



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Nov-Dec-Jan 2013

GREETINGS from Shirley Nicolai, NGC President

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

In the coming months an effort will be made to gather and share information about our accomplishments as a national organization. The intent is not to pry, but to validate the many ways we proudly serve our members and communities. This exercise will also provide us with specific talking points to be used for public relations purposes.

The total amount of money given by clubs, districts, states and NGC for scholarships; NGC school attendance; the number of Blue Star Marker dedications; donations to Natural and International Disasters and Penny Pines; and the number of children participating in our youth contests are just a sampling of potential boasting rights. (Did you know that last year we had **21,975** entries for the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Contest, which is open to 1st through 5th graders?)

All of our youth contests promote respect for the environment and



warrant our seeking entrants. For the Poetry Contest, open to children in kindergarten through the 9th grade, the theme is "Protecting Our Aquatic Friends." The sponsoring club may be that of a grandparent. The Youth Sculpture Contest is for 4th through 8th grade students. The title for this year's High School Essay Contest is "Ways We Can Protect Aquatic Ecosystems."

NGC committee chairmen have filled this issue with articles to make you more aware of NGC projects, such as a new photo contest featuring members' gardens. By going to www.gardenclub.org, you will find much more - including shopping opportunities for our gorgeous new silk scarf, Vision of Beauty calendars, partnership items and magazine subscriptions to *flower*.

With warm wishes for the holidays,
Shirley

IN MEMORIAM:

Violet Dawson, NGC President 1991-93. Violet Dawson passed away September 24, 2012. She was 94, and her family is so proud of her journey. She loved her garden club life. It meant so much to her. Condolences can be sent to the family c/o Diane Dawson, 1120 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611.

Barbara (Babs) Barnette, NGC President 1997-1999. Babs Barnette passed away on July 27, 2012. Babs also served as President of The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. and South Atlantic Region Director. Memorials may be made to the Babs Barnette Environmental Scholarship Fund, GCSC Scholarship Chairman Sandra Hamann, 450 E. Seven Oaks Dr., Greenville SC 29605 or NGC Inc., 4401 Magnolia Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110. Condolences may be sent to the family at Mary Barnett Ferguson, 1403 Highway 72 W., Greenwood, SC 29646-1823

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WEBSITE NEWS - Kathy Thomas, Chairman

The NEW NGC Web site has 3 levels: Public, Member, Board Member. The Member Side is for all garden club members and is password protected. The Sign in = Member and the Password = proud. The Board Side has a different sign in and password.

All Chairmen please check your pages to make sure the information and links are current. If you have additional information you want posted, please send it to me as an attachment at ngcwebsite@aol.com.

Showcase your prize-winning garden in *This Old House* magazine.

Are you proud of your garden? Does your fellow garden club member have a showcase garden? Do you have a “stand-out” garden from a recent garden walk? Were photos taken of the gardens when they were in the peak of profusion?

If the answer to any of these questions is a YES, then take note and act now.

National Garden Clubs President Shirley Nicolai reports that National Garden Clubs and its members have been invited to participate in the *This Old House* magazine’s search to showcase gardens which will be featured in its spring or summer issues. President Nicolai says, “This is a golden opportunity for NGC members to be recognized for their creative landscaping efforts, and provide positive exposure for all garden clubs.”

Robin Pokorski, Photo Archiving Chairman, has already set up a Special Members’ Garden group (www.flickr.com/group/members_gardens/) and is ready to accept photos. Please send digital photos to RobinP@juno.com following entry rules.

The entry rules are simple:

1. Photos of members’ gardens should have been taken during this past year or so.
2. Photos should not include contemporary styled houses.
3. Provide name of the garden’s owner.
4. Provide your name/address/email address and phone number so you can be contacted.
5. Include the specific name of your garden club and State Garden Club.
6. Transmit the digital photos size TIF 40-mb or JPEG 2-mb to RobinP@juno.com.
7. Write a description of the garden and where it is located.
8. **Entry deadline is December 1, 2012.**
9. Garden photos to be included in magazine will be selected by *This Old House*.

