



The National Gardener

Fall 2015



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National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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70 National Affiliate Member Organizations
300 International Affiliate Member Organizations

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The Cover

*Sandra H. Robinson,
44th President of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
The photographer is President Robinson's
daughter, Mary Beth Lopez.*

President's Message

“Leap Into Action”

National Garden Clubs, Inc. members are gardeners in every sense of the word, cultivating our horticulture skills, creativity, appreciation of floral artistry, landscape design skills, environmental stewardship, leadership development, and legacy to our youth and future generations. Each club decides the programs and projects that benefit their members and communities and strives to effectively

implement them. NGC has several continuing and new projects for clubs and states to consider, but the final choice always lies with the local clubs and members.

Gardeners also share a common bond around the world. The love of nature, gardening, and floral creativity transcends all language and political barriers. We proudly showcase our prize plants and floral designs in flower shows for the enjoyment and education of our members and the general public. At a recent show I overheard one visitor exclaim, “Everything here is beautiful. The size and health of the plants displayed and the imagination of the arrangers in creating the floral displays is unbelievable. I am so glad we came!” Members around the world work to conserve and restore for the benefit of those following behind.

While weeding this weekend I thought of the upcoming state fair and the horticulture I plan to enter. “Do I need to spray the roses and perennials or apply weed killer to the edging?” I sat back and watched the bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and flies swarm



around the plants and realized no ribbon could replace the satisfaction of watching the dance on display at that moment.

Recently, I stood in awe as a swarm of butterflies greeted me on my return from the airport. Hundreds of butterflies lifted in a swirl of color as I stood in the center enjoying their joyful spinning. The words of Robert A. Heinlein best describe the visual, “Butterflies are self-propelled flowers.”

All my stress and fatigue fell away in that one spectacular, priceless moment. The benefits of being in nature have been scientifically proven in numerous studies. We, as gardeners, know intellectually, emotionally and spiritually that contact with nature decreases stress, increases mental health, and our sense of belonging.

Unfortunately, many of man's activities have made nature inhospitable for many of its native residents. Amphibians, among the greatest survivors on earth, are now the planet's most threatened class of organisms. The Club de Plantas and Flores de Panama's Standard Flower Show, V Expoflora International, non-competition Educational Exhibit on La Rana de Dorado focused on the Panamanian golden frog. The frog is bright golden yellow with black patches, considered a symbol of good fortune, and toxic to any animal who tries to eat him. The species was filmed for the last time in the wild in 2006. Their decline is largely the result of the fungal disease, chytridiomycosis, but other threats include

human development, pollution, habitat loss, and the pet trade. The golden frog is now found mostly in managed-care facilities throughout North America in an effort to keep the species alive and healthy. The San Diego Zoo Global has successfully bred approximately 500 of the golden frogs, since 2003, but will not release any until the fungal disease is no longer a threat. In 2005, the El Valle Amphibian Conservation Centre (EVACC) was established in Panama by the Houston Zoo. EVACC is a tourist attraction where populations of threatened species are carefully watched by researchers.

NGC published *The Frightened Frog, An Environmental Tale*, to introduce young readers to the importance of amphibians and some of the issues they face in the twenty-first century. The book is available through Member Services, along with lesson plans that meet core standards, on the NGC website. One young reviewer stated: "I've read the book five times. It is a good book. It says the frogs are in trouble, and I guess that is true. It also says there is something we can do to help, and I guess that is true, too."

Awareness is increasing at every level of society about the importance of protecting our natural resources. Consumers are demanding the companies supplying our food, cut flowers, plants, and products to be environmentally responsible in their business practices and accountable for their choices. Savvy consumers realize their health and welfare are directly and indirectly affected by the products they buy, food they eat, and their purchasing power. Are we as garden club members utilizing our voices and experiences to make wise decisions for our families and communities? "Leap into action."

Are you aware of all the chemicals in your garden shed or storage? How long have they been hiding on the back shelf and are they still approved and clearly labeled with warnings and instructions for mixing and use? Do you know where and how to dispose of unwanted chemicals? Old habits die hard. Before reaching for the pesticides and other chemicals think of the impact on

the environment. Always be responsible in your choices and research newer methods of control.

Traveling to meet members and seeing the difference they are making in their communities and their personal growth is the most rewarding part of serving as president. National Garden Clubs, Inc. and all the affiliate members have an important mission that is being carried out in creative and meaningful ways across the globe. One of the best places to start is in our own backyards. If everyone is conscience of, and responsible for, their actions the total impact will be greater than any one project. Being good stewards is a hallmark of garden clubs everywhere.

Sandra M Robinson

NGC Mission Statement

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.



Nurturing the Young

MSU Children's Garden

Autumn in Michigan is a beautiful season of year. The foliage of trees, plants, shrubs, and grasses can fill a color palette and create a masterful piece of art. The images are multiplied many times over by the landscape reflections in the state's nearly 63,000 inland lakes.

Within its two peninsulas, Michigan has hundreds of public and private horticultural gardens providing additional palette-pleasers. The writer recently toured the Michigan State University's campus and headed toward its horticultural educational gardens.

MSU's W.J. Beal Botanical Gardens is ranked in the top "50 Most Amazing University Botanical Gardens and Arboreturns in the U.S." according to Best Colleges On Line. To be recognized in the elite group, the editors considered how well the landscaping is maintained and manicured, in addition to serving as "environmental stewards, outdoor classrooms, and living laboratories."

MSU is one of the original Land Grant Colleges, dating to 1863. Ten years later, William James Beal established the gardens named in his honor for the study and appreciation of nature and plants. It's recognized as the oldest continually operated university botanical garden of its kind in the nation.

On the other side of the beautiful MSU campus is the 14-acre MSU Horticultural Gardens. This includes the ever popular 4-H Chil-



dren's Garden, Annual Trial Gardens, Perennial Gardens, and much more. Over 2,000 different types of flowers and other plants are on display. Visitors will appreciate new garden design ideas, learn about new annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees and what's new in fruits and vegetables.





This past year has been historic! Smokey Bear celebrated his 70th birthday as the national icon for wildfire prevention, and I celebrated my second year working as the National Chairman for this wonderful contest. What an honor it has been! Many thanks go out to all of the state and regional chairmen who got the word out about the contest and helped promote poster entries. Your hard work has really paid off as our total number of participants reached a record high of 33,797. Speaking of hard work, every year we recognize the region and state with the highest number of poster entries. This year, South Atlantic Region won with a total of 1,441 entries. Virginia was the winning state with a total of 1,283 entries. Congratulations go to State and Regional SBWO Poster Contest Chairman, Barbara S. Ohmsen, for all of her dedication and hard work. Way to go, Barbara!

This year's National winners by grade level are:

- ◆1st Grade — **Molly Hutton**, sponsored by the Hill and Dale Garden Club, Tennessee
- ◆2nd Grade — **Laasya Yalaverthy**, sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club
- ◆3rd Grade — **Spencer Morga**, sponsored by the West Valley Garden Club, California

The Grand Prize Ceremony at the U.S. Forest Service Headquarters, in Washington, D.C. (from left): Smokey; Jennifer Moreno, NGC Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman; Audry Morga, the Grand Prize winner; Tom Tidwell, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; and Woodsy Owl.



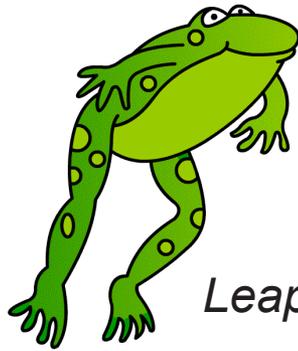
♦4th Grade — **Ryan Bollimpolli**, sponsored by the Scottsdale Garden Club, Arizona

♦5th Grade — **Audry Morga**, sponsored by the West Valley Garden Club, California

The National Grand Prize winning poster was submitted by 5th grade student **Audry Morga**, whose artwork, depicting Woodsy Owl, is both beautiful and educational. Audry comes from a family of talented artists as is evident by her brother's poster, which also won nationally at the 3rd grade level. Congratulations to Audry, and to all of the winners!

As we look ahead to next year's contest, please help us spread the words of Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl: **Only You Can Prevent Wildfires! Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!**

—**Jennifer Moreno**, *NGC Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman*



Leap Into Leadership!

By Robin Pokorski, Head Leaper

One leg (frog's leg, that is) of the President's Project is "Leap Into Leadership!" President Sandy has asked that our team (Leapers) assemble, develop, and share leadership materials for our clubs and members. Some of these materials are already available on our website page—www.gardenclub.org/projects/presidents-projects/leap-into-leadership. As more materials become available they will be categorized by topic, but our team wanted to get you started. Use the materials that apply and appeal to you and your club, district, or state. Share the materials with anyone who might benefit from them.

If you have materials, handouts, or brochures that are used in your state, please share them with all of us. Send to me (RobinP@juno.com) and our team will review them for possible inclusion.

What questions do you have? What problems might the Leapers address for you and share with everyone? Send your questions to our team. We'll answer them if we can or find an expert that can.

The future of our clubs and state organizations depends on developing the abilities and enthusiasm of those who will follow us and will lead us into tomorrow. Together, let's give them every chance of success! Let's help them "Leap Into Leadership!"

—**Robin Pokorski**, *NGC Leap Into Leadership Chairman*

2015-2017 NGC Youth Contests

NGC Essay Contest

2015-2016 Theme
"Don't Let the Frogs Croak"
2016-2017 Theme
"We Need Our Pollinators"

NGC Poetry Contest

2015-2016 Theme
"Croaking Leaping Frogs"
2016-2017 Theme
"We Three: Bees,
Butterflies, and Me"

Youth Sculpture Contest

Encouraging Youth to
Keep Our Planet Green

High School Distinguished Service Project

Complete information for each contest is available on our website at: www.gardenclub.org/youth/youth-contests.aspx

Bee a Wildlife Action Hero

Commit to Garden for Wildlife™



What vision do you have when you hear the words “Wildlife Habitat?” Do you wonder why that’s even part of our organization?

“Wildlife” traditionally referred to non-domesticated animal species, but according to Wikipedia has come to include “all plants, fungi and other organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans.” We worry about some of our past gardening practices and what serious impacts they have had on our land and waterways, AND our wildlife! We **KNOW** that chemicals that we have used in our gardens alter how children develop and lead to life-long effects, cause our pets to be at twice the risk of developing malignant cancer, reduce the hatching success and cause birth defects in our birds, and harm our earthworms and our beneficial insects and pollinators. We **KNOW** that runoff from rain and watering further contaminates our groundwater and watersheds. We **KNOW** that native habitats are decreasing at an alarming rate.

We not only have the obligation to ourselves to have a beautiful yard and garden that our friends and neighbors LOVE to visit—one of which we are proud, with specimens that win those coveted blue ribbons—but we also have an obligation to our wildlife to protect their environment and increase their habitat so that they can thrive and prosper, as well!

We are asking you to “**Bee a Wildlife Action Hero!**” Ask **ALL** of your clubs, members, and friends to “Commit to Garden for

Wildlife” and show them the way—not only in your own backyards, but in your public places, and with your Junior Gardeners at their homes and schools! Practice sustainable gardening, and provide food, water, cover, and a place for our wildlife and pollinators to raise their young.

These are exciting times where our members **CAN AND WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD!** Join Us as National Garden Clubs, Inc. members “**LEAP INTO ACTION!**”

Certificates of Participation will be given for each award application. Significant monetary awards are available. Award rules, special application form, and commitment validation forms are available on the website under Presidents’ Projects, “Service in Action,” Sections 4 and 5. Send application, with commitments, to **Bee a Wildlife Action Hero!** Chairman **Becky Hassebroek**, 518 Slater Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99701-3443; phone: 907-456-3066; cell: 907-590-7895; beckyhase@aol.com.

TNG Online

The National Gardener is now available to members on the NGC website: www.gardenclub.org

Member Login

Username = member
Password = flight

Gardening Study Schools



ardening Study Schools are implementing NGC President Sandy Robinson's call to "Leap Into Action," with education being the key. More states are initiating first-time Gardening Study Schools. Where there is not yet a GS school being planned, West Virginia Garden Clubs, Inc., for example, will be listing on their website and newsletter GS schools in neighboring states. For the first time Nebraska has a GS school and has completed Course I and II. Here is what Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska President Charlotte Swanson has to say: "Though I am only half-way finished with the gardening study school, I can already heartily recommend it to any gardener who wants to sharpen their gardening skills, add to the depth of their horticultural understanding, and engage with other gardeners in a friendly social setting that encourages an exchange of knowledge and fosters questions common to gardeners."

