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The National Gardener

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THE COVER

Dried seed follicles and fluffy floss of tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), a perennial native of South America, add interest to autumn flower arrangements.

Orange flowers bloom in late spring attracting monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Gardeners of milkweed can attest that when planting species local to the region, and with proper handling and plant placement, the benefits are immeasurable.

Photo by Arabella Dane.

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Gay L. Austin

2019-2021 NGC President

The end of our prolific summer growing season is quickly approaching. In many parts of the U.S., this rapid growing season allows us to enjoy the bounty of garden-grown floral beauty and delicious vegetable harvests. With the fall season just around the corner, we anticipate cooler temperatures and shorter days, but still benefit from other types of enjoyable garden beauty. Most garden club members have taken some time off from regular garden club meetings and programs this summer, but are now anticipating a busy season of activities ahead.

In August, it was my honor to participate in the national 75th birthday celebration of Smokey Bear in Washington D.C. Several local garden club leaders also were in attendance to mark the birthday of this national icon of the U.S. Forest Service. Nationwide, volunteers from our organization invest time and outreach to communities,

schools and at after-school programs to engage and encourage children to tap into their creativity and art skills to participate in NGC's Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. More than 18,000 children in first through fifth grade have participated in this national poster competition since its inception.

“...it was my honor to participate in the national 75th birthday celebration of Smokey Bear in Washington D.C.”

The 2019 NGC grand prize winner was Penny Atkinson, a fourth-grade student sponsored by The Utah Associated Garden Clubs Inc. She received special recognition by the USDA U.S. Forest Service at this special event.

Gardeners and flower show enthusiasts from around the globe are excited about the World

Association of Floral Artists (WAFA), and its 13th annual World Flower Show “Grand Floral Affair 2020” in Jaipur, India, on February 26 to March 1, 2020. The highly anticipated five-day event features a panorama of workshops, competitions, demonstrations and exhibitions. Floral artists from over 30 countries will be

exhibiting and competing. For more information, visit wafaindia.com or on Facebook at bit.ly/2CvqwqP.

The NGC Website Development Committee has begun the task of creating our new NGC website. Members are working with a website development

information is located at gardenclub.org

As NGC president, I enjoy visiting and meeting garden club members from across our nation and world.

Our organization is guaranteed future success due to the dedication of our members. As we PLANT AMERICA with

seeds of service, let us maintain an enthusiastic attitude, as this is the key to success in any task. We are “Reconnecting with Nature” through conservation, strengthening



our existing membership and reaching out to potential new members, while ensuring our future by involving youth.

company to redesign and develop our website to modernize the look and feel. We want to improve user experience and attract a younger generation of gardening enthusiasts to ensure the NGC legacy continues to grow and strengthen. As this develops, we will share information with you, our members, so that you can take advantage of this new NGC venture. Continue to visit our existing website, as all needed

our existing membership and reaching out to potential new members, while ensuring our future by involving youth.

Thank you for your continued dedication. ■

Gay L. Austin



Join Us As we *PLANT AMERICA* with membership



Our experiences in garden club have equipped us to continue with the mission of NGC because the past molds and shapes us into dedicated, untiring volunteers across our world.

We, as garden club members, have strengthened our communities by using our time and talents to improve our surroundings. Let us continue to stimulate interest and identify needs in our communities by providing leadership, educational programs and by promoting our local,

state, region, national and international garden clubs.

I challenge all garden club members to reach out to individuals who want to learn more about gardening. This act will broaden the exposure and awareness of National Garden Clubs. It is proven that gardening not only has health benefits, but it also strengthens our communities through beautification projects as we work together to bring beauty and pride to our communities.

I challenge all of us to improve our observation of our diverse environments. Through our vision, we can inspire others to take action every day to protect our natural habitats. Let's develop projects that demonstrate our respect for natural resources so that we can assure a healthy world for our future generations. When we urge others to join in our environmental efforts, educate them on challenges ahead of us,

and encourage them to participate in areas of need, our entire world will benefit. Change can happen through partnerships with other groups with common interests which will also help to improve and beautify our community environments. Let us nurture our natural habitats, and watch as nature takes care of the rest.

Comments made by
Gay L. Austin
*NGC President 2019-2021
at her installation in May in
Biloxi, Mississippi.*



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
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**MEMBERS MATTER
MOST!**
2019-2021
Administration's
Challenge:
**INCREASE
MEMBERSHIP
21% by '21**

The vision of the 2019-2021 Membership Committee is to provide information and tools for our members to increase membership.

No matter how important the work of your garden club is, no matter how vital the services your club performs are, no matter how great the potential for fun and fellowship, none of your club's strengths can be accomplished without active membership. Active membership is **THE KEY**.

Membership involves leadership in two ways:

- We must recruit new members and help them become active.
- We must stimulate active participation on the part of every member.
- Active, involved and interested members will unlock the doors of success and growth for your club! ■



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GARDEN CLUB 'digs in' to renovate school garden

Members of Tri-Cities Garden Club, which serves members from Ferrysburg, Grand Haven, Spring Lake and the surrounding communities in Michigan, renovated the courtyard garden at Ferry Elementary School in Grand Haven.

The garden was created in the mid-1990s to provide an innovative hands-on, whole learning environment for students from kindergarten through sixth grade. Over the years, the overgrown garden had fallen into disrepair and was under-utilized by students and staff at the school. Twenty-three Tri-Cities Garden Club members and 18 students at the school began the work by deadheading flowers, weeding the raised beds and other areas around the pond, as well as the bed at the north

end of the garden. The larger scope of work included digging out crabgrass; removing and replacing soil; spreading a weed barrier; planting sun and shade

perennials, shrubs and bulbs; adding compost; applying mulch; edging beds; repositioning concrete pavers; trimming shrubs; and filling and hanging bird and butterfly feeders. Work also included getting the pond and waterfall into proper working condition. Two garden club members repaired and painted

two youth garden chairs, a community member repaired and stained three garden benches and four all-weather composite picnic tables were donated by the parents of a teacher at the school. During the renovation, the school's teaching staff frequently visited the

“During the renovation, the school's teaching staff frequently visited the garden during lunch and for relaxation.”

◀ The renovated courtyard garden and pond at Ferry Elementary School in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Tri-Cities Garden Club members and students at Ferry Elementary School renovate a courtyard garden. The youth-sized tools the garden club received as part of an NGC Ames Tool Grant were sized perfectly for smaller hands. ▶



garden during lunch and for relaxation. In fall 2018, the completed garden was ready to be utilized by teachers and students as an outdoor classroom.