PRESIDENT’S TRAVEL SCHEDULE



- Nov 4-12 NGC Argentina trip
- Jan 15-17 Winter Executive Committee Mtg. Tampa, FL
- Jan 18-21 Instructors’ Symposium Tampa, FL
- Feb 13-14 Garden Club of New Jersey Edison, NJ
- Feb 21-24 CFAA Orlando, FL

You are invited to join SAGE & ROSES

Send A Greeting Electronically and Recognize Our Servicemen’s Every Sacrifice

Send your NGC Board Member friends or anyone an email greeting at Christmas – save the cost of the card and stamp.

Send \$1.00 for each email greeting. Money collected will purchase Blue Star Markers. Each participant will be an entry for their state. President Shirley will draw the winner at the May convention. All monies collected will be spent in the same year for the erection and landscaping of markers. The Blue Star Marker program is the premier National project that advertises NGC’s name from coast to coast.

Be a three way winner:

- *Remember your friends at Christmas.
- *Remind the public that NGC is a nation-wide organization.
- *Remember those whose sacrifices give us our many freedoms.

Send your check made out to “NGC Sage and Roses” to: NGC Headquarters

Lois Dupré Shuster
Sage and Roses Chairman

Deadline for the next issue of KIT -

JANUARY 1, 2013

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, Brecksville, OH 44141

sjbasista@yahoo.com

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

ALL there on Flickr!

Our NGC Flickr site has all states represented and now we are looking for more. We want a **Blue Star Memorial Marker** planting site from every state and we are missing a bunch of states. Don’t assume your friend will send a picture – you do it! Show us your projects! Show us what your club has done in your community.

The deadline for pictures of your members’ gardens for the *This Old House* magazine article is December 1. Don’t forget to include full name, city and state, garden club name, State Garden Club name and region.

Email pictures to Robin Pokorski at RobinP@juno.com. Then visit our Flickr site (Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs) - **YOUR** online idea book!

2013 GARDEN WEEK

It is never too early to start thinking about how your clubs or states are going to celebrate **National Garden Week June 2-8, 2013**. You can go for an award. Just 3 pages. Check your award manual for instructions or go to www.gardenclub.org the NGC website. Elaine DiPietro, Chairman

SHOP NGC at www.gardenclub.org 1-800-550-6007

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

MEMBER SERVICES: For orders 1-800-550-6007 or headquarters@gardenclub.org

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

WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS?

A variety of water problems in the US is increasing in scope and velocity at an alarming rate. **Information gleaned from the Water Campws website (watercampws.uiuc.edu/aboutwatercrisis) lists a number of problems** such as: salting of the water supply, aquifer depletion, energy production demand, high consumer demand, salt water intrusion into aquifers, and pesticide contamination. **This website has a map posted for each problem in its list detailing specific information for your state and region.**

Salting of the water supply is primarily measured by the amount of dissolved solids in the surface or ground water. Some areas of the US have dissolved solids above the 75th percentile. Do you reside in one of those locations?

Aquifer depletion is a serious problem. Aquifers are a significant source of water in the US. Water from aquifers is usually cleaner, but an aquifer replenishes its water supply at a gradual rate. Water levels in many US aquifers are falling, as it is impossible to replace the withdrawn water at the same rate as water is being removed from the aquifer.

Energy production demands for water have escalated to the point that electric power plants are the greatest users of water in the US, especially in the northern and eastern US. In some watersheds 50 percent or more of the extracted water is used solely for energy production.

High consumer demand for water by residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial interests impacts the water supply on a daily basis. Many counties in the United

States withdraw over 1.12 billion gallons of water per day!

The intrusion of salt water into aquifers and water wells is a major problem facing all of the coastal areas of the United States. In coastal areas, saline water extends inland under the non-saline ground water. As large amounts of fresh water are pumped out of the fresh water aquifers and wells, the under lying salt water is being drawn up into the fresh water zone.

Pesticide contamination continues to be a major problem for our water supply – especially in agricultural areas. Chemicals applied to crops, orchards, and yes, even to our lawns, end up in the run-off that eventually enters the ground and surface water systems. Pesticides can persist in these water systems for years following their initial application.

Aquifers throughout the US are experiencing **declining water levels, salt water intrusion and insufficient replenishment of ground water**. Many aquifers are being overdrawn and will experience severe supply problems in the next 20 years. Major rivers and watersheds are also being overdrawn leading to an increase in the salt content downstream.