Gardening Study Schools chairmen are being encouraged to include related topics that provide more information about NGC's vision and direction for 2015-17. These would include subjects such as Reconciliation Ecology (the science of inventing, establishing, and maintaining new habitats in places where people live, work, and play), and creating backyard habitats to help endangered species, such as pollinators and amphibians. Please read the article, "Reconciliation Ecology," on page 29 in this issue.

Also note that the new revisions to the GSS Curriculum are now available on the NGC website and at NGC Headquarters. And school chairmen no longer need to handprint information on our GSS forms. The interactive forms are available on our GSS NGC website and can now be typed and sent electronically as attachments.

—**Barbara Hadsell**, NGC GSS Chairman
barbarahadsell@cs.com

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NGC Calendar

Conventions

- 2016 Grand Rapids, Michigan
May 2-6
- 2017 Richmond, Virginia
May 18-20 (Installation year)
- 2018 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
May 21-24
- 2019 Biloxi, Mississippi
April 30-May 4 (Installation year)

Fall Board Meetings

- 2016 Portland, Maine
September 19-25
- 2017 St. Louis, Missouri
- 2018 Orlando, Florida
- 2019 St. Louis, Missouri
- 2020 North Carolina

Endangered Karner Blue Butterflies

Concord, New Hampshire
June 2015

My husband, Nat, and I have been visiting the Karner Blue Butterfly Sanctuary, in Concord, New Hampshire, every spring for the past couple of years in hopes of seeing the federally endangered Karner Blue butterfly, whose only larval (caterpillar) food source is the native wild lupine, *Lupinus perennis*. This year we got lucky.

June 2, 2015, was a hot, sunny day. The lupines were at peak bloom, and the Karner Blues were all over them, perching in the nearby grasses and on the pine straw. Whenever we moved, they were invisible. When we held still, they soon settled into patrolling and mating behavior. The males and females look quite different when their wings are open—she is dark with those lovely bands of orange, and he is bright cerulean blue. With wings closed they look very much like the Eastern Tailed Blue.

The Karner Blue Butterfly Sanctuary is home to the only remaining population in New Hampshire of the Karner Blues—*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*—the New Hampshire state butterfly. This 300-acre sanctuary is the remnant of a once extensive pine barren that covered most of the middle part of New Hampshire. Here in the pine barren, sun abounds and the soil is sandy. It is the perfect habitat for the native lupine replete with abundant growth of low-bush blueberries, scrub oaks, shrubby low-growing woody and herbaceous plants, grasses, and sedges.

There are plenty of flowers available for the butterflies to nectar on in this isolated habitat. The berms and swales of the open areas in this pine barren are edged with pines.

The sanctuary is surrounded by corporate headquarters, fast-food emporiums and houses. Until 20 years ago, areas like this pine barren (and similar savannah areas) were prevalent all across the 12 northern states,¹ serving as home to thousands of these tiny (one-inch wingspan) blue butterflies. Their current population (and habitat) is 99% diminished by ongoing development and environmental factors such as pesticide spraying.²

As the encroaching forest spreads into the remaining open spaces within these pine barrens and savannahs, the lupine are shaded out by the competing plants. “Aggressive exotic plant species may pose a threat by out competing other plant species required by the Karner Blue Butterfly





Concord, New Hampshire, Pine Barrens

as nectar sources.”³ Wildfires, grazing, regular burnings, and seasonal mowing used to keep these areas open, but now the corridors of habitat have closed in and the lupines have all but disappeared.⁴ As the lupine have disappeared, so have the Karner Blues who depend on them as their exclusive larval food source.⁵

New Hampshire Conservation groups are attempting to restore the Karner Blue population in this one remaining site. Working with school children and not-for profit organizations,⁶ the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department is maintaining and restoring the habitat; mowing, raising and planting the native lupines; and rearing and releasing Karner Blues from the eggs collected in the Sanctuary. It is my understanding that in addition to the removal of exotic plants, they have a controlled burn program and an extensive program to reintroduce appropriate native plants that can supply nectar for these butterflies.⁷

In New Hampshire, the Karner Blue has two generations—emerging first from the egg in mid-May to early June. The caterpillar—allegedly a green blob-shaped creature, feeds exclusively on lupine foliage, scraping the surface to make windowpanes. It forms its chrysalis and then emerges as a tiny blue butterfly, nectaring on the many wildflowers in bloom in the Pine Barrens at that time. The butterfly mate, lays eggs on the lupine, and then die after a few days. Within the week, the egg will hatch and

the second brood of caterpillars will emerge to feed on the lupine for two or three weeks, repeating the cycle to become a butterfly. This adult butterfly nectars on the flowers in bloom at that later time in the summer. This second group of adults lay eggs on the dried seed pods and stems of the lupine. The eggs overwinter and hatch the following spring. According to USFW, the butterfly needs 80 days of snow pack to insulate its eggs.

I have yet to see the caterpillars, or the eggs. Yet according the New Hampshire Fish & Game: “The efforts

[to maintain and restore the habitat in the Karner Blue Sanctuary] appear to be paying off. It is ...estimated that more than 2,600 Karner Blues now exist in the wild ...and it has been observed ...that the butterflies are reproducing in the wild, ...in the [Concord, New Hampshire,] Pine Barrens.”

—**Arabella Dane**, *NGC Monarch Watch Advisor*

References: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karner_blue; <http://www.zoonewengland.org/protect/here-in-new-england/karner-blue-butterfly#sthash.d26kLumT.dpuf>
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Endangered Species: Wild Lupine and Karner Blue Butterflies by Kim Mitchell and Cathy Carnes;
 Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan US Fish & Wildlife Sept 2003

¹Wild Lupine & Karner Blue Butterflies Kim Mitchell & Cathy Caines USFW Endangered Species

²Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan U.S. Fish & Wildlife Sept. 2003 p. 58

³Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan U.S. Fish & Wildlife Sept. 2003 p.61

⁴Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan U.S. Fish & Wildlife Sept. 2003 page 11

⁵Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan U.S. Fish & Wildlife Sept. 2003 Appendix D-43-52. (pages -197-203) for listing of at-risk plants and animals indigenous to these Karner Blue pine barrens and savannah habitat.

⁶“**Kids For Karners**” started in 2000 as a way to engage area school children in the Karner Blue Butterfly and Concord Pine Barrens project. Every winter, biologists go into classrooms where they talk to kids from pre-K up through high school age about the project. The students then plant wild lupine seeds and take care of the plants until May when they come to the Concord Pine Barrens to plant their wild lupine plants. In some years, students also try growing other essential nectar plants such as New Jersey tea and blunt-leaved milkweed.

High school students have also helped by cutting and piling brush and planting wild lupine and other plants at a nearby business. The New England Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Collaborative, a conservation group initiated by Roger Williams Park Zoo, began volunteering in 2000. This group has helped to grow wild lupine and plant it in the Concord Pine Barrens, volunteered in the captive rearing lab and in the field to cut brush, pick wild lupine seed, and help with trail work.

⁷Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan U.S. Fish & Wildlife Sept. 2003 listing of requisite nectar plants on p. 192

Book Reviews

Linda Jean Smith

NGC Book Review Chairman

***Home Grown Tea: An Illustrated Guide to Planting, Harvesting, and Blending Teas and Tisanes* by Cassie Liversidge, St. Martin's Griffin, New York, 2014. Paperback, 288 pp., ISBN-13: 978-1250039415 \$23.99.**

Author and British gardener, Cassie Liversidge grew up on her parent's plant nursery.

Before beginning my review, I have to acknowledge that I have never been a coffee drinker, but love tea, so this book was a fascinating read for me.

The book is divided into five sections. Each section talks about what tea can be made from a specific part of the plant. The first section, "Leaves," discusses the tea plant and the basic types of tea—white, green, and black.

Teas are only those that come from the *Camellia sinensis* plant. Concoctions made from other plants—lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), bergamot (*Citrus bergamia*), hyssop (*Hyssopus officinalis*)—are called tisanes.

A "Quick Plant Reference Chart" at the back of the book gives information on growing some of the plants listed in the book that are used to create tisanes. The chart gives basic information on sun or shade, height, hardiness and difficulty in growing. In a description of a plant, the author includes some history of the plant and how to grow and harvest it, but also includes medicinal benefits and how to make a tea with it. Each description also includes colored boxes with fun facts and tips. For example, under "Flowers—Calendula," the author says, "Spiritualist believed that calendula petals placed under your pillow would make your dreams come true." You might want to try this.

Teas are not always a single plant,

but may be blended for a different taste. Earl Grey tea is just such a blend.

The Earl Grey blend is named after Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey and British Prime Minister (1830-1834). According to the Grey family, the tea was specially blended by a Chinese mandarin for Lord Grey, to suit the brackish water at Howick Hall, the family seat in Northumberland, using bergamot, in particular, to offset the preponderance of lime in the local water.

In many sections the author gives ideas of what could be blended with a plant tisane to create a different taste. For example, if making a tea from sweet tea vine, you could add jasmine flowers for a possible anti-aging tea by putting two pinches of sweet tea vine to one pinch of jasmine flower and steep.

Lots of wonderful photos add to the enjoyment of the book, and drawings give you a visual of the plant being written about. If you love herbs or tea or both, this book makes an interesting read and might even inspire you to try growing and making your own tea.



HOMEGROWN TEA

An Illustrated Guide to Planting, Harvesting,
and Blending Teas and Tisanes

CASSIE LIVERSIDGE

All the Garden's a Stage

*Choosing the Best Performing
Plants for a Sustainable Garden*

Jane C. Gates

 Schiffer

***All the Garden's a Stage: Choosing the Best Performing Plants for a Sustainable Garden* by Jane C. Gates, Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2012. Large paperback, 144 pp., ISBN: 978-0764339790, \$29.99.**

 Jane Gates is an award-winning landscape designer, garden expert, speaker, painter, and illustrator. She lives in Los Angeles and has a landscape design business, Gates and Croft Horticultural Design.

Ms. Gates' philosophy is that, "you can create your own successful garden version of a Broadway play by making sure you set the stage properly. However, you need to understand the cast of plant characters you plan to use in your landscape so you audition and choose the right players." This book sets out to explain how to accomplish that play.

The book is divided into two sections. Section One is entitled "Plant Growth for

Different Character Roles," and has four chapters. Chapter one is "Basic Plant Needs," and it concludes: "Use the [basic needs] information as cheat notes as you look through the hopefuls lined up to audition for your garden. It will be much easier to maintain a successful landscape comprised of well-matched performers than to try to change the major conditions of your environment to support inappropriate plant choices."

Chapter two is "Bringing the Characters Together," and discusses moisture mavens, forest dwellers, tropical beauties, country cousins — names for types of plants and what they need. As Ms. Gates puts it, "The biggest trick to keeping your plants happy is to find out where they originally grew naturally and give them conditions that mimic their home environment."

Chapter three, "The Show Must Go On," looks at where you want to put your plants and what is available, with special sections on "making maintenance easy" and "sustainable landscaping." Chapter four, "Putting Together the Show (Garden)," is basic landscaping.

Section Two, "Introducing The Cast," gets in to botanical and common names and includes a reference section. Ms. Gates does not give USDA Zones for the plants. Her reasoning is: "Although the USDA zones are extremely helpful in identifying which garden plants do best where, they take into consideration mainly air temperature. The point of this book is to help you look at growing plants as part of a whole ecology rather than memorizing lists and numbers."

This last sentence pretty well sums up what you will get from this book. With its 293 color images, it is a beautiful book with lots of information, understandable by the beginning gardener or the experienced one. If you are also into landscape design and environmental concerns, the book combines the three skills to develop a garden for anywhere in the country.

NGC and the Center for Plant Conservation

The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), founded in 1984, is dedicated solely to preventing the extinction of America's imperiled native flora and restoring vigorous populations to the wild. Headquartered at the Missouri Botanical Garden, in St. Louis, the CPC is a non-profit organization with an independent board of trustees that coordinates a network of America's leading botanical institutions working hands-on for plant conservation. By conducting imperiled native plant research, propagation and information exchange, the CPC's network is striving to save America's rarest plants from being lost forever.