Tri-Cities Garden Club secured garden tools for the project through an NGC 2018 Ames Tool Grant. Additional funding for the project included an NGC Plant America Community Project Grant and a Share Small Grant from Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. Students at the school applied for and received a grant from the Grand Haven Community Foundation Youth Council for the courtyard renovation. In addition, the garden club purchased and donated three copies of “The Saved Seed,” an NGC’s children’s book, to the school library.

Tri-Cities Garden Club members and Ferry Elementary School students continue to maintain the gardens, plant annuals, herbs and vegetables in raised beds and use the garden as an outdoor learning environment. The club also donated an environmentally friendly rain barrel that will teach students about the importance of water

conservation. The school also hosted an open house for students, parents and the community to showcase the garden. ■

Tri-Cities Garden Club is a member of Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. Visit tricitiegardenclub.org/

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📷 Photos courtesy Tri-Cities Garden Club



▲ Tri-Cities Garden Club members at work in the garden.



'maximum impact'

Teaching gardening to the incarcerated in Rhode Island fosters a chance to grow



The garden therapy project at Rhode Island Maximum Security Prison has made a measurable, positive impact on the lives of those who participate.



A penitentiary may seem an unlikely place to grow positive opportunities and foster friendships outside secured walls, but two gardeners in Rhode Island can attest to the many benefits of their efforts to introduce gardening as therapy – and so much more.

Garden Time Grows Food and Futures

Garden Time, Inc., marking its 10th anniversary this year, is the award-winning, nationally recognized nonprofit program based in Rhode Island that provides hands-on gardening education, vocational training and inspiration to incarcerated men and women. The program is offered at three Rhode Island adult correctional institutions, including the Rhode Island Maximum Security Prison, a Rhode Island Department of

Corrections state prison for men in Howard.

The co-founders of Garden Time are Vera Bowen, past president of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs Inc., and serves as Garden Time board president, and Kate Lacouture, a landscape architect and garden educator, who serves as the organization's executive director. Bowen, former director of the New England Region of National Garden Clubs Inc., also is on the NGC Board of Directors for Flower Show Schools and was a

presenter at NGC's annual convention in Philadelphia in 2018.

Gardening Empowers, Inspires

Rhode Island Maximum Security Prison is the state's oldest operational prison, which houses approximately 450 men,

“...provides hands-on gardening education, vocational training and inspiration to incarcerated men and women.”

some of whom are serving life sentences with no possibility of parole. Completed in 1878 as “Howard Prison,” the facility served as the state's first prison and the Providence County jail.

According to Lacouture, the incarcerated come from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. However, they share one common thread: disempowerment. “The state of incarceration is a disempowered state in which people are unable to access personal empowerment through healthy outlets,” she explained. “To be responsible for something, to watch it grow, to have it be yours – this can help people who are suffering from a lack of empowerment to shift that feeling and to see a way forward. These people haven't necessarily felt good in the past. Garden Time aims to change that,” she added.

The Benefits of Gardening and Garden Therapy

The Garden Time project at Rhode Island Maximum Security Prison, led by seasoned gardeners Bowen and Lacouture, began with 11 inmates, who

were serving life sentences without the possibility of parole. The group worked closely to design “Hope Garden,” a 6,000-square-foot site. Bowen and Lacouture assisted the men in selecting which vegetables to plant and helped them learn throughout the growing process. The men pulled weeds to prepare the area for garden beds and crushed eggshells to enrich the soil. They learned about the important process of composting – even making compost from egg cartons soaked in water. Fundraising efforts by Garden Time were instrumental in helping the men set up a worm composter.

Bowen visits the garden at Rhode Island Maximum Security Prison twice each week to teach inmates how to grow vegetables. In her education efforts, she shows them the many uses for what they grow, and how to incorporate the bounty

▶ Vegetables harvested from the Hope Garden at Rhode Island Maximum Security Prison are incorporated into meals served daily to the general population.



Garden Time offers critical life and job skills that may help bolster opportunities for employment beyond the walls of confinement. In addition to being introduced to the sheer joy of gardening, adaptive learned skills, such as problem solving, communication, negotiations, socialization and conflict resolution, may offer a successful and smooth reintegration into society.

Garden Time programs are offered at two other Rhode Island correctional institutions:

- The garden at the Medium Security Facility, which houses approximately 75 women, is used as a catalyst to foster positive relationships with the families of the incarcerated. Through Garden Time fundraising efforts, native plants were purchased for the garden last year.
- The John J. Moran Men's Medium Security Facility houses approximately 1,100 offenders of medium security risk. Due to the large population, Bowen met with prison officials and key inmates to

has lowered their blood pressure and stress rates, and the herbs grown in the garden are



used in brewed tea, which helps to alleviate migraine headaches. The prison medical staff agrees with the early findings.

Future plans include the addition of inmates from other units within the facility, as well as certification for inmates in courses offered through the Rhode Island Horticultural Society. Bowen and Lacouture meet twice weekly with inmate volunteers to weed, hoe and harvest produce, but inmates are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and upkeep.

Teaching Life Skills

One of the main initiatives of Garden Time is to provide education curricula, inspiration and empowerment. For individuals in correctional institutions,

▶ **The garden at the Medium Security Facility, which houses 75 women, is used as a catalyst to foster positive relationships with the families of the incarcerated. Native plants for the garden were purchased with proceeds from a Garden Time Inc. community fundraiser.**



- Bowen and Lacouture work with the facility to include the healthy vegetables grown by the inmates as part of the daily meals in conjunction with criteria established by the corrections system. One initial harvest produced nine bags of fresh lettuce and spinach that was prepared and served to the prison's general population. In addition, the garden regularly produces a bumper crop of tomatoes each year. Garden Time also provides nutritional information to the facility about the vegetables and herbs that are produced.

- The abundance of fresh garden vegetables grown on site and used in the dietary program at the prison is cost effective, thereby reducing the facility's annual grocery purchases.
- According to Bowen, the garden therapy project has had a measurable, positive physical impact on the lives of the men who participate – some report gardening



into salads and other healthy meals. "Many of the men have never been shown how

to garden or grow a vegetable," Bowen said. The gardeners used the tools the program received from an NGC Ames Tool Grant in 2018.

