH REGION

SARA LANIER

The Deep South has been really busy over the holidays with flower shows, teas, District meetings, dedication of Blue Star Markers, tour of homes, etc.

Georgia will be hosting the Deep South Convention March 24-26 in the beautiful historic city of Savannah. A Regional Flower Show, tours, and programs will be held during this time. Ya'll come!

Mississippi reports they have 378 new members and two new clubs!

Georgia has 253 new members. A GCG letter of Welcome, current calendar, and a headquarters brochure were mailed to each new member. Over 1,000 members attended the Fall District meetings. **Florida** held a Holiday Design Program that was very successful in attracting new members and one club started a "Garden Book Club"! They are working on "Raking in New Members". They have been holding award workshops throughout the State to learn more about the NGC new award procedures.

Tennessee has 50 new members and one new club! Their membership team has almost completed a packet of very helpful information to be given to the next administration.

Louisiana has 68 new members and 5 new clubs!

Alabama had a record breaking attendance of over 300 at their "Every Light Prayer for Peace" held on the Capitol steps sponsored by the Garden Clubs of Alabama. What a great way to attract new members! They have a 3 year extension on the moratorium for the proposed nation's largest landfill in Southwest Alabama.

NOTE: This director just got back from Maui, HI and kudos to them. They have banned all plastic bags on the Island of Maui!!! Wonderful!!!!

CENTRAL REGION

FLORENCE SMITH

As we begin a New Year let us take a moment to reflect on our Central Region accomplishments in 2012. At the Central Region meeting October 8-10, 2012 in St. Louis it was announced that two Central Region scholarships would be awarded in 2013 and that Michigan is currently hosting all five schools. Were you aware that the Central Region is one of only two regions in

the US that has selected a butterfly? We have chosen "The Painted Lady," as our butterfly. As of October, 2012, 391 Blue Star markers were dedicated and applications for twelve out of fourteen CR awards were received. Also, that CR has applied for the NGC Award of Excellence #25. There are 253 CR Life Members and 35 Gold Star Life Members. I am so pleased with the many accomplishments that have taken place in the CR. The NGC Convention is May 24-26, 2013 in Seattle Washington. This is an installation year, please plan to attend the CR luncheon and welcome our newly installed Central Region Director Gerry Ford from Illinois and the Alternate Director Julie Hansen from Illinois.

The natural disasters have been numerous throughout the year; let's keep in mind those who have been affected and support them in their time of need.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION JUDY GROTT

I have had the privilege of attending all four states conventions, board meetings, and schools. Meeting some of the wonderful members, and hearing how their club handles their projects has been a highlight. At each and every one of the meetings I have collected information for sharing.

At the State Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico a workshop was well attended and herbs were planted in window boxes to take home. Rosemary Maddox supplied the herbs and explained their use. New Mexico is working hard on the South Central Region Annual Convention. The Texas State Convention in Abilene was attended by our National President Shirley Nicolai; she asked questions of the members that pertained to Garden Club. It was an eye opening History lesson. Joyce Cochran presented a Parliamentarian workshop. A talk by Rob Hailey, Master Naturalist, on maintaining natural landscape and vegetation was informative. Texas has a program called Member of the Year and the Districts send in a nominee. This year the nominees were six lovely and committed ladies: Wyveta Reece, District I; Sandee Walters, District III; Ruth Brisco, District IV; Idalia Aguilar, District V; Lee Taylor, District VII; and Dana Sarafine, District X. The winners were Sandee Walters and Idalia Aguilar – this year was a rare event with a tie, the committee said they simply had to award both ladies the honor and engraved silver bowls to go with it! Congratulations Ladies and thank you for all the work you do for garden clubs.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION TERRY KROKE

The Rocky Mountain Regional Project "We Make the World a Better Place to Live" specified that projects undertaken by states and clubs should not only include a service component but also act as a means of publicizing the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and its members' contributions. I was not surprised to hear the variety of ways the clubs found to improve their part of the world; after all, that's what garden clubs do. I was pleased at the variety of organizations with which they partnered to accomplish it all. Partners ranged from youth groups to senior citizens; from public gardens and civic groups to local and state government agencies; even the US Air Force, which performed a fly over at the Cottonwood Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial dedication in Douglas, WY. The heart of the Regional Project is to let the world, or at least your neighbors, know how garden clubs are making their world a better place to live. The ingenuity of the RMR garden clubs was gratifying. They used signs, flyers, community billboards and word of mouth. They held events that earned press coverage in newspapers and regional magazines. Just today, I picked up a copy of *Zone 4*, a regional gardening magazine, and found an article titled "Plant It Pink". It featured the garden planted by Evergreen Moonlight Garden Club of Evergreen, CO. The article identified "Plant It Pink" as "the brainchild of the National Garden Club."

PACIFIC REGION DEBBIE HINCHEY

Last issue I mentioned the questionnaire that was part of our last regional convention held in Alaska – with about a quarter of the out-of-state attendees being first-timers.

One question asked about possible changes to our conventions. Many said that they found the reports from the Presidents and Committee Chairmen very interesting, did not want to see them shorter than the three minutes, and would like to see them posted on our website. We had enough time during the reports to allow and encouraged attendees to ask questions after each report since we were all there together to learn from one another. All were encouraged to report information that others could easily use.

It seems first-time attendees were inspired by the diversity of club activities and the depth of knowledge and talents throughout the region. Other members mentioned not enough business was handled to warrant the expense of getting together, while others wanted more social time. A few members

did not know about the NGC manuals available to help with planning conventions, describing officer duties, or how to preside. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to discuss and express their thoughts.

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