Water has a wide-ranging impact on our economy, our food, health and energy. Ensuring the availability of an abundant fresh water supply for our use is the focus of NGC's Special Project, "*Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems.*" **Protecting our aquatic ecosystems should be a major concern for everyone.**

NGC President's Project - 2012-2013 PLANTINGS FOR PUBLIC AND SPECIAL PLACES Betsy Steele, Coordinator

Pat Rupiper (Garden Edibles) arupiper@bright.net
Sue Robinson (Container Gardens) rerob@mac.com
Lissa Williamson (Trees and Shrubs) erw510@aol.com

These NGC President's Project chairmen are eagerly awaiting your email applications and pictures describing your Plantings for Public and Special Places. The 2012-2013 President's Project offers an opportunity to ALL garden clubs in ALL states to be recognized for sharing their love of gardening and community involvement. Just remember to visit the NGC website(www.gardenclub.org) to apply DIRECTLY to these chairmen and to read timely articles from the committee chairmen. The form is listed under Projects at the top of the NGC Home Page, continue to Project Plantings to view application.

Why not receive monetary awards for your efforts? Sending your online form to the chairmen for Plantings for Public and Special Places automatically gives your club the possibility of winning a monetary award from NGC.

Remember... in EACH of the three categories your club could win:

\$300 First Place
\$150 Second Place
\$100 Third Place

Apply as soon as your project is complete. No need to wait until the **April 1, 2013 deadline.**

Pat, Sue and Lissa look forward to hearing from you. Questions: contact betssteele@truvista.net or call 803-789-5451.

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

This chairman just returned from the NGC Fall Board Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas where your Schools Committees met in individual and joint sessions. We work to resolve problems, touch base to be sure we are administering the schools consistently in accordance with guidelines in our handbooks, and identify issues for possible change or development. The meetings are informative and productive, but we are sometimes challenged by the limitations of having only two opportunities to meet each year.

Attending NGC meetings often causes me to reflect on the significant ways that NGC Schools have positively changed my life. Having attended several courses of a school sponsored by my wife's garden club, I joined the club so I could obtain NGC Consultant status. That quickly led to schools-related positions on state, regional and national boards of directors, and that led to travel to attend at least three state, one regional and two national meetings each year. Each of these meetings, because of the included tours and workshops as well as miscellaneous sightseeing, expands the information provided and knowledge obtained in our schools.

The trip to Little Rock was like a personal Tri-Refresher. The Fall Board Meeting tour to Moss Mountain Farm, the "Garden Home" of TV host P. Allen Smith touched on and expanded subjects learned in Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Schools. Smith has built an environmentally friendly homestead overlooking the Arkansas River. Seven old Post oak trees were utilized as focal points for subsequent construction, including a Greek Revival main house with deep ties to the region's cultural and agrarian past, an art studio and a summer kitchen. Terrace gardens, the organic vegetable garden and antique rose garden provide much to enjoy and study in the areas of gardening, landscape design and sustainable environmental practices.

Attend NGC Schools, join a garden club (in no particular order), volunteer your time on garden club boards of directors and see the world (and keep learning)!

Tech Tip: To save a computer file copy of a form you have filled out using the interactive forms on the NGC web site, send a copy of it to yourself.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS Greg Pokorski, Chairman

Since the last issue, Inger Jones (mjinger@att.net) has been assigned to replace Joan Pryor as GSS Accrediting Chairman for the New England and Pacific Regions. We welcome her to our committee.

Because of some changes in assignments, there is some ongoing confusion about which GSS Accrediting Chairmen handle which regions. To recap:

Central and South Central Regions

Bonni Dinneen -
(bonni.dinneen@gmail.com)

Rocky Mountain and Deep South Regions

Judy Pitcher - (wgcgjudy@aol.com)

Central Atlantic and South Atlantic
Regions

Sally Priebe - (rpriebe2@comcast.net)

This chairman was "in the trenches" in July and August, serving as registrar and benefitting from the informative classes at Courses I and II of a GSS Series sponsored by my club, Southern California Garden Club. We had lots of positive feedback about Course I that we included in a special summer edition of our club newsletter to promote registration for Course II. Here are a few examples:

I learned so much! Especially, how much more I have to learn about gardening--there is always something more to learn. The segment on propagation was particularly informative and helpful.