In addition to the personally rewarding benefits of gardening, the introduction of garden therapy at the facility resulted in a host of other advantages:

plan and implement a 60-by-80-foot herb garden. The fresh herbs grown and cultivated there are used in salad dressings, sauces and pestos and in the augmentation of prison meals. In addition, through Garden Time fundraising efforts, prison gardeners turned their knowledge of herbs into a culinary herbs reference guide that is utilized in the kitchens at all of the prison facilities. In 2017, the "Garden Time-To-Work" pre-employment initiative raised funds for a garden-based men's vocational training program, in which they can acquire expertise in horticulture, agriculture and landscaping to develop 21st century learning skills and workforce readiness beneficial in a broad range of employment opportunities.



◀ Fresh herbs from the garden at John J. Moran Men's Medium Security Facility are used in salad dressings, sauces and pestos in meals. Prison gardeners turned their knowledge of culinary herbs into a reference guide that is used in the kitchens of all prison facilities.

The prison gardening projects offer a strong educational curriculum. Bowen and Lacouture work closely with the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), as well as the Rhode Island Horticultural Society and the University of Rhode Island to offer credentialed vocational training opportunities in relation to gardening. The innovative, enrichment program teaches inmates



how to grow their own food for economic and personal self-reliance, as well as to connect with opportunities and skills for those who may re-enter society. According to Bowen, the goal is to facilitate placement and employment in a horticultural profession or similar capacity for prisoners upon their release. "Through the process of gardening, designing, planting and tending a vegetable garden, inmates develop a sense of community and a stewardship toward gardening," said Bowen. "What these individuals develop through the project fosters tangible, real-life skills – skills they can use for possible employment upon their release from the facility." In addition, Garden Time recently implemented an "after prison" program in conjunction with the Rhode Island Division of Labor, to help inmates learn about gardening and provide an advantage in securing jobs in the industry upon their release.

Beautiful Lessons

According to Lacouture, the gardens teach other valuable lessons than the

▶ Garden Time Inc. founders Kate Lacouture (right) and Vera Bowen.



sheer pleasure of growing things. For example, a few incarcerated gardeners put their artistic talents to good use to create beautiful art on the envelopes of their saved seeds. The seed packets, adorned with "mini works of art," were then donated to local food pantries. The gardens also host a habitat teeming with birds, bees and beneficial insects, which enrich the ecosystem. In addition, the natural beauty of the gardens offers solace and hope. ■

For more information, contact Vera Bowen at VeraBowen9092@gmail.com or visit **Garden Time at gardentime.us**

 **Photos courtesy of GardenTime Inc.**

LONE STAR STATE GARDEN CLUB launches summer community education, outreach

Like many garden clubs throughout the nation, members of A&M Garden Club in Bryan and College Station, Texas, are active in myriad events during the summer months, but may not hold structured regular club meetings and programs during that time.

Activities included:

- Garden-themed displays were installed at local libraries in celebration of National Garden Week in June.
- Members hosted an information booth at Heritage Park in Bryan, Texas, during an Independence Day event. Giveaways included hundreds of plants grown by garden

club members, as well as gardening information.

- The club was recognized for its participation in community beautification and at historical preservation events at the City Council of College Station in July.
- A local museum hosted a butterfly event and A&M Garden Club was there with an educational display about butterfly friendly gardening. Members participated in a workshop earlier that month to prepare for a butterfly-related craft for children at that event. Participants also took home plants grown by garden club members.



◀ A&M Garden Club members hosted a booth at a local event on Independence Day. Plants grown by members and gardening education materials were available and free to the public.

A Year-Round Commitment to Gardening Education, New Member Outreach

The garden club sponsors a number of outreach events throughout the year, including a recent collaboration with entomology students at Texas A&M University to plan and prepare hands-on activities for children in an NGC Plant

America Fair. The children made hats and learned about bugs and plants in the garden, as well as the symmetry of butterflies. In addition, some members travel to Guatemala each year as part of the club's World Gardening program, to expand and share their gardening knowledge and skills with children in developing nations. In 2018, the club worked with "tiny gardeners" – mini jardineros – on programs on nutrition, pollinators and how to plant tree seedlings in a reforestation effort.

The club actively reaches out to the community and potential new members by publicizing upcoming educational programs and events. For example:

- The club places announcements that list the dates for most of its meetings and upcoming educational events in local newspapers, on its Facebook page and on the online calendar of a popular local magazine. The club also submits information and

photos of its projects to the garden and community calendars in one of the area's major newspapers, which regularly publishes the information.

- Members host a booth at the club's planned educational events. Club members enjoy talking to visitors about their many community projects, and the booth is stocked



▲ Club members participated in a butterfly event held at a local museum, in which they prepared an educational display and crafts for children.

with stickers, educational brochures and information about the club. Bags of free seeds are distributed.

- The club makes a concerted effort to promote who they are and what they do in its outreach to potential new members. Club members are eager to share their personal insights on the many rewards of gardening at the community events at which they participate.

Founded in 1937, Texas A&M Garden Club is a member of Texas Garden Clubs Inc.

Visit amgardenclub.com ■

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A&M Garden Club

 Photos courtesy of A&M Garden Club

blue star memorial marker dedication

Dogwood Garden Club in Charlottesville, Virginia, dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at Monticello Memory Gardens in May. Monticello Memory Gardens is located across from historic Michie Tavern, a Virginia Historic Landmark in Albemarle County, Virginia. Also located near the memorial park is Monticello, the primary home and plantation of Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, third president of the United States and founder of the University of Virginia. Monticello is a National Historic Landmark and United Nation's World Heritage site visited by more than 500,000 people each year.

The garden club is a member of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. ■



Eileen deCamp
President
Dogwood Garden Club
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 Photos courtesy of Dogwood Garden Club



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CHILDREN'S INTERACTIVE GARDEN IN PENNSYLVANIA GETS 'two green thumbs up'

Members of the South Schuylkill Garden Club of Pennsylvania collaborated with multiple community organizations to establish the Walborn Community Playground Children's Interactive Garden in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania. Prior to the beautification effort, the drab playground, situated in a lower-middle-class neighborhood, featured only a small pavilion, swing set, basketball court and one piece of climbing equipment.

The ambitious plan, launched by garden club members, was to create an interactive children's garden by adding elements of color, shade, texture – and a little whimsy – to the neglected area. Members worked closely with borough workers of the town of Orwigsburg to turn soil, dig holes, set posts, cut a foot path and set a fence around the garden. Members spread loads of top soil to amend the clay soil, donated and placed flowers around the garden and along the walking path and spread mulch. To embellish the garden, students in art classes at Blue Mountain High School made colorful animal silhouettes, which were secured to the fence by members of Team Orwigsburg, a local community improvement group. Additional work included leveling the ground to accommodate several "stepping stumps." Two concrete elements – a bench and bunny planter – were added for charm.