Four percent of the flora of the United States, 961 species, are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act or qualify for listing. These species may be lost in the immediate future if intervention is not taken. Currently 4,200, or 16 percent, of our 26,000 native taxa are considered of conservation concern, according to NatureServe. Many rare plants are potentially useful to agriculture, forestry or pharmaceutical research. Others are of scientific interest or simply possess great natural beauty. The CPC's goal is to save and restore these natural native treasures before they are lost forever.

Above: Rock and Shoals Outcrop Natural Area; at right: The tiny endangered *Diamorpha smallii*, Elf Orpine, Small's Stonecrop.

Promoting awareness of the collaborative efforts of CPC and its partners to protect the imperiled plants of the U.S., their at-risk habitats, and their isolated ecosystems, is an important part of National Garden Club's Conservation agenda. To that end, as NGC liaison to CPC and a CPC board member, I will do my best to share all relevant printed materials and online information, to highlight imperiled habitats





Above: *Atlanta Botanic Garden with native *Sarracenia* species in the foreground. At right:* *Torreya taxifolia*, a rare and endangered tree of the Yew family.



and showcase efforts to preserve them, with regular articles and pictures.

The Center for Plant Conservation held its annual meeting, April 17-19, 2015, in Athens, Georgia, where it showcased the phenomenal plant diversity of the Southeastern U.S., with special emphasis on this region's threatened and endangered plants.

Scientists from participating institutions shared progress reports on their conservation projects and their concerns for the survival of these vulnerable plant communities, which serve as habitat for many unique creatures.

Global Warming was a hot topic of discussion. Projections that by the year 2050 New Hampshire will have the climate of Georgia, may seem not "all bad" to those of us who endured the brutal winter of 2015, but it certainly does not bode well for any of us or for our North American Flora, especially high-risk ecosystems that require specific temperatures for survival, such as the ones found in isolated areas across the Southeastern States.

We visited Rock and Shoals Outcrop Natural Area, in Athens, Georgia, an extreme, and isolated, ecosystem, where plants cling to tiny amounts of grit soil and gravel that overlay a granite dome. When it rains, these plants are awash and then extremely dry and hot alternatively.

Several endangered plants call this hostile environment home, including the tiny endangered *Di-amorpha smallii*, Elf Orpine, Small's Stonecrop.

We toured the University of Georgia's native plant nursery and viewed their successful efforts to grow several species endangered in Georgia, such as the *Trillium reliquum*, as well viewing their new initiative—a collaborative effort to reintroduce Georgia prairie

plants on land owned by the Georgia Power Company.

Our meeting ended with a trip to the Atlanta Botanical Garden, where we spent considerable time in the native plant propagation areas where work continues on the propagating and reintroduction of various endangered plants, such as the *Sarracenia rubra subsp.jonesii* and the *Torreya taxifolia* plants into their original, or otherwise appropriate, habitat.

—**Arabella Dane**, *NGC Center for Plant Conservation Liaison*, arabellasd@aol.com

Judges' Council

True Creativity!

Few Flower Shows in your area? Help create them! Because Flower Show Judges are seasoned veterans and enjoy the benefits of belonging to a Judges' Council where they constantly learn, shouldn't they share some of the knowledge with those who would like to become one of them?

How about holding a "Flower Show Seminar" sponsored by the Council? The brochure could read:

*When was your last flower show?
Need help with the schedule?
Can't afford staging?
Don't know where to start?*

Information on the Seminar could be published in your state's monthly bulletin inviting all who are interested to attend. All phases of flower shows would be covered, as time allows, with Q&As following each presentation.

"Writing a creative schedule"; "Staging, old and new"; "Top Awards and others"; "Judges: Care and Handling"; "Skillful Clerking"; and "Evaluation"; are suggested topics.

A Small or Miniature Show demonstration could be included, as well as a discussion of Recommended Divisions.

Asking for volunteer judges to fill the various slots shouldn't be difficult, as they may choose the topic for which they are most qualified. You may have two speakers for the schedule: one for Design/one for Horticulture; and two for staging in the same way. Up to ten speakers, keeping each idea fresh, would create more interest, but if you have a small Council, of course you can do it with fewer.

As part of the presentation, offer a beverage, while suggesting that the attendees bring a lunch. Lunch breaks are often wonderful opportunities for discussion.

Registration must be in advance to assure space, but the fee should be at a minimum

to cover only the costs of hall and beverage. The schedule would be set loosely, allowing each speaker fifteen to twenty minutes. Try it! You may find you've encouraged new students to attend Flower Show School and start their first flower shows. YOU CAN DO IT.

—Anne Tiffany, *NGC FSS Judges' Council*

Fall Garden Cleanup Tips

As gardeners, we never want the gardening season to come to an end. But, in most of North America, we must welcome the coming cold months by preparing our gardens for winter. Follow the tips below for a few good basic steps in preparing your beloved garden for the coming chill:

- Dig up tender bulbs for storage until next year.
- As perennials quit blooming or die back, trim the dead foliage. You can compost the healthy trimmings to continue the cycle of nature.
- But, some perennials, if left alone, look great as winter interest and/or provide winter food for wildlife.
- Clean away any and all diseased plants and dropped leaves. It will make next year's gardening that much easier.
- If you live in an area with cold winters but not much snow as protection, mulching in the fall will protect your plant investments.
- Vegetable gardens are best completely cleared up to prevent any disease or pest overwintering.
- Move your indoor foliage plants back inside before even the first light frost.
- And, don't forget your gardening tools. A thorough cleaning and sharpening now will save valuable time next spring.

—National Garden Bureau, *ngb.org*

Ten Great Pollinator Plants

● **Coneflower**, *Echinacea spp.*, perennial: Bumblebees are frequent visitors to coneflowers, as well as plenty of other pollinators, including honeybees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies. Plant coneflowers in full sun. Birds love the seeds.

● **Milkweed**, *Asclepias spp.*, perennial and annual: Milkweed is both a nectar source for the Monarch butterfly, and a food source for its larvae. It attracts other pollinators as well, including buckeyes, bumblebees, Fritillaries, and Swallowtails. It prefers moist soils.

● **Zinnia**, *Zinnia spp.*, annual: Plant zinnias and you will have bumblebees. You will also have Swallowtails, Monarchs, Painted Ladies, and many other butterflies. Among the easiest flowers to grow from seed.

● **Bee balm**, *Monarda spp.*, perennial: Bee balm's nectar-rich flowers are pollinated by bumblebees, honeybees, and butterflies. They also attract hummingbirds to the garden.

● **Oregano**, *Origanum spp.*, perennial: Oregano is representative of mint family plants in that it is both edible and ecologically beneficial. Honeybees and bee-mimicking flies are attracted to its blooms, if you allow it to flower.

● **Black-eyed Susan**, *Rudbeckia spp.*, perennial and annual: Black-eyed Susans are beautiful in the meadow or in the garden. Give them full sun and well-drained soil, and they'll attract pollinators galore to your garden.

● **Cilantro**, *Coriandrum sativum*, annual: Honeybees, syrphid flies, parasitic wasps, and tachinid flies are frequent visitors to cilantro's lacy white umbels. In hot summer regions, plant a second crop in summer to provide late-season nectar for pollinators.

● **Sunflower**, *Helianthus spp.*, annual and perennial: The sunflower head is the party place of the garden, often occupied by multiple species of bees, wasps, beetles, and flies. Plant annual sunflowers in a new spot every year to keep them healthy and full of life.

● **Cosmos**, *Cosmos spp.*, annual: This pollinator-friendly flower is one of the easiest to grow from seed, sprinkled directly in the garden. Plant it alongside vegetables, where it will attract beneficial insects such as lacewings and pirate bugs.

● **Sweet Alyssum**, *Lobularia maritima*, annual: Sweet alyssum is known for attracting syrphid flies, whose larvae consume aphids. Other tiny flies, wasps, and many types of bees are attracted to the low-growing, scented flowers as well.

—ezfromseed.org

Spring Symposium

April 3 – 5, 2016

SW Florida "Destination Event"

Embassy Suites, Estero

Near 'world-class' Miramar Outlets, Coconut Point Mall, Naples Botanical Garden, Edison-Ford Estates, two of the top-ranked beaches in the country, and much, much more to see & do!

Stay for Super Shopping, after....

Multi-Rhythm & Creative Abstract

with Claudia Bates

Philodendrons and Branching Out

with David Robson

All-Purpose Palms

with Kathleen Hawryluk

Chairman:

Terry Pinck, terry.pinck@gmail.com

Registrar:

Glenda Dawson,

ldawson3@tampabay.rr.com

NGC Welcomes New Affiliate Members

After approval at the May Board of Directors meeting, in Louisville, Kentucky, National Garden Clubs welcomes four new affiliate members. The association between NGC and these notable organizations provides an invaluable opportunity for sharing information and networking among like-minded groups.

Support the growth of our Affiliate Members by promoting NGC, Inc. in your area.

To suggest prospective Affiliate Members, contact **Betsy Steele**: JLS5@truvista.net; 803-804-6261.

2015 New Affiliate Members

- ◆ National Wildlife Federation, Virginia
- ◆ Moore Farms Botanical Farms, South Carolina
- ◆ Center For Plant Conservation, St. Louis, Missouri
- ◆ American Horticulture Society, Virginia

International Affiliate News

rchbishop of Guatemala Oscar Julio Vian Morales called on Club Jardin de Guatemala to decorate the Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint James with a Flower Show for the week-long celebration of the cathedral's 200th anniversary. Club Jardin de Guatemala and its affiliate, Florali, shared the invitation, calling upon the other NGC Affiliate Garden Clubs of Guatemala to take part in this historic celebration.

The results were outstanding. The Horticulture Division was staged in a building adjacent to the Cathedral, a school that also houses the Cathedral's museum. The building had a traditional Spanish open court and all classrooms and the four hallways served as a perfect stage to showcase the extraordinary Guatemalan flora, represented by three hundred exhibited horticultural specimens. In one of the classrooms, three educational exhibits were staged, sharing the theme of "Native Plants used for Food and Medicine," including two multicolored collages made of dried flowers sent by members of the Club Jardin Tropical de Retalhuleu.

As one walked into the decorated Cathedral, the first sensation was the mixture of floral aromas. From the entrance narthex (an antechamber or large porch) to the sanctuary altar, decorative wreaths were exhibited on each of the cathedral's columns. The nave of the cathedral featured 60 floral designs ornamentally placed in individual architectural niches; altars and praying benches were adorned with flowers.

The sanctuary altar, which rises above the center of the cathedral, was the focal point and a floral statement, as the large circular Guatemalan marble cupola held by four tall columns had been completely covered with flowers. In the chancel, or backdrop to the altar, a tall circle of flowers, representing the

crown of thorns, repeated the circular form of the cupola.

NGC Judges included NGC President Sandy Robinson, NGC Second Vice-President Gay Austin, and International Liaison Idalia Aguilar. It was indeed a privilege to judge this educational, cultural, historical, and religious event. Gracias Guatemala.

—**Idalia de Aguilar**, NGC IA Liaison



At top: views of the sanctuary altar with the decorated cupola and the chancel in the background; above: exterior of Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint James.

How to Create a Pollinator Victory Garden

Winning the War Against Pollinator Decline

■ Plant for a succession of bloom from spring through fall. Different pollinator species emerge at different times of the year, and have different life spans. Create an ongoing "pollinator buffet" throughout the growing season.

■ Skip the double-flowered plants—they have little, and sometimes no, nectar or pollen. What is beautiful to the human eye may be a source of starvation for a bee or other pollinator. Find the beauty in what a plant does, not just how it looks.

■ Don't forget to include trees and shrubs in your landscape—pollinators need them. Many "woody" plants are important for pollinators, and not just those with showy blooms. Some early blooming native trees and shrubs can be a source of nectar or pollen to early emerging bees. Some trees even provide habitat to pollinators.

■ Emphasize native plants to support pollinators. Evolution matters! Native pollinators have evolved with native plants; some may depend upon a single type of plant. One example—Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweeds. Many native plants are good nectar and pollen sources for the European honey bee, too.