I learned too much to list, but, I found out I've been handling some hanging house plants improperly. I was re-introduced to concept of flower pollination and I have a much better understanding of it than I did when I briefly studied botany in college years ago. It makes looking at the flowers in my garden much more interesting and I find myself taking apart flowers to check out their inner workings.

My knowledge of soil composition increased ten-fold and I now know the hows and whys of improving garden soil. And I learned that a gardener never ends in her/his efforts to improve soil--the process of adding good stuff to soil (mulch, compost, etc.) lasts for the rest of your gardening life.

The Gardening Study School was worth my time and increased my knowledge so I can work more effectively in my garden spaces. It was fun and had hands-on components that you can go home and apply immediately. It was great to meet people from other clubs and take a class with fellow club members. I've already been able to share gardening information with some friends and that's been fun too.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS Jane Bersch, Chairman

The NGC Landscape Design Schools Committee is pleased to advise you that, at the NGC Fall Board Meeting in Little Rock, the NGC Board of Directors approved the NGC Executive Committee's recommendation that the new 2012 Landscape Design Schools Operations Guide be printed. All State NGC LDS Series which are in progress as of the end of the 2011-2013 administration are 'grandfathered' to follow the curriculum for LDS Courses I through IV as outlined in the 2007 NGC Landscape Design Study Program Operations Guide. All State NGC LDS Schools which register a new Series beginning with the 2013-2015 administration will be required to follow the 2012 NGC Landscape Design Schools Operations Guide. Use of the 2012 updated LDS forms is optional as soon as the updated LDS forms are on the NGC website. Use of the 2012 updated LDS forms is mandatory beginning with the 2013-2015 administration.

The 2012 LDS Operations Guide will be available shortly from Member Services at Headquarters. All state LDS Chairmen are urged to obtain it. The LDS forms are in the process of being made interactive and when completed, will be on the NGC website. Documents for Reproduction will also be available on the website. This includes LDS 16, Mini Guide for Students and Consultants, which LDS Chairman should distribute to all students and Consultants.

Six states held Landscape Design Schools in September. Six more are scheduled in October: Alabama, Washington, Ohio, Nebraska, Illinois and Louisiana. Massachusetts and South Carolina will have LD Schools in November. The opportunity to continue our knowledge of successful, environmentally friendly landscape design is available. An exciting learning experience awaits.

Jane R. Bersch janebersch@aol.com

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

Information for the 2013 Smokey Bear Contest is on the NGC website: www.gardenclub.org - under YOUTH: Contests

Contact: Elaine Dates
elainedates@comcast.net or 802-658-4061
for further information.

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

Ask them to join Share information Keep them busy

Recently I received a note from a club president in Tennessee who said that asking people to join really does work. She tells that a few years ago she started asking everybody she knew to join hers – or any other! – garden club. To date she has gained 17 ½ new members (the ½ is because another person had also asked one of them). She says she sees these ladies “come to life” with the activities of the club. She is proud of our nation wide organization and spreads the word with enthusiasm. P.S. Their club won a membership award for their growth

Another note received tells of their club growth from a small club to a club of 80 members. This is the result of a big fundraising decision the club made years ago ... A leap of faith that they could do it. They undertook a holiday boutique with a luncheon/program by one of the members on decorating for the holidays. They had 100 in attendance that first year.... They now quickly fill the tables for the max number of 175. Their club grew (THEY ASK PEOPLE TO COME); their program budget grew (PROGRAMS DREW IN MEMBERS! SHARE INFORMATION); their budget for projects grew from 1 to 18 (KEEP THEM BUSY).

Do you have success stories to share with all the clubs nationwide? I look forward to hearing them and sharing them with everyone through this column.

NGC AWARDS -
Bobbie Verser, Chairman

AWARDS -
SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

There are several NGC awards that have only a few entries. Below is a list that you might want to consider when reviewing some of your projects/activities. Rationale: Fewer entries – better chance of being a WINNER!

- #2, Garden Centers
- #3, Literary Horticulture Interest
- #4, Horticultural Achievement
- #10J, Jr./Intermediate Garden Club
- #26, Landscape Design Education
- #27, Radio/TV
- #28, Landscape for Churches
- #32J, Conservation Award for Jr./Intermediate Garden Club
- #33J, High School Gardeners Accomplishment
- #40, Landscape Design Consultants
- #46, World Gardening
- #55J, Youth Environmental Concern
- #60, Jr. Leadership Award

The Awards Committee looks forward to receiving NGC Award Applications.