▲ South Schuylkill Garden Club members worked with community organizations to establish the garden, which encourages learning and exploring by the town's youngest citizens.

To make the playground more inviting, garden club members cleared the fence line of vines, grass and saplings, weeded play areas and transplanted hostas. The Orwigsburg Tree Shade Committee planted three shade trees in the area.

The completed garden captures a child's imagination, as well as encourages exploration by engaging the five senses. Children stop to see, feel, touch and smell the flowers and herbs planted along the inviting path, which features



▲ Students in art classes at a local high school made whimsical animal silhouettes for the garden fence.

a wood bridge and stone elements. Sounds include the hum of bees and chirping birds. The new plantings attract butterflies. Children enjoy hopping on the wood stumps, playing in the planting box and hiding in a hut shaded by the branches of a Japanese maple, one of two new trees planted in the garden by garden club members. Pavers were placed in a playful hopscotch pattern. Plant identification signs were added to planted areas throughout the garden to spark learning. The refreshed space encourages outdoor time and a connection to nature.

The project, a gift from and funded by the South Schuylkill Garden Club to the town of Orwigsburg, also received

funding through a Fred V. Knecht Memorial Fund and a National Garden Clubs' Plant America Community Project Grant. A celebration and grand opening of the garden to the public coincided with National Garden Week in June. Events included art projects and appearances by herbalists, pollination experts, a tree expert and more. Visit southschuylkillgardenclub.weebly.com/ ■

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South Schuylkill Garden Club

**Photos courtesy
of South Schuylkill
Garden Club**

Heavy equipment was needed to help clear a structured garden space that features a wood bridge and stone pathway. The pathway was designed to create auditory experiences. Young visitors delight in hearing the crunch of their footsteps in the loose stone and the muffled sounds their steps make when they stomp across the bridge.



pine cones, mother nature's weather forecasters

Garden Club Hosts Children's Discovery Event

The Daytime Gardeners of North Haven, Connecticut, offered a unique learning activity on pine cones to a local group of Brownie Girl Scouts. The Brownies discovered a number of amazing facts about pine cones, and the changes the pine cones undergo during certain weather conditions:

- Pine cones may determine when there is high humidity, or when weather conditions are dry.
- When the air outside is humid, the outer scales of a pine cone absorb moisture and the outer cells expand. This condition bends the scales inward toward the core to "close" the pine cone.
- When the air is dry, the cells on the outer scales of the pine cone shrink, bending the scales outward to open the pine cone to release the seeds.

Club members assisted the scouts to place the pine cones, collected from different species of trees, into glasses of water. The



◀ The Brownies learned the outer scales of a pine cone are closed during humid conditions. During arid conditions, outer scales open to release seeds.



Daytime Gardeners of North Haven member Barbara Feinberg leads the discussion on pine cones.

◀ The Brownies display their pine cones after performing the experiments.



▲ At a second event, the Brownies brought in their cones to compare meteorological characteristics and also used them in a creative art project.



girls were amazed to discover the dawn redwood, a deciduous conifer and among the tallest trees on Earth – produced the smallest of the cones in this collection! The activity also included an exploration of the life cycle of pine cones and evergreen trees.

The activity was led by garden club members Barbara Feinberg and Mary Ellen Proto, with assistance by Brenda

Howlett and Helen Nado. Daytime Gardeners of North Haven is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Inc. ■

Sally Brockett

President

Daytime Gardeners of North Haven

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Photos courtesy of Daytime Gardeners of North Haven

pack it in, pack it out

Be mindful of your impact to 'leave no trace' in the environment

“Pack It In, Pack It Out” is a familiar term to avid hikers and campers who take home personal trash or waste generated during their explorations, rather than leaving it in the environment.

But, have you thought about the trash that you might generate during a vacation to the beach? My family recently returned from a two-week visit to a small island in the Bahamas. As we walked and rode bicycles on the beach, we carried packaged, hotel-provided bottled water to stay hydrated. To my dismay, I discovered the plastic from the eight bottles of water we drank each day went into the trash and then was transported to a local landfill. The island had no recycling facility.

On the second day of our trip, we thought about the plastic trash being generated, so we recycled our water bottles from the previous day by refilling them with water from the hotel. Unfortunately, the local island water had an unpleasant, chalky taste. We elected to go back to the packaged bottled water, but instead of throwing the bottles in the trash at the end of each day, we started a collection of our empty bottles. Within



two weeks, the empty plastic bottles filled a large suitcase.

One rainy afternoon, my family made good use of the downtime to crush all of the collected plastic water bottles. The plan was to fit them among our clothes in suitcases. The plastic weighed no more than the sunscreen we brought with us for the trip. We brought home all of the plastic waste we generated on our vacation.

In the hotel feedback survey, I included a suggestion to add a complimentary filtered/purified water dispenser in which guests could refill their plastic hotel-provided water bottles. Upon our return next year, we plan to bring a water filter that will allow us to refill our plastic water bottles from the hotel tap.

As members of National Garden Clubs, we should all take stock of environmental responsibility at a personal level to Pack It In, Pack It Out! ■

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 Photo by Cathy Waitinas

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BARBARA JACOBSON

CAROL LUCIA

LORI RICHIE

The Delta Queens:

CAROL BULLARD

DEBBY COOPER



For more information visit www.creativefloral.org or contact Carol Sisco, Registrar, oldcity4me@bellsouth.net

ngc gold star by-way memorial marker dedicated in france

Marker is the first NGC has placed on soil outside of US

On the night of June 5, 1944, U.S. warplanes dropped hundreds of paratroopers into the quiet, quaint Norman village of Sainte-Mère-Eglise and surrounding areas in France, to provide ground support and secure area bridges and roads as part of "Operation Overlord," the sweeping American and Allied plan to liberate France and all of Europe from German occupation in World War II.

Early the next morning on June 6 – known forever as D-Day – more than 160,000 U.S. and Allied troops participated in amphibious landings along a 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline of Normandy, France. Five beachheads (designated in the plan as Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno and Sword), were the designated landings for the largest seaborne invasion in history. The cost in lives on D-Day was high, with casualties suffered by U.S. and Allied armed forces estimated to be over 10,000. The ultimate sacrifice of these soldiers resulted in a critical turning point of the war, allowing more than 100,000 American and Allied troops to gain a strategic foothold in Europe and ultimately end the conflict against Germany in Europe in May, 1945.