■ Plant a diverse array of plants with different flower shapes, sizes, and colors. Different pollinators are attracted to different plant characteristics. And, a pollinator's tongue length, body size, and shape will determine what flowers it can use. A plant with long, tubular flowers can be accessed by long-tongued bees, but will not be useful to short-tongued bees, such as honey bees.

■ Maximize floral targets for pollinators. Make it easier for pollinators to find flowers—plant a sizable target of a single plant species or repeat the plant throughout your landscape. Some pollinators will only use a single plant species during a foraging trip—make sure they don't go hungry!

■ Provide nesting sites for pollinators in your landscape. 70% of native bee species nest in the ground and need bare soil in a sunny spot—dedicate small areas for these ground-nesting bees. Accommodate the other 30% of bees that nest in old mouse holes, tree cavities, pithy plant stems, dead trees, etc.

■ Eliminate chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides. Chemical pesticides are often very deadly to pollinators. Even some organic products can be lethal. Skip the "secret sauce" and attract beneficial insects, nature's pest control, to your garden with native plants.

■ Reduce or eliminate "The Green Desert" (your lawn). Figure out how much lawn you really need and lose the rest—it's an ecological wasteland for pollinators. Replace lawn with flowering perennials, trees, and shrubs.

■ Add a pollinator habitat sign to your landscape. Help raise awareness about the importance of pollinators and make a point of showing off your Pollinator Victory Garden to family, friends, and neighbors.

—Kim Eierman is an environmental horticulturist; www.ecobeneficial.com/



NGC Schools News

With the new 2015-2017 garden club term there are some new schools chairmen at the state, region, and national levels. Information is posted on the NGC website under Forms for each school.

Interactive forms for all schools and for multiple refreshers are available on the website. All are asked to use these forms (type information onto them). Save and send these as pdf documents, not as jpgs. Transmit these by email whenever possible to save time and money. If you have problems typing on, or saving, the forms, you probably do not have the latest edition of Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available as a free download.

We continue to encourage club presidents, district directors, state presidents and state, and local schools chairmen to **know who your Consultants are**, to congratulate them for achievement of this status and to invite them to use their NGC education in your meetings, programs, and special events. Many club, district, and state yearbooks list local Consultants. Make sure that information is kept up-to-date. Encourage Consultants to refresh and maintain their credentials.

Member Services sells Environmental Consultant, Gardening Consultant, and Landscape Design **Consultant pins**, as well as 4-Star pins (indicating completion of all four NGC schools) and 5-Star pins (indicating achievement of Master status in all four NGC schools). At the NGC website (gardenclub.org), go to: *Shop Online*, then to: *NGC Official Jewelry*.



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' Tri-Council has created **Tri-Consultant pins** for its members who have completed Environmental Studies, Gardening Study, and Landscape Design Schools, and Tri-Consultant Master pins for their members who have achieved Master status in each of these schools. This may be an idea for other states and councils to consider. This is a way to recognize those Consultants (there are many) who complete these three schools, but who have not attended or completed Flower Show

School and are therefore ineligible to wear 4-Star or 5-Star pins.

Reminders for Students and Consultants

- Once you begin a school series, you must **complete all four courses within seven years** in order to achieve Consultant status. Keep a record of courses taken.
- Once you become a Consultant, you must **refresh your credentials by the**

end of the fifth calendar year to remain in good standing. Keep a record of refreshers taken. You may refresh as often as once per calendar year per school. Don't wait until the last minute to refresh.

- If you receive an **extension** to complete courses or to refresh, it is valid to the end of the next calendar year.
- Once you complete four refreshers in one school, you become a **Master Consultant** in that school.
- Once you become a Master Consultant, you can receive **simultaneous refresher credits** (in a Multiple Refresher) for all schools for which you have Master Consultant status. Once a Master Consultant, you are also eligible for Emeritus status (which means you never have to lapse).

Reminders for State Schools Chairmen

- **Continuity and transition of information and records** from one administration to the next is essential for Schools Chairmen to be able to perform their duties. Mentor your successor. Seek background and advice from your predecessor.
- **Read the directions** in the *Handbook*/operations guidelines for each school and in the Multiple Refresher instructions and forms.
- There are **no time requirements between school courses**.
- **Proof of subscription to *The National Gardener* is no longer required** for a student to become a Consultant or for a Consultant to refresh.
- Provide students and Consultants with the **brochures detailing school requirements** (ESS Brochure, GSS Form 05-21, and LDS 16—all available on the website).
- **Keep students and Consultants informed** of their school status and about upcoming courses and refreshers.
- **See the Flower Show Schools article on pages 33-34 of the Summer 2015 issue of TNG.** The steps for planning a successful flower show are generally applicable to conducting a successful NGC school.

Is your Consultant status due to lapse December 31, 2015? If you have no further opportunity to refresh this year, request an **extension of time to refresh** from your State Schools Chairman. State Chairmen should be sure to handle according to the appropriate Schools *Handbook*, forwarding the form to the appropriate NGC Chairman on a timely basis. We don't want to see retroactive extension requests after the first of the year. And **we don't want to lose you as a Consultant!**

Multiple Refreshers Chairman Lana Finegold reports that we have already registered nine Multiple Refreshers this year—as many as last year. Southern California Garden Club is partnering with California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to present a Tri-Refresher in October. CNPS is providing the instructors and handouts in a prototype program that can be given all over the state. This partnering minimizes the administrative work required of garden club members.

“Leap into Action.” Now is the time to be planning Schools and Refreshers for 2016. Incorporate elements of the President's Special Project for 2015-2017, **Service in Action**, into your school plans. Where possible, include instruction and information about the role and conservation of bio-indicator amphibians and pollinators (including bees and butterflies). And nurture each other as you seek to develop and encourage garden club members who are leading and who will lead our NGC school programs throughout all of NGC.

—**Greg Pokorski, ES, GS, and LD Schools Coordinator, GregPokorski@earthlink.net**

2015-2017 NGC Awards Information

Complete information and applications for the 2015-2017 NGC Awards can be found on the **Awards** site at: gardenclub.org

CFAA

Presents

Outstanding International Designers

Marisa Bergagnini – Canada

&

Paola Scoccimarro – Italy



Marisa Bergagnini



Paola Scoccimarro

Marisa Bergagnini, President of the Garden Clubs of Ontario, of Italian descent, is an Accredited Design and Horticultural Judge. A teacher and demonstrator, she has won many prestigious awards including the Founders Gold Cup at Canada Blooms and Horticultural Excellence in a Design from the Royal Horticultural Society. One of 4 international designers who presented at the USA WAPA show in Boston, she won a Gold Medal at the WAPA (World Association of Flower Arrangers) Show.

Ms. Bergagnini will be joined by Paola Scoccimarro from Genoa, Italy, who has attained the degree of Floral Art Professor from IIDEA (Istituto Italiano Decorazione Fiorante per Artisti). A published top-award-winning designer, she has given demonstrations and workshops in Canada, Ireland, France, USA, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, and Japan.

Additional outstanding designers:

Chieko Mihari – Sagaya Ikebana Teacher of the highest rank, Riji, received "The Order of the Rising Sun Gold-Silver Expo" from the Emperor of Japan.

Margaret Taylor – published in the New Zealand Floral Design – from Toronto, Canada.

Judith Davies – NGC Design Instructor, published in the *Visions of Beauty Calendar*.

Christa Bates – NGC Design Instructor, published in the *Visions of Beauty Calendar*.

Robbie Lingard – Chelsea Award winner, authored CDs on *The History of Floral Design*.

Donna Morrissey – NGC Master Judge, an originator, Boston *Art in Bloom Road Show*.

Visit <http://cfaa.org/seminar.html> or contact Maureen Tuber (407) 989-1461

for registration forms, membership and seminar information.

Seminar open only to CFAA members

Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas

Invites you to attend the

CFAA 2016 SEMINAR

February 25th—28th, 2016

At the Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside, Orlando, FL

International Designers *Marisa Bergagnini & Paola Scoccimarro*

With presentations by: *Chieko Mihori, Margaret Taylor,*

Jackie Davies, Claudia Bates, and Bobbie Lingard & Donna Morrissey

Register now and Experience 6 Fantastic Design Presentations

Participate in 8 Exciting Hands-On Workshops

60+ International Designers - International Designers - Fabulous Venues!

Thursday, February 25th

Marisa & Paola workshop – “Modern Design & Techniques” \$175

Friday, February 26th

Marisa & Paola workshop – “Asian Latest Trends” \$175

Donna Morrissey workshop – “Modern Mix – Smart, Bold, Striking” \$75

Marisa & Paola workshop – “Unlimited Possibilities” \$175

Deirdre Green workshop – “Spin City” \$55

Margaret Taylor workshop – “Howl Fowl Bouquet with a Baroque Twist” \$75

Chieko Mihori – Design Presentation – “Sagehen School Challenge of Creativity”

Saturday, February 27th

Margaret Taylor – Design Presentation – “Snowbirds”

Bobbie Lingard & Donna Morrissey – Design Presentation – “Mixing Magic with Design Techniques”

Deirdre Green workshop – “Spin City” \$55

Margaret Taylor workshop – “Howl Fowl Bouquet with a Baroque Twist” \$75

Marisa & Paola – Design Presentation – “Flowers, Colors & Forms-Inspired Contemporary American Art”

Sunday, February 28th

Jackie Davies – Design Presentation – “Te Dahi! ... Where’s the Wow?”

Claudia Bates – Design Presentation – “Creative Design – My Eye Candy”

Registration begins October 1, 2015

Full Seminar Registration \$375 Includes 5 Meals

Saturday Only Registration \$175

***Advanced registration required for ALL workshops**

Visit <http://cfaa.org/seminar.html> or contact Marlene Tuber (407) 988-1461 for registration forms, membership and seminar information.

Seminar open only to CFAA members

Landscape Design Schools

The LDS Committee hopes the State Presidents and their LDS Chairmen are considering a “Leap Into Action” by planning a LDS Course or Refresher. What better way to promote intelligent environmentally friendly decisions in regard to the landscape for home or community. For the Special Interest topic, include lectures on landscapes that help bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Promote landscapes that support pollinator recovery.

Landscape Design Consultants and Master Consultants are reminded that they must refresh by the end of the fifth calendar year following the last Course or Refresher taken. Plan to refresh before the end of the fifth year. State LDS Chairmen maintain student and consultant records, but Consultants are responsible for being aware of their records and date of certification.

LD Courses are scheduled this fall and into 2016 in many of the states, as well as in Argentina. Why not attend a Course or Refresher in a neighboring state? Congratulations to those states that are already following the theme of NGC President Sandra Robinson.

The LDS forms are available on the NGC website. State LDS Chairmen are urged to follow the guidelines on these forms as to whom the forms must be sent. Early submission helps to expedite the setting up of Courses and Refreshers. The NGC LDS Committee Roster can be found on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org.

—Jane Bersch, NGC LDS Chairman

*I would rather sit
on a pumpkin,
and have it all
to myself, than
be crowded on a
velvet cushion.
~Henry David
Thoreau*



National Life Memberships

*Education Makes
the Difference*

Your choice of becoming a National Life Member demonstrates your commitment to the youth of our nation, and so to the world. Your gift of \$200 to become a life member is shared equally by the Scholarship Fund and the Permanent Home Endowment Fund.

What benefits does a recipient of NGC Life Membership receive?

The recipient receives a lifetime subscription to *The National Gardener*, may attend the National Life Member Banquet at all conventions, and the contribution is tax deductible. Most important of all, however, is the knowledge that they have helped to educate our youth.

Where does one find application forms for Life Membership?

Application forms may be obtained from National, Regional, or State Life Member Chairman, or by going to the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org

Who can receive a Life Membership?

A gift of a life membership may be given to any individual deserving an honor, such as a state or club president, a husband, a wife, someone in the community who shares our garden club interests, or treat yourself to a gift.

What awards are available?

During this administration two awards, funded by this chairman, will be presented at the National Life Membership Banquet.

1. \$100 for the State with the largest increase in National Life Members.
2. \$100 for the State with the largest Life Membership increase per capita.