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL - BIRDS
Beverly Heidelberger, Chairman

A few years back the previous bird chairman had asked each National Garden Club, Inc. Region to name a bird that would best represent their region. All eight NGC Regions have successfully named a bird. Central Atlantic Region - the rose-breasted grosbeak; Central Region - the black capped chickadee; Deep South Region - the northern cardinal; New England Region - the ruby-throated hummingbird; Pacific Region - the owl; Rocky Mountain Region - the western meadowlark; South Atlantic Region - the bluebird and the South Central Region - the ivory-billed woodpecker.

Do we need a bird for the NGC or should it be the same as the United States' symbol, the “Eagle”? At the Buffalo, New York meeting in May, 2012 NGC members nominated birds of their choice; no one mentioned the eagle. Of the top seven birds nominated, two are found throughout North America and Hawaii, hummingbirds and owls. Robins and chickadees are found in North America but not in Hawaii and mainly east of the Rocky Mountains are found the cardinals, blue jays and bluebirds.

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

NGC ENVIRONMENTAL
CONCERNS / LEGISLATION
Marion Hilliard, Chairman

FEED YOUR ROSES ...
DON'T FEED THE RUMORS

It's practically a daily occurrence that my mail box is filled with unsigned rumors. The sheer volume is extraordinary. There may be plenty of legitimate reasons to agree or disagree with what is happening in the political arena, but there is no excuse for being a party to spreading untruths.

One recent newspaper study used the Snopes website to check out 100 of the top juiciest unsigned rumors. They reported that about 10 out of the 100 were found to be true. Fortunately there are tools and ways to avoid being guilty of untruthism.

CHECK THE SOURCE:

Any of the following websites are responsible sources for checking facts. Often you can check the facts on more than one, and then make up your mind.

** snopes.com, a specialist in urban legends, especially emailed rumors.

** www.politifact.com of the Tampa Bay Times (FL), winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

** factcheck.org, a service of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

** www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker, written by Glenn Kessler of the Washington Post.

HERE'S A CHECKLIST

Basic advice for readers who are interested in checking things out:

** Check out rumors with one or more of the given sources before sharing.

** Don't distribute any unverified rumor from an anonymous source.

We're living in a world where there aren't many gatekeepers left. Be one. Do your part. Don't contribute to the untruth rumor spin. Make your time and efforts fruitful and productive.

NGC GRANTS/GIFTS/BEQUESTS - Pat Westgard, Chairman

FOREVER GROWING

Grants - What corporations in your area, with strong environmental missions, may have an interest in funding a project of NGC? Please share contact information with one of our committee members to follow up.

Development - This committee is working to help local and state garden clubs with a dynamic new program coming soon! Watch for details in future KIT . . .

Bequests - You are a gardener. You belong to a garden club. You have volunteered hours to projects. You love to share. Now you have a meaningful way to share - a way to continue your garden club involvement for generations to come. By designating NGC as one of the beneficiaries of your estate, you can leave a legacy that will benefit NGC in the future. Typical bequest language is: "I give the sum of \$___ (or ___%) of my estate (or asset) to the National Garden Clubs, Inc, 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110, to be used for (name of project or endowment)." It's that easy.

Remember that all club and personal donations should be sent to Headquarters who will then notify the chair of the project and provide you with a tax receipt. Check the web site for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOLS - Judy Newman, Chairman

It is important for students and consultants attending NGC Schools to maintain their records of schools and refreshers attended. There is a data base which Environmental Studies students and consultants can use to verify their records. Consultants can email newman9641@aol.com to inquire about or gain a copy of their records.

Available to State ESS Chairmen is the video "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time." The film portrays how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land, his call for a land ethic, ties a multitude of modern conservation stories together and offers inspiration and insight for the future. The video, "Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time," is an option, not a requirement to be included in the ESS Courses and/or Refreshers. Contact Judy Newman, NGC ESS Chairman, 414-861-7134, email newman9641@aol.com.

NGC SCHOLARSHIPS - Bonnie Borne, Chairman

In a recent newspaper was an article regarding the cost of higher education. College costs have risen, state support has fallen, squeezing students in a financial vise. Now, more than ever, students need our help. Please support our wonderful scholarship program with your continued generous donations, honorariums, memorials and National Life Memberships.