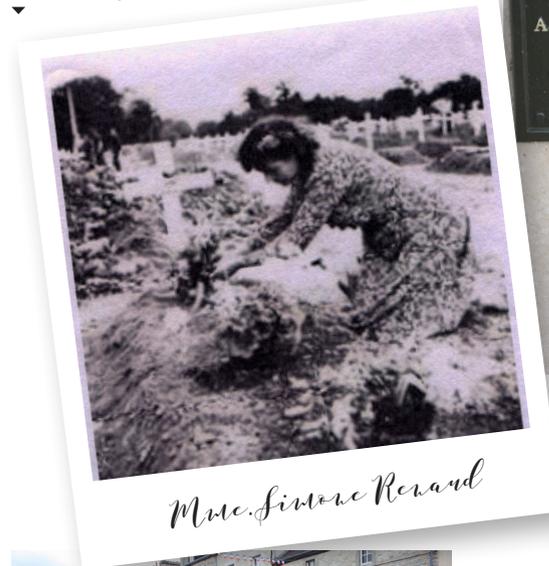
Sainte-Mère-Eglise widely is considered the first town in France liberated from German occupation during the historic D-Day invasion.



The 'Mother of Normandy'

On the 75th anniversary marking D-Day this year, members of the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs and I were honored to place a National Garden Clubs' Gold Star By-Way Memorial Marker and a memorial plaque in the town honoring Mme. Simone Renaud, known as the "Mother of Normandy," in recognition of her acts of kindness to Americans and their families during and after the war. Renaud was the wife

Mme. Simone Renaud tended to the gravesites of American soldiers who lost their lives in battle at or near Sainte-Mère-Eglise during the first hours and days of D-Day. In addition, she answered each letter from American families who wrote to inquire about the final resting places of their soldiers. The massive Allied effort on D-Day was a pivotal turning point in World War II in the liberation of France and Europe from German occupation.



of Alexandre Renaud, the town's mayor, pharmacist and postmaster at that time. They were witnesses to the first hours of France's liberation during D-Day. American soldiers, who fought and lost their lives in battle during the first hours and days of the invasion, were solemnly interred in the town's cemetery.

When letters arrived from American families inquiring about the final resting places of their loved ones, the Renauds took on the responsibility of corresponding to each and every letter. In the months and years to follow,



The NGC Gold Star Memorial By-Way Marker and plaque honoring Mme. Renaud, "The Mother of Normandy," were presented to her son, Maurice Renaud, Mayor Jean Quetier and town of Sainte-Mère-Eglise at a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Dignitaries from the United States, France and internationally attended the ceremony. A highlight of the day's events included a fly-over by vintage American C-47 troop and cargo transports (which played a pivotal role in the Normandy invasion on D-Day), a reenactment by paratroopers and a children's historical play.

William Galbraith, a paratrooper with the U.S. 101st Airborne Division in World War II, attended the observance of the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Sainte-Mère-Eglise. At right, Galbraith's son holds a military service photo of his father.





The town of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, and its significance on D-Day in World War II, was featured in the 1962 Academy Award-winning film "The Longest Day," an account of events leading up to, during and following that historic day based upon the 1959 novel by Cornelius Ryan. In a real incident and famous scene in the movie, Pvt. John M. Steele, (1912-1969), an American paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, Company F, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, landed on the church roof and his parachute became entangled on the steeple. Steele hung there for hours, feigning death, while being a witness to the fighting below. He eventually was released from the parachute by two German soldiers positioned in the bell tower and taken prisoner, only to escape a few days later to rejoin his division. Wounded in the foot during his parachute descent, Steele was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and the Purple Heart for being wounded in combat. Each year on June 6, the people of Sainte-Mère-Eglise commemorate their freedom. Events include a staging of Steele's parachute on the church steeple, with an effigy dressed in his Airborne uniform. Steele continued to visit the town throughout his life, and became an honorary citizen. The Auberge John Steele, a local tavern, maintains his memory with framed photos, letters and newspaper articles and the town's museum offers an extensive collection of D-Day memorabilia.



◀ The church garden in Sainte-Mère-Eglise.

Members of the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs who attended the dedication of the Gold Star By-Way Memorial Marker in France are, from left, Tricia Ortalano, Elizabeth McDougall, Mary Hazen, Nancy Byrd, Mary Jacob and Charlene Ardoin.



Mme. Renaud singlehandedly took on this task. In addition to writing personal condolences to each family, she often included a photo of the gravesite, a sample of French soil and petals from the flowers she regularly planted at the cemetery. Her lifelong dedication to American families – whose lives were forever changed by the course of history – is unparalleled.

The idea for the dedication of a marker and memorial plaque in Sainte-Mère-Eglise stemmed from an inspiring 2018 presentation and exhibit on Mme. Renaud at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. ■

Mary Hazen

*Chairman, Deep South Region
Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc.
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Photos courtesy of Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs

*References
theadvocate.com
ot-baieducotentin.fr/en/d-day-1944/sainte-mere-eglise-in-normandy/
airborne-museum.org/en/at-the-heart-of-history/
portraits/john-m-steele/*

*For more information on the dedication and an interactive pictorial history of D-Day, visit
avanormandie.org/fr/ and
interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2014/apr/image-opacity-slider-master/index.html?ww2-dday*

gardening SCHOOLS

NGC Gardening Schools offer members and potential members wonderful opportunities to further their education and provide many options for civic beautification, youth gardening activities and programs to attract new members. If your state does not currently offer NGC Gardening Schools, please read what New Mexico has done to bring that opportunity to its members. Our experienced accrediting chairmen and I will help every step of the way. So, PLANT AMERICA with NGC Gardening Schools! ■

Barbara Hadsell

*Chairman, Gardening Schools
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A Gardening Schools Testimonial

As an NGC Gardening Committee coordinator, I have come to realize more than ever that one of our main goals at NGC is to spread the joy and many benefits of gardening to all ages. In order to accomplish this and to gain new members, we must each share our love and knowledge of gardening with younger generations.

As a child I grew up on a Mississippi farm/ranch, where I learned the joy of gardening as a young child from my family and neighbors. I grew up learning only organic practices and how to use every little bit of vegetation for something good. Many of those methods and practices continue in my gardening today.

The NGC Four Star Program

After becoming an NGC Flower Show judge, I decided that I would set out to become a member of the NGC Four Star Program. To become a Four Star member and achieve consultant and judge status, one needs to successfully complete all aspects of all four NGC Schools. I wanted to learn all that I could about gardening, landscape design and how I could be more environmentally friendly. I attended Environmental School in New Mexico and learned so much about our planet and how I could better care for it.