—Alice DeSomma, NGC Life Members Chairman

*Autumn is the mellow season, and what we
lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.*

~Samuel Butler



Food and Habitats For Our Pollinators

Remember, as a member of a garden club we can certainly make a positive difference in our community, but as a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. we can make a significant difference in our world!

Let's show the nation that National Garden Clubs, Inc. deserves their recognition and that we can make a powerful difference!

Let's ALL provide food and habitat for our pollinators! And, let's ALL register them through our NGC Website so EVERYONE knows who we are and what we do.

Contact: **Becky Hassebroek**, Habitat Chairman, for more information;
beckyhasse@aol.com; 907-456-3066

Is not this a true autumn day? Just the still melancholy that I love—that makes life and nature harmonise. The birds are consulting about their migrations, the trees are putting on the hectic or the pallid hues of decay, and begin to strew the ground, that one's very footsteps may not disturb the repose of earth and air, while they give us a scent that is a perfect anodyne to the restless spirit. Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.

~George Eliot, 1841

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Ken Swartz - Sculptor
of Metal Floral Design
Containers for NGC
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Gathering Leaves

*Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.*

*I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer*

Running away.

But the mountains I raise

*Elude my embrace,
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.*

*I may load and unload
Again and again*

Till I fill the whole shed,

And what have I then?

Next to nothing for weight,

And since they grew duller

From contact with earth,

Next to nothing for color.

Next to nothing for use.

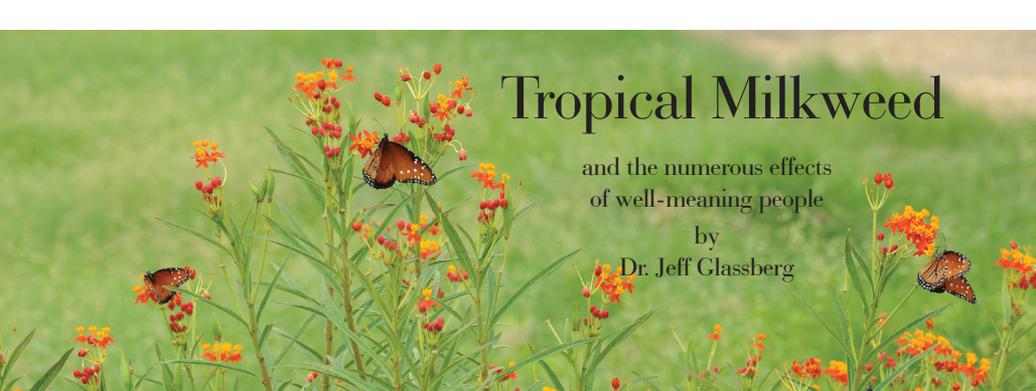
But a crop is a crop,

And who's to say where

The harvest shall stop?

~Robert Frost





Tropical Milkweed

and the numerous effects
of well-meaning people

by

Dr. Jeff Glassberg

Let's ask a question: Can well-meaning people sometimes make things worse?

Recently, a number of people involved with Monarch research and conservation published opinion pieces in which they claimed that people who were planting Tropical Milkweeds might be harming Monarchs. Predictably, many media outlets picked up on this story.

Here's a headline, along with part of the story, from the *Science* magazine website: **Plan to save monarch butterflies backfires**, by Lizzie Wade, 13 January 2015.

It started with the best of intentions. When evidence emerged that monarch butterflies were losing the milkweed they depend on due to the spread of herbicide-resistant crops in the United States, people across the country took action, planting milkweed in their own gardens. But a new paper shows that well-meaning gardeners might actually be endangering the butterflies' iconic migration to Mexico. That's because people have been planting the wrong species of milkweed, thereby increasing the odds of monarchs becoming infected with a crippling parasite.... Tropical milkweed is "trapping the butterflies" in these new winter breeding sites," says Lincoln Brower, a monarch biologist at Sweet Briar College, in Virginia.... The work proves "absolutely definitively" that tropical milkweed is threatening the monarchs and their migration, Brower says.

If people believe these headlines and the statements of Lincoln Brower and others, that planting Tropical Milkweeds anywhere in the U.S. is actually absolutely definitively

threatening the Monarchs, people will, of course, stop planting Tropical Milkweeds.

As a result, the vast majority of people who are not die-hard butterfly aficionados may just walk away from the whole idea of planting milkweeds.

This would be a shame, because there is little evidence to support the idea that planting Tropical Milkweeds will weaken Monarch populations and NO evidence to support the idea that Tropical Milkweeds are "trapping" Monarchs and stopping them from migrating to Mexico.

In addition, there is good reason to think that Tropical Milkweeds might increase the number of Monarchs and may become critical life-buoys, protecting migratory Monarchs from the projected loss of their overwintering grounds in Mexico.

OE and Tropical Milkweed

Let's consider the claim that planting Tropical Milkweeds increases OE in Monarchs. *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) is a protozoan parasite infecting Monarchs and their relatives. Caterpillars ingest the parasite when eating milkweed leaves and when the caterpillar becomes an adult butterfly, the adult is also infected. When infected, and especially when heavily infected, adult Monarchs' health is impaired, as is their ability to undertake the arduous migration from the northern United States to their overwintering sites in central Mexico (Bradley and Altizer, 2005).

Recently, Satterfield *et al.* (2015) reported finding higher levels of OE infection in

Monarchs during the winter in the southern United States (52%) than they did in Monarchs during late summer in the north (14%) or in winter at the Mexican overwintering sites (9%).

From these data they concluded that populations of Monarchs that are nonmigratory are not able to cleanse themselves of OE. They also stated that “reports of monarchs breeding during the winter—rather than migrating or overwintering—have become common in the southern U.S. These behaviours are almost exclusively restricted to sites where Tropical Milkweed is present [citing Howard *et al.* 2010].”

The only mention of Tropical Milkweed in Howard *et al.* is “an observer reports that on January 8, 2009, monarch caterpillars were found on *A. curassavica* in its yard, and that no other milkweed species were present.” More importantly, the conclusion that Monarchs breeding in the winter are almost exclusively associated with Tropical Milkweed is not true, because Monarchs are known to breed on native milkweeds in Arizona (Morris, 2015) and in Texas (Wahl, 2015) during the winter.

Going further, based upon the reported higher infection rates in the southern United States during the winter, they, Satterfield and others, warn that planting Tropical Milkweeds will harm Monarchs.

However, many unanswered questions create uncertainty about these warnings. For example, OE levels in Monarchs breeding in winter in southeastern Arizona are reported to be very low (4.5%)(Morris, 2015). Similarly, OE infection rates among non-migratory

Hawaiian Monarchs reported range from 4.5% to 85%, a range that is not known to be correlated with host plant

species and appears to be affected by local environmental conditions, possibly including temperature (Pierce *et al.* 2014).

In addition, about 60% of Monarchs overwintering on the California coast, an area without milkweeds, were found to be infected with OE (Leong *et al.*, 1992.).

These three examples strongly suggest that the level of OE infection might not be as highly correlated with non-migratory behavior and that the presence of an evergreen supply of milkweeds doesn't necessarily mean that OE levels will be high, as Satterfield *et al.* conclude.

Perhaps the higher levels of infection that Satterfield *et al.* found to be associated with Tropical Milkweeds were due to temperature effects or other factors not intrinsic to Tropical Milkweed.

Let's, for argument's sake, say that we accept the conclusion of Satterfield *et al.*, that planting Tropical Milkweeds might increase OE infection in Monarchs. Even if this were true (but see prior discussion), there would be simple ways for butterfly gardeners to effectively remove any risk.

For example, treating Tropical Milkweeds as annuals in the northern states and uprooting them in September would not increase OE levels and would create more habitat for Monarchs.

In peninsula Florida, planting Tropical Milkweed does not appear to threaten migratory populations at all, since Monarchs don't migrate through peninsula Florida to Mexico. Tropical Milkweed has been present in extreme southern Florida for at least 100 years and, as Dr. William Grant posted to NABA-Chat: “In Dr. Fred A. Urquhart's book, *The Monarch Butterfly: International Traveler*, page 98, he states that in 1951 he traveled to the peninsula of Florida and found Monarchs there in winter; he also found them in California and Mexico and concluded “that not all monarch butterflies migrated.”

On the other hand, removal of Tropical Milkweed from Florida would probably wipe out the non-migratory Monarchs present, along with Queens and Soldiers.



Asclepias curassavica

Thus, we are left with the Gulf Coast, southern Texas and southern Arizona as the only areas where there MIGHT be an issue. Tropical Milkweed is, according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, native to Nuevo León and Tamaulipas, the two Mexican states bordering southern Texas, and I have encountered Tropical Milkweed growing in these areas. Lincoln Brower has stated that, "*curassavica* likely would not normally have entered Texas from Mexico in the past or future, even with global warming. It does not tolerate desert conditions in its natural geographic distribution" (Maeckle, 2015). However, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas are not deserts, nor is southern Texas.

In addition, some native milkweed family plants that serve as monarch caterpillar foodplants, including Fringed Twinevine, are evergreen in southern Texas. In southern Arizona, a number of different native milkweeds are evergreen.

So, are all of these native milkweeds in southern Arizona and southern Texas (and northern Mexico) a direct threat to Monarchs? Should we remove them? I don't think so. As mentioned earlier, it has been said that: Tropical milkweed is "trapping the butterflies" and "absolutely definitively" that tropical milkweed is threatening the monarchs and their migration. These statements are unsupported by data.

Journey North, a fine organization, has, for quite a few years, asked people to report Monarchs that they see in December, January, and February. Elizabeth Howard, of Journey North, kindly sent me their data related to winter sightings of Monarchs. In 2002, the first year of data availability, people at 18 locations outside of peninsula Florida reported seeing Monarchs. In 2014, the year with the most recent data, people at 13 locations outside of peninsula Florida reported seeing Monarchs. Not exactly an exponentially increasing epidemic. And, of those who reported seeing Monarchs, 94% of the 294 reports over 13 years, were of fewer than ten Monarchs. So, something like 400 Monarchs, or about 30 per year, were

reported during the winter. Keep in mind that even with the greatly reduced number of Monarchs, it is estimated that more than 50 million Monarchs make it to the Mexican overwintering sites each year (Monarch Joint Venture, 2015).

Are we to believe that the very small number of Monarchs that are seen at a few locations in winter are telling us that Tropical Milkweeds are threatening the successful migration of 50 million Monarchs? In most years tens of thousands of Monarchs migrate through the National Butterfly Center (NBC), which is located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas but is somewhat to the east of the main migratory flight corridor. The NBC has Tropical Milkweed patches that support large populations of Queens and Soldiers. I can report that when the Monarchs move through the NBC, essentially all of them continue to fly south. In most years, none stay at the NBC during the winter. This year, which was abnormally warm in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, one or two did. The Tropical Milkweeds are not "trapping" Monarchs.

The reason that some Monarchs are now found in winter along the Gulf Coast and in southern Texas is that increased temperatures due to global warming now allow Monarchs to often survive in more northerly locations than was possible years ago.

The summer 2012 issue of *American Butterflies* was devoted to Monarchs. In it, Mexican researchers Cuauhtémoc Sáenz-Romero and Roberto Lindiz-Cisneros explained how computer models predict that the oyamel forests that currently support the Mexican overwintering Monarchs will succumb to global warming, leaving Monarchs with no overwintering grounds.

If, and when, this happens, wouldn't it be a good thing for there to be extensive areas in the southern United States that might serve as reservoirs for Monarchs that would then be able to repopulate more northern areas, much as Painted Ladies and American Ladies do now?

Most people know that many of the Monarchs born in the American West overwinter

on the California coast. But was this always so? The overwhelming number of overwintering sites are in groves of non-native blue eucalyptus (from Australia) and the earliest record of Monarchs overwintering in California is from 1864. If the current crop of tropical milkweed doom-sayers were present when Monarchs shifted to overwintering on the California coast on non-native trees, one can imagine them springing into action to protect the purity of the Monarch migration. Would the Monarchs (not to mention the Californians) now be better off?

—**Dr. Jeff Glassberg** is *President of the North American Butterfly Association, entomology professor, and the author of the Swift Series of butterfly and caterpillar guide books.*

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Reconciliation Ecology

A Concept Whose Time Has Come

 Sharing space with wildlife is a new concept to many people. "Invite snakes, lizards, frogs, toads, bees, and insects into my yard?" they ask. "Are you crazy? Such creatures have other places to live, and it's not in my yard."