A Scholarship from NGC enables a student to graduate and have:

Happy memories of yesterday;
Joyful moments of today;
And hopes and dreams of tomorrow.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Does the legal address of student have to be that of the sponsoring state?

A. Yes, applicant must reside in the state in which he/she is submitting application.

Q. Can a student attend a university/school/college outside his/her home state?

A. Yes, student may attend any accredited university/college.

Q. Can a student apply for the NGC Scholarship only, even though the state offers its own scholarships?

A. Yes, some students apply for the NGC scholarship only for some reason. Either more timely, requirements, etc.

Q. When a student is awarded a state scholarship, and there are other applicants for the NGC Scholarship only, is the student who received the state scholarship automatically their state's submission and/or get preferential treatment?

A. No, if a student completes all NGC forms with documentation, the application is judged along with any and all students who send applications for consideration. Some students do not apply for the state scholarship for various reasons, however, do apply for the NGC scholarship.

Q. Can a state submit more than one (1) application?

A. No, only those states with a membership of over 10,000 members. They can submit two (2).

Q. Can a student submit an application and substantiated documents direct to the NGC Scholarship Chairman?

A. No, must submit to their respective State Scholarship Chairman. State chairmen complete Checklist, with signature along with application and other necessary letters, transcripts, etc., to NGC Scholarship Chairman by deadline.

Q. Can a student apply who has only one semester remaining to complete degree?

A. Yes.

NGC SPECIAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES - Jennifer Moreno, Chairman

Container Gardening With Kids

On a sunny July morning at the Albuquerque Garden Center, the Blooming Gardeners junior garden club joined Mary Ann and Jennifer Moreno, as well as several other members of the Uptown Garden Club, for a two-hour container gardening workshop. Approximately 16 children attended the workshop ranging in age from 2 to 15 years old. Each child was given a small, clear, pre-cut plastic drink bottle and an empty cat food container. These containers were being recycled into a unique container garden and terrarium planter to be created individually by each child. Soil, charcoal, gravel, a selection of small and miniature plants, as well as a generous helping of fun and creativity were used to create beautiful planters. In the bottom of the drink bottle, children placed individual layers of charcoal, gravel, and a light, pre-moistened, soil-mix. This would become the terrarium-part of the planter. Children chose various plants to complete their terrarium and learned which plants are more appropriate for terrarium gardens versus container gardens. Once the terrariums were finished, the top of the bottle with the cap screwed back on was turned upside down and placed into the opening of the drink bottle over the terrarium. This was then filled with a layer of light, pre-moistened soil-mix and was planted with more small and miniature plants to create the container garden. Once the container gardens were finished, the bottle was placed into the empty cat food container which served as a stable base. Much laughter and giggling accompanied proud smiles as children beheld their wonderful garden creations.

Learning how to create gardens, no matter how small, is a joyous experience that can be shared with children of any age. Schools, junior garden clubs, church groups and other youth organizations are just a few examples of groups that can benefit from the knowledge and experience that garden club members can provide. The 2012-2013 NGC President's Project, Plantings for Public and Special Places, is a wonderful way to include children in gardening projects. This contest includes three categories in which garden clubs can compete for monetary prizes. The categories include: Gardens with Edibles, Container Gardens, and Trees and Shrubs. Please refer to *The National Gardener* for the description of the contest as well as entry requirements and deadlines. As always, please remember that children are our future garden club members!

-Jennifer Moreno, NGC Special Education Activities Chairman

-Mary Ann Moreno, NGC Container Gardens Committee

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

NEW ENGLAND REGION

JOYCE A. KIMBALL

As they say, “to everything there is a season” and what a season our past one has been! New Englanders can actually say they “had a real summer this year”—that is not always the case. With all that sunshine our many community and state projects as well as our members have been “in full bloom” throughout the summer. We are now preparing to tackle fall clean-ups and the pre-holiday preparations associated with the myriad of fundraising projects we all undertake each year selling poinsettia plants, wreaths and centerpieces, holding house tours, holiday festivals, etc. And we will soon be “decorating the halls” a.k.a. “communities” with the holiday trimmings garden clubs are so noted for. It is also the time of year when our clubs are especially generous, giving their time, Thanksgiving baskets, warm pajamas and nature-related books to disadvantaged children, to those in need, etc. particularly at this time of year. We are gardeners and we care.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

JEANNE T. NELSON

A lingering glow persists for those of us who attended the National Garden Clubs Convention in Buffalo. We have put our boxes, bags, suitcases and reports away. We thank all who attended. A special thanks to our CAR state New York, their chairmen and the hard working members for a grand event. We now look forward to the glorious colors of fall and new projects.