After becoming an environmental consultant, I was ready to begin Landscape Design Schools and Gardening Schools. There was one major problem – my state garden club did not offer either at that time and there were no plans in the works to get them started. So I headed to Missouri, Florida, Iowa and Arizona for the courses, and where I could also have the opportunity to visit with family and the friends that I had made at NGC. I was fortunate that I could travel to attend the courses. However, many of our members, especially those with young families, may not have this flexibility.



Please visit NGC Schools
Course Calendars at
www.gardenclub.org

I cannot emphasize how much I learned from the courses that I took for credit originally, and from our first series, in New Mexico. For example, I learned that the many aspects of gardening I learned as a child – and still was practicing – were outdated methods. In addition, they were not applicable to gardening in the Southwest. There are always new methods, new tools, new cultivars and new scientific findings coming to light that we gardeners can benefit from.

Successfully Launching Gardening Schools

After receiving consultant status in all three schools, I spoke with our state president about starting Gardening Schools in New Mexico. We were still having a discussion on what that would entail when I had the opportunity to sit on a plane with Barbara Hadsell after an NGC convention. I had met her once before at one of my schools in Florida, and in our discussion, she encouraged me to really make the effort to get the ball rolling for the first series of Gardening Schools courses in New Mexico. Barbara has been instrumental in helping me from the start to completion of New Mexico's first series of Gardening Schools.

- With the assistance afforded to states from NGC, I found it pretty easy to get a series going. Once it is decided where and when to hold a course, you then look at the curriculum for each of the courses and begin looking for instructors that best fit each topic. New Mexico has used several County Extension

agents and several professors from our various state universities. We have also used individuals who are considered “local experts” in a particular field.

- There are many flexible options in holding school courses. We held our schools about every 4- to 5-months, but some states hold their schools every 3- to 4-months, and sometimes, even back-to-back by holding a school four days in a row. Selected school locations included a popular botanical garden, a state park, a nature center, the County

Extension offices and surrounding grounds and The Albuquerque Garden Center – a facility with beautiful gardens where many of our state's garden clubs and plant societies meet. Each of these sites is centrally located in the Metropolitan Albuquerque area and within a reasonable travel distance in our large state. Many states use the same facility for

each course and then move the next series to another location. The location opportunities are vast in most states.

- One of the key factors to a successful school series is to keep costs and registration fees low. Some clubs offer full scholarships or pay half of the cost if the student pays the other half. Drawings for tuition can be held at state conventions or district meetings to enable someone to attend a course, or even refresh. There are multiple ways to reduce costs to students.

“There are always new methods, new tools new, cultivars and new scientific findings coming to light that we gardeners can benefit from..”

- An important factor to having a successful school is to make sure you go public. Advertising is critical. Make sure the schools' courses are listed correctly on the NGC Schools Course Calendar, in your NGC regional newsletter and on your region's website. Reach out to your local media to pitch a possible TV segment on your course for viewer education. This also will gain free publicity for your next course. Deliver announcements about your course to local schools. Many schools have school gardens and parents of students might find your course of interest. Send out registration invitations and forms to club presidents in your state, and ask they share the information with their members. Finally, reach out to presidents in states that border your home state to let them know about upcoming courses so that they can pass it on to their state members.
- A good way to foster conversations and facilitate friendships is through food. Lunches and snacks may be brought in by students. Some clubs volunteer to fix lunches and snacks, dine out or use catering. We always invite our course instructor to stay after or come early for lunch.

Please keep in mind that many young adults are very busy working to raise their families and do not always have

the time to invest in a certified Master Gardener Program, which involves a commitment to extensive hours of class time, as well as more than 40 hours of volunteering. With many individuals and families becoming involved in gardening and urban homesteading, I believe NGC plays a vital role in establishing sound gardening practices in the future generations!

It's exciting to once again have “PLANT AMERICA” as our NGC theme. Let's help teach others in our communities how to reap the many benefits of all things gardening by offering an NGC Gardening Schools series of courses in each state during the 2019-2021 term. Not only will new friendships be made, but I promise that you also will gain new members. New Mexico did! ■

Debi Harrington

*Coordinator, NGC Gardening Committee
Chairman, Gardening Schools, New Mexico
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Maria Thomas, curator of plants at ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden in Albuquerque, New Mexico, leads students on a guided tour during Gardening Schools Course 3.



environmental, gardening and landscape design

SCHOOLS

You are invited to attend an Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design and/or Flower Show School. Each of the schools offers a variety of topics that include information specific to your area of the country. Some students, mostly in neighboring states, travel to the schools for instruction. For example, an Environmental Schools chairman in Pennsylvania recently shared that of the 27 students registered for a course, seven of the attendees hailed from other states.

- Each school (Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design) has four two-day courses. Many include a field trip. To become a consultant, a student is required to take an open-book test immediately following the completion of a course. To receive a consultant's certification card, students must complete all four courses within seven years. To maintain "Good Standing," consultants are required to take an additional course or refresher once within a five-year period. After the consultant's fourth refresher, a master consultant's application

will be prepared. The consultants will receive a card with the date of last completed course and "Good Standing Date." The consultant can receive one refresher credit per calendar year. Consultants have five years to receive a refresher credit.

- It is most important that consultants keep a record of all completed courses and refreshers. The dates of your original consultant certificate and master certificate are most important. You will need this information when applying for a 4- and 5-Star membership, a refresher, multiple refresher, emeritus and/or reinstatement. The date of your last course/refresher is required when applying to take a refresher application and/or multiple refresher. Consultants taking courses/refreshers out of their state of residence, and those students/consultants whose state does not have a Schools chairman must keep detailed records of completed courses/refreshers. Consultants seeking to verify completed courses and refreshers should contact their state chairman for Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design Schools, or the NGC Schools chairmen listed below.
- A revised forms package was posted on the NGC Schools pages of the NGC website in July.
- Please use the "Guide for Students

and Consultants," which is applicable to all three schools at gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-es-gs-ld-schools-guide-for-students-and-consultants.pdf

- Course outlines from the instructors are to be submitted by state chairmen with test questions and answers to ES and GS accrediting chairmen and LDS instructors' chairmen.
- Please note that Roman numerals are no longer being used to refer to course or series.
- This is a reminder to refresh this year if your Good Standing Date is December 31, 2019, and if you cannot refresh by then, please have your state chairman request an extension using Form 9-2019 before

December 31.