If this is what you're thinking, think again. We have taken most of the land in the United States for ourselves, and we continue to take more and more. Wildlife, including mammals, birds, pollinators, and all creatures with which we share our planet are in a desperate struggle for survival. Their spaces have been fragmented by highways and byways, shopping centers, suburban areas, factories, agriculture, and all the other places we have taken for our own use. In doing so, we have not given much thought to the creatures we are displacing.

Reconciliation ecology is an idea whose time has come. Defined by Michael Rosenzweig, a leader in establishing and refining this concept, reconciliation ecology is "the science of inventing, establishing, and maintaining new habitats to conserve species diversity in places where people live, work, or play." We simply invite wildlife into the spaces we ourselves occupy by providing the habitat they need to survive.

Of course, we can never expect to invite large mammals into our yards and neighborhoods. Rosenzweig is not referring to bears, mountain lions, and prong horns. Such species require large land areas for hunting, grazing, and rearing their young. They will never adapt to city life. Nor would we want them to. However, we can establish areas for them, or maintain the existing system of nature reserves to help insure their survival.

Many species, however, can live in harmony with us. Many arthropod spe-



Invite frogs into my yard? Are you crazy?

species, butterflies, and insects can live quite comfortably with us and add to the quality of our lives if we provide their needs. Entire communities may need to work together to provide needed habitat, but for some species, mini-habitats in our own backyards can make a difference. We realize, for instance, that a habitat for butterflies will also support bees, birds, lizards, insects, and myriad creatures. We simply need to alter our habitats to include the requirements of such species without taking away our own space.

How will we as a human race accomplish this? We must, with the help of scientists, determine what habitat is required to maintain the species with which we can share our space. Then we must, with major educational efforts and with the help of local

Reconciliation ecology is the science of inventing, establishing, and maintaining new habitats to conserve species diversity in places where people live, work, or play.

civic agencies, make sure these requirements are met.

The road to achieve this goal will not be easy or trouble free. Attitudes will need to be adjusted to a new way of thinking. Both the public and private businesses will need to be on board with the idea. Much work must be done to learn the habitat requirements of numerous species and to provide for as many as possible in our spaces.

Each of us will have to take a close look at our own landscapes. Have we planted in our gardens plants that support native species?

Or have we chosen plants from foreign places that our creatures do not recognize and use? I can tell you the answer by looking out my own door and by walking down my street and observing my neighbors' yards.

For years, many of us have selected plants that are considered "pest free." New ideology turns this concept upside down. Now we must plant to provide food and shelter for wildlife. Generally speaking, if a plant or some part of it is not being eaten or providing nectar, it is of little use in a landscape designed to attract wildlife.





The alternative is grim, with mass species extinctions sure to happen if we do not change our ways. We must eliminate the exotic invasive plants in our landscapes and discourage their sales at nurseries. We must plant native plants which share an evolutionary history with indigenous insects, arthropods, and other creatures. We are challenged to alter our landscapes to provide food, water, and cover for wildlife, including birds, small mammals, amphibians, and yes, even reptiles. We have an obligation to formulate local and regional approaches for doing so and to encourage our civic leaders to get on board.

Our gardens must relay the notion that a garden is not beautiful unless it has taken into consideration the needs of birds, bees, and other species. We must grow into the idea of choosing plants that become a functioning part of an ecosystem instead of

choosing them just because they have decorative appeal. We must set aside the insecticides that have kept our grassy swards pest free and rely on natural systems for keeping pests in check.

NGC has at its disposal the vehicles for educating garden club members through Gardening Study, Landscape Design, and Environmental Studies Schools. By adding this concept to the present curriculum, consultants and members can be leaders in educating the public to the desirability and even the necessity of inviting other species to share our spaces.

If we as consultants and leaders in reconciliation ecology do the work and education involved in incorporating the concept into our way of thinking and doing, we will save countless species from certain extinction. We will preserve life as we know it and ensure that our children and great grandchildren enjoy the benefits of bees, butterflies, and myriad creatures that inhabit our earth.

Reconciliation ecology is a concept whose time has come.

—**Marie Harrison**, marieharrison@valp.net;
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Marie is a member of Valparaiso Garden Club, and she serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and the Deep South Region. She is a Master Flower Show Judge, a Floral Design Instructor, and a Flower Show School and Symposia instructor of Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure.

Marie is a major contributor to *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*, published by NGC. She is responsible for "What's In a Name? – Plants Frequently Used in Flower Shows," which is listed as recommended reading for Flower Show Schools students.

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Escuela de Exposiciones de Flores

Las metas son para alcanzarlas, y una vez alcanzadas, volverlas a tener para continuar el crecimiento.

~**Esther Hamel**, *The Encyclopedia of Judging and Exhibiting*

 Las listas de las Directoras de Estado (USA) de Escuela de Exposiciones de Flores (EEF) e Instructores EEF se actualizan trimestralmente y se suben a la página web. Los Directores del Estado son nombrados para (a) Escuelas de Exposiciones de Flores, (b) Credenciales, (c) Simposios, y (d) Consejos de Jueces. La lista de Instructores NGC EEF de Diseño, Horticultura, Procedimiento y Simposios están en otra lista en la misma página web de EEF. Los instructores NGC aparecen clasificados por estado, con la fecha de su vigencia como Juez y la fecha en que asistió a su último Simposio de Instructores, para mantenerse corriente en su área de estudio.

Es importante enviar los cambios de personal de estado **en el momento que sucede** y la información de contacto de los instructores al Director NGC de Credenciales de Instructores, Elaine Parisi, elainep1939@gmail.com. Estas listas ayudan a los miembros NGC cuando necesitan información para elegir instructores, e interactuar con otros Directores de Estado EEF. Puedes acceder a estas listas en www.gardenclub.org. En el menú de Flower Show Schools a la izquierda, ir a FSS Forms. Las dos listas están cerca del final.

NOTA: Para Afiliados Internacionales, enviar por email nombre y dirección de mail de Directores de País de EEF a swray.ar@gmail.com. La lista de Instructoras IA EEF se encuentra en la página web de Comaai, www.comaai.com

Casi a diario esta Directora recibe pregun-

tas que tienen que ver con la organización de exposiciones de flores, Escuelas y procedimientos de juzgar. Uno de los temas que frecuentemente aparece es el de "comentarios." Las preguntas van desde "¿Porqué necesitamos invertir tanto tiempo perfeccionando nuestro vocabulario en las escalas de puntos?" a "¿Porqué los jueces no pueden escribir mejores comentarios en las tarjetas para que los expositores puedan comprenderlos y mejorar sus trabajos?" Como verán, ahí hay una conexión.

Retrocedamos. NGC promueve las Exposiciones Estándar de Flores para estimular el interés por la jardinería y para proveer una herramienta educacional para aprender sobre las plantas, el diseño y los objetivos NGC. Es a través de la comunicación que el Juez mejor puede fomentar la participación y educar a los expositores y visitas a la exposición. ¿De qué manera puede uno perfeccionar sus habilidades en la comunicación? Con la PRACTICA!

Dado la evidencia de una amplia variación en la habilidad de los jueces de escribir observaciones constructivas, se asignó más tiempo en las escuelas, pasó de 4 ½ a 5 horas; 30 minutos más para la práctica de juzgamiento. No importa si los principios de diseño sean considerados en orden alfabético, o de alguna otra manera. Lo importante es que cada principio de diseño sea relacionado a uno o más elementos de diseño, explicando porque se dieron todos los puntos, o se quitó alguno.

En horticultura, los jueces deberían poder hacer comentarios explicando por qué el espécimen era o no merecedor de cierta cantidad de puntos: por su identificación, perfección de cultivo o sanidad, y factores de acalamiento y montaje. Se requiere que el juez considere cada una de estas áreas, haga un comentario apropiado, y convierta esos comentarios en oraciones coherentes, que les sean útiles al expositor y de fácil comprensión. Esas sesiones de PRACTICA son de mucha ayuda al "hablar" con el expositor a través de los comentarios en las tarjetas. La próxima vez que asistas a una escuela o simposio, presta atención

al instructor, no solamente durante la clase, sino también durante la práctica de juzgar. PRACTICA, PRACTICA, PRACTICA escribiendo tus propios comentarios pertinentes en una hoja, utilizando palabras que el expositor pueda comprender.

Pregunta: ¿Cuál es la cantidad máxima de tarjetas 90+ que se pueden dar en una clase?

Respuesta: El propósito original de designar tarjetas con 90+ era para reconocer exhibiciones de calidad superior y permitir al Juez Estudiante utilizarlas como créditos de exhibir. Luego se descubrió que esta práctica tenía otra ventaja, ofrecer la certeza a los expositores que sus exhibiciones de alto puntaje (pero sin llevarse la anhelada cinta azul) eran superiores. Técnicamente, podría haber tantos 90+ como exhibiciones en la clase sin la cinta azul. Sin embargo, al otorgar un 90+, asegúrate que la exhibición la merezca.

Pregunta: ¿Cuántos puntos se quitan si una exhibición no parece interpretar, de ninguna manera, el tema pedido?

Respuesta: en la Escala de Puntos de diseño, Expresión: Interpretación del título o tema, tiene un valor de 10 puntos. Recuerda, cada expositor y cada juez es único. Nuestras vidas se modelan por los lugares donde hemos vivido, los libros que hemos leído, nuestro legado étnico, religión, ocupación de la familia, las mascotas que hemos amado y mucho más. Cada expositor tiene un cuadro mental individual, con el cual se relaciona. Al trabajar con una idea y seleccionar los componentes para un diseño, elegir los colores, las texturas y forma, todo se basa en las experiencias anteriores. ¿Quién puede decir que los ideales de una persona son errados al compararlos con los de otra persona? La expresión es inherentemente personal. Al juzgar el trabajo de otro, aunque al principio pareciera que no interpreta el título de la clase, sigue mirando y buscando el hilo que lo ata al tema. Siempre habrá que darle al diseñador el beneficio de la duda, y no pe-

nalizar por lo que bien podría ser la falta de experiencia del juez. Algunas expresiones serán obvias, otras más sutiles. Es mejor ser amable y de mente abierta al juzgar los pensamientos de otros.

Pregunta: ¿Qué significa “marco de referencia”? y ¿puede un diseño exceder esa medida?

Respuesta: En el Glosario del Manual, se define como Límite imaginario dentro del cual se hace un diseño: altura, ancho y profundidad. Lo puede definir un panel de fondo, nicho, marco o componente arquitectónico. Generalmente el programa define las dimensiones del espacio máximo permitido. El diseñador decide que porción del espacio va a utilizar. Si se utiliza un panel de fondo, sus medidas determinan el marco de referencia; el programa lo define si es un diseño para verse de todos los lados. Si se utiliza un marco, el programa debe especificar si el diseño debe estar “dentro del marco,” “incorporando el marco” o mejor aún, “utilizando un marco,” en cuyo caso el diseño puede exceder las dimensiones del marco, pero debe estar dentro del espacio permitido o dentro del área definido por el panel de fondo. La respuesta breve es “No.” La respuesta más extensa supone definir exactamente lo que se quiere decir por “marco de referencia.”

Dorothy Yard, NGC FSS Chairman

Theme in Yellow

*I SPOT the hills
With yellow balls in autumn.
I light the prairie cornfields
Orange and tawny gold clusters
And I am called pumpkins.*

*On the last of October
When dusk is fallen
Children join hands
And circle round me
Singing ghost songs*

*And love to the harvest moon;
I am a jack-o'-lantern
With terrible teeth
And the children know
I am fooling.
~Carl Sandburg*



Flower Show Schools

Goals are made to be reached and once reached, remade to continue improvement.

~**Esther Hamel**, *The Encyclopedia of Judging and Exhibiting*

osters of the State Flower Show Schools (FSS) Chairmen and FSS Instructors are updated quarterly and posted on the NGC website. State Chairmen identified are those appointed for (a) Flower Show Schools, (b) Credentials, (c) Symposiums, and (d) Judges Councils. The NGC Instructors for FSS Design, Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure, and Symposium are listed on a separate roster found on the same FSS website. The instructors are listed by state with the dates of his/her good standing as a Judge and when the Instructor attended his/her most recent Instructors' symposium to remain current in their area(s) of expertise.