As Central Atlantic Regional Director, I would like to express my thanks to garden club members, State Presidents and CAR Committee Chairmen for embracing the Community Garden Projects. The basic idea of garden clubs starting vegetable gardens to feed people in need, butterfly gardens to entice young people to view the world differently and gardens for the hearing impaired and blind needs to be acknowledged and publicized.

A special salute to Ohio members who have worked for several years to welcome us to their state and a successful CAR 2012 Conference this October.

Traveling the region renews my positive perspective about commitment of clubs, no matter the size, to the placing of Blue Star Markers. It is a tribute to those communities who joined in the celebration with school bands, marching veterans groups, gun salutes and flags waving.

I thank each of you for the joy brought to each project and to so many happy individuals.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

MARY DIXON

Many thanks and congratulations to Chairman Judi Davis and Vice-Chairman Bobbie Verser and all of the Arkansas chairmen and members for a successful NGC Fall Board Meeting. The business was covered in a timely manner with great leadership from our President, Shirley. The programs and tour were delightful, funny and informative. Little Rock was beautiful. The hospitality shown while there was greatly appreciated.

As we start the fall season in the South Atlantic Region with clubs meeting again, district meetings and NGC schools being held, there is a feeling of renewed energy. Blue Star Dedications have been held and more are scheduled. On October 18th in Columbia, The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. is celebrating their Memorial Garden being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If you are in Virginia October 25 – 28th visit the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 N. Boulevard, Richmond for the Fine Arts & Flower Show. Members of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. join with the Garden Clubs of Virginia and Garden Club of Virginia, Inc. to interpret the beautiful Art in the Museum with floral designs.

Fall also brings flower shows in our region as harvests are celebrated at fairs and within our clubs. Clubs are planning for holiday celebrations and other projects that help interest the public and members.

Our five states are carrying on the work to support the goals and objectives of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

DEEP SOUTH REGION

SARA LANIER

The Deep South Presidents and this Regional Director just got back from NGC Board meeting in Little Rock. We want to thank Little Rock members who planned such a wonderful meeting and tour!

Alabama has been given the credit for the passing of another year moratorium for the proposed Nations Largest Landfill in the Southwest Alabama.

Florida had a successful Youth Camp with over 600 in attendance. The Board of Directors was entertained with a “TRASHION” Show” made from recyclable items. A Plant Auction also was held.

Mississippi had a State Advanced Standard Flower Show in June and had 86 floral designs, 387 horticulture specimens and 26 educational exhibits. The CD of the show is available for purchase. Mississippi has two new clubs...congratulations!

Georgia had a State Board meeting in the mountains of North GA. The Fall agenda includes 7 District meetings and Conservation Workshop. GCG will be hosting the Deep South Regional Convention, March 24-26 Savannah. Everyone is invited!

Louisiana has 7,073 Live Oaks registered in the LGCF's records. A phone call was made to every Plantation Home with registered Live Oaks and every tree survived the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac, Sept. 29. Unbelievable!

Tennessee is in the process of signing up members for their State License Tag Project and will be selecting a design for the tag. They have Presidents' packets that will be filled with information for club presidents and prospective clubs. For the first time, *The Volunteer Gardener* will have advertising!

CENTRAL REGION

FLORENCE SMITH

Fall is officially here; it is a relief to have the hot days of summer behind us, the cool and cold weather is welcomed into the Central Region.

This season is a wonderful opportunity to attract new members. There will be District meetings, Garden Club Meetings, Holiday events and workshops. Please reach out and campaign for new members. The goal for this Region is a 5% increase in membership. It can be done.

Central Region includes a total of 23,310 members and 716 clubs. I've been keeping track of the CR's states activities and am pleased to report that they are making a valid attempt to carry out the directives from NGC and CR. Kudos to those who have increased their membership and to those that are trying to do so. Keep up the good work.

There also has been an increase in Blue Star Memorial dedications in every state in Central Region.