All of our courses are open to everyone interested in learning and enjoying the fellowship of others. Many take our courses without the intent of becoming a consultant. Please visit the NGC Schools Website at gardenclub.org to discover where one of our schools is being held near you. ■

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landscape design

SCHOOLS

For those involved in the administration of Landscape Design Schools (LDS), please remember that the LDS series, which already was in progress prior to July 1, will continue to use the old curriculum and the text "Stewards of the Land," until the series is completed with Course 4. New LDS series beginning with Course 1 on and after July 1 use the new curriculum. Both sets of curricula are included in the new Schools Handbook and are posted on the NGC LDS webpage. Form LDS 2C provides criteria for areas of expertise for LDS instructors using the old curriculum. A similar criterion for instructors using the

new curriculum has been submitted for posting to the NGC website.

Please note that a new procedure has been implemented for the submission of LDS Course registration forms. Upon completion of online fillable Form 1-2019, please email the form to me at the address below to approve the registration of your course.

State and local LDS chairmen, LDS students and LD Consultants are reminded to read "The National Gardener," for school updates, as well as the Landscape Design feature article in most issues. In addition, please read "Newscaper," the biannual LD newsletter. The next issue will be available about the time this issue of "The National Gardener" is published. ■

Greg Pokorski

*Chairman
Landscape Design Schools
GregPokorski@earthlink.net*


Please visit NGC Schools
Course Calendars at
www.gardenclub.org

Flower Show SCHOOLS

BENT AND TWISTED STUDIOS

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Large and Small Boxes

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Our sculptures make great design examples at symposiums, conventions, design schools, judges' councils and Flower Show Schools.

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The following are items of information.

Design, Page 77, "Napkins are never placed on dishes in Tray classes." This is often overlooked when judging Trays.

Horticulture, clarification: Scale of Points, Handbook of Flower Shows page 129 Criteria, Conformance Adherence to schedule requirements for plant type and how it is exhibited (cut or container-grown) Other items are judged under other Criteria such as blooming (Form/Maturity), number of leaves (Form/Maturity), stem length (Size/Grooming), container (Staging), etc.

Botanical Arts Horticulture Ownership All exhibits must be grown by the exhibitor.

1. Arboreal – 6 months
2. Dried & Preserved specimens – Schedule may state length of ownership

3. Landscapes- Permanent- 6 months, but annuals may be replaced as needed Temporary- no length of time requirement Container-grown Miniature Gardens (fairy gardens or dioramas) – 6 weeks
4. Manipulated plants – 6 months Schedule will state if manipulation must be done by the exhibitor.

Subdividing in the Horticulture Division, clarification: Handbook for Flower Shows page 3.D.2.b.ii. "There should be several exhibits, usually three (3) or more, of botanically identical (variety, cultivar, series or trademark name), or similar form, color, size or description to justify forming a subclass." This means that classification does not subdivide a class and place a single specimen in a class by itself.

The primary horticulture nomenclature resource for Flower Show Schools and Symposium of National Garden Clubs, Inc. is www.plantsoftheworldonline.org This is the most current, most relevant, easiest to use and complete on-line search engine for plant nomenclature.

Flower Show School Curriculum, Effective Immediately Handbook for Flower Shows Chapter 13, page 125 & 127

Two items that fall under Flower Show Procedure will be exchanged in Course II and IV.

Course II, FSP, E. will now be: Explanation of Botanical Arts Photography section and requirements for Botanical Arts Photography Award (Committee to work with instructor on obtaining examples of Botanical Arts Photography).

Course IV, FSP, D. will now be: Evaluating an NGC Flower Show: Flower Show Evaluation Point Scoring Forms and Criteria. ■

Jan Warshauer

Chairman, Flower Show Schools
jwarshauer@aol.com

Please visit NGC Schools Course Calendars at www.gardenclub.org

NGC Calendar

National Conventions

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2020 | Milwaukee, Wis., May 11-14 |
| 2021 | East Rutherford, N.J., May 17-20 (installation) |
| 2022 | Orlando, Fla. Dates TBD |

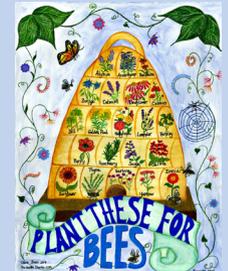
SMALL GROUP TOUR

Spring in Portugal:

Treasures of Porto, Lisbon, and Douro Valley

March 26–April 4, 2020, 9 nights
Extension to tropical Madeira available April 4–7

- Lisbon, Porto, Douro Valley, Funchal
- Lots of Gardens with Camellias at their peak
- Gulbenkian Museum
- Port Wine Cruise
- Fado Performance
- Palacio of Pena
- Belem Tower
- Ciombra University
- Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Batalha Monastery
- Bom Jesus do Monte Baroque Staircase
- 5-Star Accommodations—many meals included



For details, email Claire Jones, jonesb1@comcast.net

full itinerary @ thegardendiaries.blog

Fall Board Meetings

- | | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 2019 | St. Louis, Mo., Sept 18-20 |
| 2020 | Fargo, N.D., Sept. 24-26 |
| 2021 | St. Louis, Mo., Dates TBD |

THE *Happy* GARDENER'S *Guide*

- SURPRISE! SURPRISE! -

Having mostly a perennial garden means I'm used to seeing the same plants year after year. Like catching up with old friends, I look forward to seeing them again and again. At the same time, I'm open to surprises. Each year, the unexpected keeps things interesting.

As Sly As a Foxtail Lily

This spring was unusually wet, and it must have enabled my foxtail lilies (*Eremurus himalaicus*) to shoot up from their ordinary height of four feet to seven feet tall. But that was just the first surprise – I found 25 baby foxtails! I discovered that it takes 3 to 5 years for the seeds to mature into a plant. How had I missed detecting them for so long? I do remember a few years back, when one foxtail lily showed up on the opposite side of the garden – smack dab in the middle



of a flowerbed – exactly where I would have wanted it. An unseen hand was at work in the garden, and I admired the placement. But, to have 25 secret locations of foxtails revealed all at once was amazing.

The Incredibly Resourceful Dahlias

Another surprise this season resulted

from a sudden flash of spring fever that hit in late February. Knowing that it was much too early to purchase dahlia tubers, I put a package of two (at a bargain price), in my grocery cart anyway. Eager to experiment with my bargain, I plopped each one into an 8-inch nursery pot, dumped in the potting soil and let them bask in the picture window upstairs, which offers great

southern exposure. In just two months' time, the foliage was a foot high. By

Mother's Day, both plants had bloomed. I waited until after our usual last frost date of May 15 to set them outside. The next week — surprise! – six inches of snow was predicted. Being a fierce, protective nurturer, my first thought was to cage and wrap the dahlias in shade cloth. However, another wonderful surprise was in store – they survived the snowfall and freezing temperatures! For the first time in my recollection, I had dahlias blooming in early summer rather than mid-August.