To be effective, everyone needs to be diligent about sending state personnel changes as they occur and contact information for Instructors to the NGC Instructors' Credentials Chairman, Elaine Parisi, at elainep1939@gmail.com. These rosters provide vital information to NGC membership seeking direction when choosing Instructors and interacting with other State FSS Chairmen. You may access these rosters by going to www.gardenclub.org. To view the information available, go to the posting on the Flower Show Schools page, in the left-hand menu with the title, "FSS Forms." The two rosters described are listed near the bottom

Almost daily, this chairman receives questions having to do with holding flower shows and schools, as well as judging procedures. The one subject that surfaces frequently is that of "commenting," both actual and in the classroom. Queries run the gamut from, "Why do we need to spend so much time perfecting our vocabulary on the point

scoring forms?" to "Why can't the judges write better comments on the entry cards so that the exhibitors can understand them in order to improve their skills?" As you can see, there is a connection here.

Let's back up a bit. NGC promotes Standard Flower Shows to stimulate the love of gardening and to provide an educational tool for learning about plants, artistic design, and NGC objectives. Judges are best able to encourage participation and educate the exhibitors and viewers with effective communication. How does one perfect communication skills? PRACTICE!

Because it was evident there was a wide variance in the ability of judges to effectively compose constructive observations, more time was allotted for all flower show schools from 4 ½ to 5 hours, with the additional 30 minutes devoted to practice point scoring. It doesn't matter if the principles of design are considered in alphabetical order or some other means. The point is that each principle of design be related to one or more elements of design explaining why all points were awarded or some deducted. On the horticulture side, the judges should be able to make a statement explaining why the specimen was or was not worthy of a certain score because of identification, cultural perfection, or health, grooming, and staging factors. The judge is required to consider each of those areas, to make an appropriate comment, then convert those comments into coherent sentences, useful to, and easily understood by, the exhibitor. Those PRACTICE sessions help when "talking" to the exhibitors via comments on the entry card. The next time you attend a school or symposium, pay attention to the instructor, not only during the lecture, but also during the practice point scoring session. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE composing your own relevant comments on paper, using words the exhibitors can understand.

Question: What is the maximum number of 90+ designations that may be made in any one class?

Response: The original purpose of endorsing the 90+ designation was to recognize exhibits of superior quality and allow Student Judges to claim them as exhibiting credits. This practice was discovered to have additional merit by reassuring exhibitors who score high (but fail to win the coveted “blue”) of the superiority of their exhibits. Technically, there could be as many 90+ recognitions as entries in the class not receiving a blue ribbon. However, when awarding 90+, be sure the exhibit warrants the decree.

Question: How many points can be deducted if an exhibit does not, in any way, appear to portray the assigned theme?

Response: On the Design Scale of Points, Expression: Interpretation of class title or theme, is assigned ten points. Remember, each exhibitor and judge is unique. Our lives are shaped by locale(s) where we’ve lived, books we’ve read, our ethnic heritage, religious background, family occupations, pets we’ve loved, and much more. Each exhibitor has an individual mental painting to which he/she relates. When composing ideas and gathering components for the design, preferences for color, texture and form are exercised based on past experiences. Who is to say one person’s set of ideals is wrong compared to another’s? Expression is a very personal thing. When judging another’s work, even when at first the design does not seem to interpret the class title, keep looking and searching for that elusive thread that ties into the theme. Always give the designer the benefit of the doubt, and don’t penalize him/her for what may be the judge’s lack of experience. Some expressions may be blatant while others are subtle. Better to be kind and open-minded when judging another’s thoughts.

Question: What is meant by the “frame of reference” and can a design ever exceed that area?

Response: The glossary of the *Handbook* defines it as the “Imaginary border within which a design is displayed, including H, W, and D. May be defined by a background

panel, niche, frame, or architectural feature.” Usually the Schedule will state the dimensions of maximum space allotted. The designer has the option of what portion of the space to use. If a background panel is used, that determines the frame of reference; if free-standing, the dimensions listed in the Schedule prevail. If a frame is used, the Schedule should state whether the design is to be “within the frame,” “incorporating the frame,” or better yet, “using a frame,” in which case the design can exceed the frame, but must remain within the allotted space or area defined by the background panel. The short answer is, “No.” The longer answer involves defining exactly what is meant by “frame of reference.”

—Dorothy Yard, *NGC FSS Chairman*

Environmental Studies Schools

Course I

San Pedro Garza Garcia, N.L., Mexico
October 20-21

Local Chairman: Hilda Gamez Gonzalez, e-mail: Hilda.gamezgzz@gmail.com; phone (81) 83632102

Course II

San Pedro Garza Garcia, N.L., Mexico
October 21-22

Local Chairman: Hilda Gamez Gonzalez, e-mail: Hilda.gamezgzz@gmail.com; phone: (81) 83632102

Parma, OH November 19-20

Registrar: Sandy Rogers, 7452 Broadview Rd., PMB 205, Parma, OH 44134; 440-487-5328; srodgers@ameritech.net

Course III

Derby, CT October 6-8

School Chairman: Polly Brooks, PO Box 1045, Litchfield, CT 06759; 860-567-4292; mlbrooks@optonline.net

Stroud, OK November 6-7

State Council Chairman: Nan Lacy, 304 B. Chateau Drive, Apt. B, Moore, OK 73160-8270; 405-735-9638; njlacy224@yahoo.com

Course IV

Wellesley, MA November 7-8

School Chairman: Bonnie Rosenthal, 7 Ponybrook Lane, Lexington, MA 02421; 973-557-6186; bonnie.rosenthal@gmail.com

Flower Show Symposiums

Denver, COOctober 12-13

Local Registrar: Louise Nickerk, 713 Mourning Dove Lane, Golden, CO 80108; 303-278-3523; lnickerk@comcast.net

Richmond, VAOctober 19-21

Local Registrar: Brenda McManaway, 5531 Bethlehem Road, Boones Mill, VA 24065-3233; 540-580-3838; brendamc@shentel.net

San Antonio, TXOctober 25-27

Local Registrar: Lisa Thurmond, 214 Stanford Dr., San Antonio, TX 78212; 210-824-0949; lthurmond@satx.rr.com

Gettysburg, PAOctober 27-29

Local Registrar: Joyce Milberg, 635 Smokey Hull Road; Tionesta, PA 16353; 814-755-7766; thomsmil@pennswoods.net

Palm Beach Gardens, FLNovember 8-10

Local Registrar: Phyllis Gidley, 1610 S. W. Waterfall Blvd., Palm City, FL 34990; 772-286-0507; gidleyc@bellsouth.net

Phoenix, AZJanuary 28-29, 2016

Local Registrar: Joyce Girvin, 70 Box Canyon Road, Sedona, AZ 86351; 774-217-8253; joycegirvin@gmail.com

Woodworth, LAFebruary 15-17, 2016

Local Registrar: Sherri Labbe, 701 Wellington Dr., Houma, LA 70360-7124; 985-851-3593; shedigsdirt@att.net

Esterro, FLApril 3-5, 2016

Local Registrar: Glenda Dawson, 1725 Sims Place, Lakeland, FL 33803; 863-816-4618; LDawson3@tampabay.RR.com

Auburn, CAApril 29-May 1, 2016

Local Registrar: Shane Looper, 213 Carmelo Lane, South San Francisco, CA 94080-2204; 650-871-0172; slooper@sbcglobal.net

East Windsor, NJMay 17-18, 2016

Local Registrar: Jane Bersch, 386 Tavistock Drive, Medford, NJ 08055-9261; 609-654-6580; janebersch@aol.com

Landscape Design Schools

Course I

New Smyrna Beach, FLNovember 10-11

Registrar: Diana Burgess, 100 Aqua Court, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168; 386-423-2757; SmyrnaDi@aol.com

Falmouth, MENovember 19-20

State Chairman: Harriet Robinson, 107 Bow St., Otisfield, ME 04270; 207-743-7236; harrietlewisrobinson@gmail.com

Course II

Baton Rouge, LAOctober 26-27

State Chairman: Clara Earl, P.O. Box 45504, Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4504; 225-924-6429; clarae2003@yahoo.com

Richmond, VAOctober 28-29

State Chairman: Glenda H. Knowles, 6948 Chancery Lane, Williamsburg, VA 23188-7567; 757-345-6618; ggknowles@cox.net

Wellesley, MAOctober 29-31

State Chairman: Maureen O'Brien, 9 Erin Way, Dedham, MA 02026; 781-407-0065; greenescapes@hotmail.com

Largo, FLNovember 11-12

State Chairman: Jayne Hemstreet, 2030 Villa Sites Drive, Tampa, FL 33612; 813-977-5156; jehems@gte.net

New Smyrna Beach, FLFebruary 16-17, 2016

Chairman: Karen Gott, 3040 NE 9th Avenue, Pompano Beach, FL 33054-5342; 954-532-5602; cell: 954-295-7205; kgott1219@comcast.net

Course III

Chappaqua, NYOctober 6-8

State Chairman: Antoinette Babb, 125 West Bridge St., Saugerties, NY 12477; 845-246-4445; aplantlady1011@hotmail.com

Santa Rosa, CAOctober 22-23

State Chairman: Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Road, Los Angeles, CA 90056-1639; 323-292-6657; cell phone: 323-708-4114; aslafer@ca.rr.com

Course IV

Santa Rosa, CAApril 28-29, 2016

State Chairman: Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Road, Los Angeles, CA 90056-1639; 323-292-6657; cell phone: 323-708-4114; aslafer@ca.rr.com

2015-2017 NGC Awards Information

Complete information and applications for the 2015-2017 NGC Awards can be found on the **Awards** site at: gardenclub.org

Flower Show Schools

Course I

Middlesboro, KY November 12-14
Registrar: Ann C. Schumate, 104 Kingsbury Woods, Middlesboro KY 40965; 606-248-3418; jsumate@twc.com

Dallas, TX March 1-4, 2016
Registrar: Peggy Consolver, 2208 Northcrest Dr., Plano, TX 75075-8354; 972-424-1830; pconsolver@verizon.net

Course II

Oak Hill, WV October 22-24
Registrar: Gayle Swank, 443 Fox Lane, Fayetteville, WV 25840; galeswank@gmail.com

Springfield, VA (NCA) November 20-22
Local Registrar: Poss Tarpley, 1705 Belle Haven Road, Alexandria, VA 22037; 703-660-8661; posst@aol.com

Course III

Fort Meyers, FL October 12-14
Registrar: Terry Pinck, 706 Henry Ave., Lehigh Acres, FL 33972; 239-368-5615; Terry.Pinck@gmail.com

Denver, CO October 14-15
Exam: October 19
Registrar: Louise Niekerk, 713 Mourning Dove Lane, Golden, CO 80401-0911; 303-278-3523; lniekerk@comcast.net

Little Rock, AR October 27-29
Registrar: Jo Krallman, 4714 Pine Drive, Benton, AR 72019; 501-847-9171; witchnfamous@sbcglobal.net

Port St. Lucie, FL February 2-4, 2016
Registrar: Michele Myers, 152 Seabreeze Ave., Palm Beach, FL 33480-6127; 561-308-4260; m.s.myers@mac.com

East Brunswick, NJ April 5-7, 2016
Registrar: Louise Davis, 106 Old Denville Road, Boonton Township, NJ 07005; ldavis106@gmail.com; 973-402-4043

Course IV

Reading, PA October 13-15
Registrar: Betsy Hassler, 606 Wellington Avenue, Reading, PA 19609; 610-777-9956; jlvehse@verizon.net

Gulf Breeze, FL November 17-19
Registrar: Judy Keliher, 2022 Downing Drive, Pensacola, FL 32505-1860; 850-484-9172; MrMrsJFK@aol.com

Gardening Study Schools

Course I

Miramar, FL November 17
Local Chairman: Marylou Ruiz, 7124 NW 169th Street, Hialeah, FL 33015; 305-822-2717; hazeleyes58@comcast.net

Chattanooga, TN March 29-30, 2016
State Chairman: Maggi Burns, 8258 Chula Creek Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421-3283; 423-499-9751; maggitfgc@epbf.com