By the time this article is published Central Region will have had their Central Region Meeting in St. Louis, MO. I will share the highlights of that meeting in the next publication.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

JUDY GROTTTS

The four states of this Region have been working on several projects for awards. Yearbooks are read for the first meetings; programs, hosts, and places to visit. Those that are hosting the fall conventions or board meetings are putting on the final touches.

A Bible Garden was planted to honor a longtime member who celebrated a 90th birthday. Orders for “Nuts” are being taken

for the holidays, money goes to Texas scholarships. Flower shows are planned. The next SCR-FSS is in Roswell, New Mexico November 2-4. Shirley Tetreault will teach design and David Robson will teach horticulture and procedure. Seeds were dried and labeled for assistance with reseeded of Little Bear, NM.

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. Fall Board meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas was a success. We were able to tour the Moss Mountain Farm, including the gardens of P. Allen Smith. Chris H. Holsen's presentation was met with a great deal of laughter, as he entertained us with pictures of his home and garden in Little Rock.

Oklahoma is having meetings regularly on the 2014 NGC Convention. Mark your calendars April 30–May 3, 2014, Norman, Oklahoma. Tours are in the making.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION TERRY KROKE

The Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Region was held in Hays, KS on September 14-15. The education day featured a fascinating tour of the Sternberg Museum of Natural History. Highlights of the tour included the famous "Fish Within a Fish" fossil and the Dr. Howard Reynolds Nature Trails.

The business meeting resolved an issue that had been pending for some time. The committee that has been working for several years to design a regional pin unveiled the RMR pin as part of its final report. A Rocky Mountain Region Pin was presented to each life member who was in attendance and sent to those who were not. Revisions to the Life Membership Guidelines to reflect the addition of the RMR Pins were completed and approved.

During the last year, each of the eight Rocky Mountain Region states researched butterflies found in the region and nominated a favorite for the regional butterfly. Lana Kullander, RMR Butterfly Chair, gave a presentation on the six nominees. The Monarch was elected RMR Butterfly.

PACIFIC REGION DEBBIE HINCHEY

At our convention this July in Anchorage, AL we had a joyous time – especially spurred on by the great pre-convention tour that about a quarter of the attendees took. About a third of the convention was composed of first-time attendees.

At one of the lunches a round table discussion was encouraged by a frank, thought-provoking questionnaire that was passed out to everyone. Thoughts, experiences, perceptions and suggestions for the region and NGC were encouraged.

Almost all had heard of and read *The National Gardener* and WACONIAH (our regional newsletter) but few knew about KIT. We found that our circulation of KIT was not as good as we thought. There were numerous requests for instructions (at a convention) on how to access state, regional, and NGC websites – even by members that regularly use computers.

Some ideas will be easy to execute while others will take considerable debate. Several members were thankful for the opportunity to share their thoughts.

NATURAL DISASTERS USA Adrienne Langan, Chairman

The National Disasters USA Fund provides grants up to \$5000 to assist qualified local and State Garden Clubs in their efforts to restore gardens, parks, and landscaped areas devastated by natural disasters.

After reviewing applications and supporting data, this Committee awarded 15 grants, totaling \$34,100.00 in 2011 and 2012.

From May, 2011 to August, 2012, \$18,252.00 has been donated to this Fund. We commend all individuals, local, and state clubs for their generous support, and would like to give special recognition & appreciation to the following State Clubs who have made most generous contributions over \$500.00 each: Pennsylvania - \$4,136.00, Georgia - \$2000.00, Maryland - \$1,675.00, Mississippi - \$1,620.00, Florida - \$789.00, New Jersey - \$700.00, Texas - \$645.00, as well as \$1000 donation from Pat and Thane Smith.

Clubs receiving these grants have expressed heartfelt thanks to this Committee for the generous monetary assistance of National Garden Clubs, Inc and its members, which have enabled them to proceed with their restoration projects in the wake of these disasters.

New applications will be forthcoming from states in areas consumed by wildfires as soon as restoration efforts can begin. We ask your continued generosity so that this Fund will remain viable, enabling us to continue to provide assistance to our clubs across the country as they reconstruct areas devastated by any future natural disasters. Thank you for your anticipated support!

VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR Jan Warshauer, Chairman

Vision of Beauty 2015
Entry Deadline August 1, 2013
Changes to Requirements TBA