Course II

New Haven, CT October 13-15
State Co-Chairman: Marilyn Klepfer, 9 Murphy's Lane, Brookfield, CT 06804; 203-775-7063; ctgssmk@yahoo.com

Course III

Traverse City, MI October 12-13
*Local Co-Chairman: Nancy Collard, 903 Valley View Dr., Traverse City, MI 49685; 231-943-8697; handymama@chartermi.net
*Local Co-Chairman: Terry Harding; wsharding@chartermi.net

Ames, IA April 7-8, 2016
Local/State Chairman: Ada Mae Lewis, 122 N. Russell Ave., Ames, IA 50010; 515-232-0608; adamaelewis@gmail.com

Course IV

Elmhurst, IL October 27-28
Local/State Chairman: Kathy O'Brien, 3S210 Blackcherry Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137; 630-790-0520; kathy.obrien07@comcast.net

Traverse City, MI April 11-12, 2016
*Local Co-Chairman: Nancy Collard, 903 Valley View Dr., Traverse City, MI 49685; 231-943-8697; handymama@chartermi.net
*Local Co-Chairman: Terry Harding; wsharding@chartermi.net

Tri-Refreshers

(ESS, GSS, LDS)

Encino, CA October 29-30
Event Chairman: Robin Pokorski, 512 Newton St., San Fernando, CA 91340-2421; 818-361-7873; robinp@juno.com

Cordele, GA November 12-13
Event Chairman: Virginia Pennington, 4804 Cobb Lane, Tifton, GA 31794; 229-387-0537; vpennington@mchsi.com

West Palm Beach, FL January 27-28, 2016
Event Chairman: Nancy Richards, 934 Cypress Drive, Delray Beach, FL 33483; 561-702-0550; nancyrichards@gmail.com

Newly Added to COMAAI Executive Committee

Irma de Altaba, COMAAI Web Chairman
irmalta@hotmail.com

Educational Committee of COMAAI
Guadalupe Quiroga, International Multiple
Refresher Chairman
33capricornio@gmail.com

Memorial Committee
Alejandra Davila Garza, Regional Chairman
for México
Madavila1946@gmail.com

Maria Regina Viau, Regional Chairman for
Central America
viaucastillo@gmail.com

Rosa de Cacchione, Regional Chairman for
South America
rosicacchione@aol.com
—**Idalia Aguilar**, *IA Liaison*



The National Gardener

Winter Issue - Jan-Feb-Mar

Will be mailed January 1

Spring Issue - Apr-May-June

Will be mailed April 1

Summer Issue - July-Aug-Sept

Will be mailed July 1

Fall Issue - Oct-Nov-Dec

Will be mailed October 1

Deadline

for the Winter Issue

Copy due by November 1, 2015

NGC Roster Changes

2015-2017 Board of Directors

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee, Central Region, **Susan Cooney**, 1834 Wesley Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201-3521

Chairmen

Environmental Concerns//Conservation Committee

Add: Environmental Concerns/Legislation Vice-Chairman, **Marion Hilliard**, 2902 Greenridge Road, Orange Park, FL 32073-6412, marionh@bellsouth.net

Flower Show Schools (FSS) Committee

FSS Handbook Exam, (DS, RM), **Joyce C. Milberg**, 2thomsml@gmail.com

FSS Student Schedule Correction
Chairman (SA, P), **Gina Jogan**

FSS Student Schedule Correction
Chairman (RM, SC), **Maria Nahom**

Internal Organization Committees

Add: Marketing Chairman, **Sarah Nahmias**, 1699 W. Shady Lane, Greenburg, IN 47240-8262; nahmiasmud@gmail.com

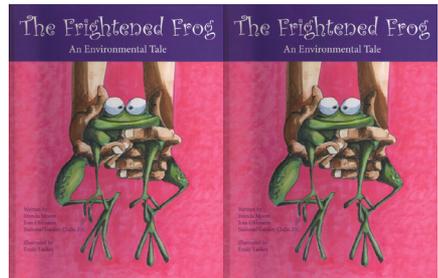
Landscape Design Schools (LDS) Committee

LDS Instructors, **Victoria Bergesen**, 1090 Otter Circle, Beaufort, SC 29902-5864

Roster of State Presidents

Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Judy Tolbert, TolbertJL10@gmail.com

Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.
Nancy Bahn, Taylor Oaks, 6094 State Hwy 177, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-8688



Member Services

Member Services Chairman, **Barbara Campbell**
bcdeerpath@aol.com

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- ❁ New pins for Club Member and Blue Star.
- ❁ Another great item is our 2015 silk scarf (pictured below), measuring 15" X 44", bordered with President Sandy Robinson's theme—art work with Monarchs, frogs, and wildflowers. This makes a great gift for all who care about the environment.
- ❁ FOR CHILDREN (K-4) on your shopping list, *The Frightened Frog* is an environmental tale, only available through Member Services.
- ❁ 2016 Vision of Beauty calendars make great gifts.

Log on to the NGC website to see other items available. And call Member Services at 800-550-6007 to place your orders.



Success in the Landscape Design Process

By Alexis Slafer, ASLA

Design is as individualistic as the person who does the design. Landscape design combines the elements of art and science to create a functional, aesthetically pleasing design, often acting as a link or an extension of indoor living to the outdoors. The elements and principles of design are the means through which a designer evaluates the effectiveness and success of a project. The elements and principles act as the tools and guidelines for developing the design.

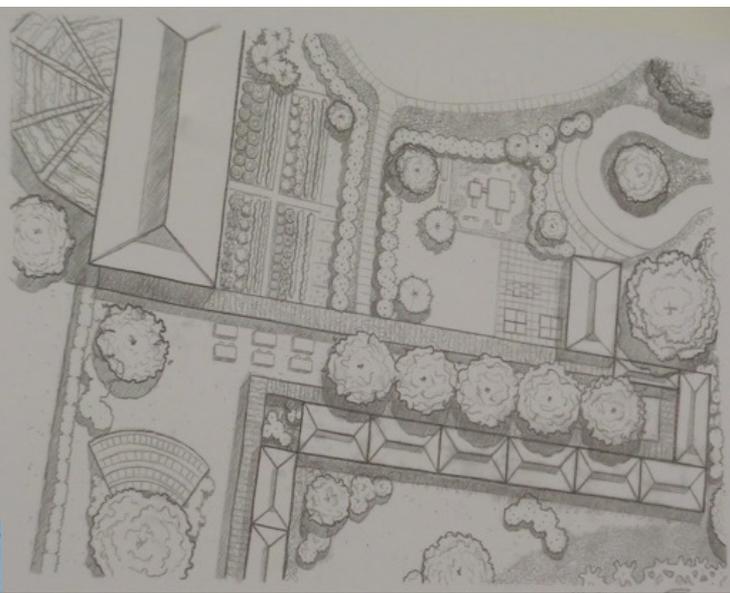
One goal of landscape design is to blend the buildings into the natural surroundings. The elements of design (color, line, form, texture, and scale) are never used independently of each other. The elements (unity, balance, transition, focalization, proportion, rhythm, repetition, and simplicity) are the tools used in combination to adjust the design principles. These principles interact to create the intended design.

Steps in Developing a Landscape Design

First, visualize your design to scale on paper. It is important to think with drawings and sketches so your mistakes are made on paper, not in reality on the landscape site. Remember the adage: "Measure twice, cut once!" The steps in developing a design are cyclical; re-visit the completed steps as you move through the process to insure that the completed design actually adheres to the original design intent or are accurately modified to reflect the changes dictated by the analysis/process and program changes. The steps in developing a landscape design are:



Formal bilateral symmetry: Design is as individualistic as the person who does the design.

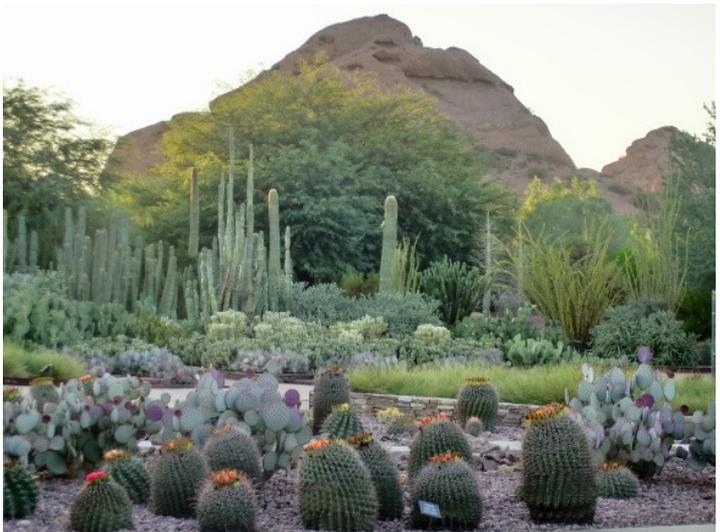


First, visualize your design to scale on paper.

1. Develop a plot plan
2. Conduct a site analysis
3. Assess client/owner needs and wishes
4. Locate activity areas
5. Design activity areas
6. Design planting (selection & placement of materials)

A systematic approach should be taken in landscape design. First, determine the objective of your design and then establish the general type of plan, whether it should be formal or natural.

Natural Design: Addressing the Design Requirements; Consider landforms—slopes, erosion, flat areas, cliffs.



Consider balance or imbalance. Imbalance is uncomfortable & not desirable.

- Symmetrical balance (Formal & has bi-lateral symmetry or is identical on each side)
- Asymmetrical balance (Informal & has equal weights on each side, but is not exactly the same)
- Radial balance (Works in a circular pattern from a center point)

Order and Unity

Order and unity are both emotional and visual reactions to the overall organization of the design elements within the existing site conditions. It is the organization and structure of a design, acting as the basic scheme or “skeleton” of the design. Order could be achieved by symmetrical or asymmetrical balance or by having a formal or natural arrangement.

At right: Formal garden of the Château de Villandry. First, determine the objective of your design and then establish the general type of plan, whether it should be formal or natural.



Below, right: A private area might be designed for reading or meditation next to a hedge or building or in an isolated corner of the landscape under a canopy of trees.

Unity is the harmonious relationship among all the elements and characteristics of a design, established by staying simple and minimizing differences. Too many components and materials, and the complex use of elements, create competitiveness and the resulting lack of integration within the design prevents unity.

Address the Design Requirements

1. Plan for structural needs (buildings and their uses)
2. Consider landforms (slopes, erosion, flat areas, cliffs)
3. Determine traffic flow (vehicular, service, pedestrian, entrance, parking; include transitions and linkages)
4. Consider the public



area (which is different from the client's needs), including:

5. Adjacencies to other properties (screening or enhancing views)
6. Entrance area (including traffic flow, linking the outside areas to the site)
7. Landscape face to neighbors
8. Comfortable access and "wayfinding" to the entrance

The design should consider areas with a feeling of privacy and comfort, as well as provide limited exposure for security. A private area might be designed for reading or meditation next to a hedge or building or in an isolated corner of the landscape under a canopy of trees.



Above: A Circulation Path: One goal of landscape design is to blend the buildings into the natural surroundings.

At left: Using the basic principles of landscape design will ensure the creation of a functional and beautiful garden and landscape.



Above: Radial Design, Founders Memorial Garden, Athens, Georgia; at left: Natural Design.



Traffic Flow and Circulation

When designing for traffic flow and circulation, each unit on the site should be part of the whole and contribute to the overall circulation pattern. Circulation also refers to the movement of peoples' eyes (towards a focal point) with their bodies following through a specific pattern in the landscape.

Definition & Separation of Areas

A designer should clearly define and separate activity areas once the ideas for their design have been determined. Sometimes space between areas or objects acts in this manner, other times a fence or plant materials will do the job. Consider a visual screen that can be added without creating an actual physical barrier. Often plant materials can provide an inexpensive screen, adding both color and interest.

Summary

Remember, every designer creates a unique design based on his or her interpretation of the landscape design process. Using the basic principles of landscape design will ensure the creation of a functional and beautiful garden and landscape. One that can be enjoyed by all.

—**Alexis Slafer, ASLA**, is *LDS Chairman, California Garden Clubs, Inc.; NGC LDS Accrediting Chairman; and Contributing author of Stewards of the Land.*

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