The Great Migration

A third surprise came along. As I checked on my hydrangeas that had been intended as a fence row, I was stunned to find they had left my side of the fence and migrated to the neighbor's side. I don't mind really. For a number of years, the hydrangeas have been

a personal disappointment with their failure to thrive, but I hadn't worked up the courage to uproot and toss them. Now that they have migrated to my neighbor's side of the fence, perhaps they will bring her joy. Some years ago, she cut down her raspberry bushes in the corner of her backyard and the roots crawled under the privacy fence and now flourish in my corner. I don't mind trading hydrangeas for warm raspberries picked fresh from the bush – one of my favorite summer memories.

As gardeners, we practice managing the soil, plant location, water and what not, but surprises happen anyway, and sometimes it's best to just stop and enjoy the unexpected. ■

Charlotte A. Swanson

Consultant, Gardening Schools
swannson@daltontel.net

Cultivate our Garden Community

WITH GARDENING TIPS, IDEAS AND PROJECTS

Members of National Garden Clubs are a wealth of knowledge and information on all things in the garden.

Do you, or your club, have gardening tips, tricks, ideas or project successes to share?



The National Gardener would like to tap into your skills and talents, as well as showcase your favorite projects.

PLEASE SEND:

- **A brief description** of your idea or how a unique project fostered success.
- **A photo or two** of your project is welcome. Photos must be high resolution 300 dpi with photo credit information provided.

SEND TO:

Patricia Binder, editor
The National Gardener
patricia.b.binder@gmail.com

Landscape DESIGN

THE ARTFUL GARDENER

BY ALAN STORJOHANN

As we near the end of the second decade of this millennium, interest in gardening is at an all-time high. If you like variety in the landscape, this is a great time to be alive! Over the past several decades, plant producers

have brought hundreds of exciting new varieties to the garden marketplace. Choices are extensive, with new colors, extended bloom times, disease resistance and functionality for just about any location in the landscape. There is much the home gardener can enjoy when it comes to plants, which when selected wisely, can provide a pleasing complement to any home.

Along with plants, we have seen a

remarkable increase in outdoor living amenities, such as fireplaces, kitchens, elaborate arbors and cabanas. Ponds are still popular, but many have been replaced by highly landscaped swimming pools. Patios are now enclosed,

covered and furnished as extended living rooms. More homeowners are spending time outside, engaged in cooking, play and relaxation, looking beyond their plants as they seek to maximize their outdoor pleasure.

One way to do that, beyond incorporating the several functional elements just mentioned, is to integrate works of art among the plants, ponds and patios. While this is not particularly new in practice, it has become



▲ Outdoor living spaces that feature lush plantings and/or water features are popular and attractive elements in a garden landscape.

Introducing and integrating works of art into the garden landscape has become an increasingly popular trend.



dramatically widespread, rivalling many other popular garden trends of the past. When shopping for garden items, garden statuary, decorative accessories, containers or figurines can be found just about everywhere. The art might be abstract or lifelike, stationary or moving, colloquial or sophisticated. There seems to be no end to the selection! One is only limited by personal preference or budget.

When it comes to determining which sort of artistic piece to place in one's landscape, help can be found by checking out local exhibits and activities, which feature art in the garden, or by visiting a local business or attraction that features art.

Garden Tours

One of the best ways to see how art can be used is to attend an annual garden tour. Art is now a prominent element in so many residential landscapes, that the homes on any given tour offer guests an opportunity to see how art can be used in a variety of settings. Homeowners show remarkable creativity and amaze the crowds with a wide variety of elements and special sculptures. Participating landscape designers and contractors often place sculpture and decorative pieces to draw attention to otherwise ignored parts of their landscape creation, and many times have a treasure trove of art work for that purpose back at the office. These annual tours are often featured in local newspapers prior to the event, so take advantage of the hospitality of these brave homeowners and join in the fun.



Residential garden landscapes that feature art in a variety of ways complement plantings and provide seasonal interest. Photos by Warren Filley, M.D.

Home and Garden Shows

Another way to learn how art can be used in the garden is to attend a seasonal home and garden show that features special landscape displays and exhibits. These shows, now offered in winter, spring, summer and fall, are sometimes free-of-charge, and entice local citizens to home-related products and services offered by the exhibitor. Some landscape companies routinely spend over \$100,000 for the components of their displays, hoping the attending public will be impressed with their capabilities. Smaller exhibitors may have colorful displays, along with photo albums or videos showing past projects. Art and water are big attractions in many of these designs, and give all who walk by a sense of how these could be incorporated into garden landscapes back home. In some communities, garden and landscaping companies

may offer tours of their display gardens at their business locations to interest garden show ticket holders, in the hope of garnering future business. Home and garden shows have been around for a long time and have proven to be a great way to connect the best landscape companies with the public.

“Art and water are big attractions in many of these designs...”

Community Art Events

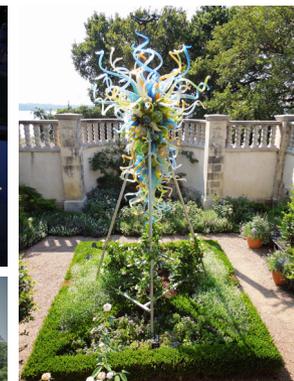
A similar kind of experience and fun venue for finding garden art is the annual community art sale. Art festivals are staged across the country in spring and fall. Many are outdoor venues that offer tents in case of inclement

weather. While the majority of exhibited art eventually finds a home in an interior space, many festivals also invite artists who specialize in outdoor art as well. The pieces can be small, relatively simple, or large and quite expensive. A portion of each sale generally is given to support a charity or other non-profit foundation.



Community art festivals also offer ideas for the garden landscape.

The dramatic, popular works of American glass sculptor Dale Chihuly can be seen in exhibitions at public botanical gardens and museums throughout the U.S., and around the world. Chihuly's largest permanent exhibit is on display at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



This is a wonderful way to find high-quality and unique art for that special spot back home, while also supporting the non-profit conducting the festival.

a botanical garden recently to see an exhibit

prepared by Dale Chihuly or other highly skilled and talented artists? Chihuly and many others have become wildly popular all over the world. Some of their works are available for sale to patrons of the

Local Institutions

Other institutions that provide delightful temporary exhibits of garden art and also incorporate donated works into the permanent collection are botanical gardens, art museums and sometimes zoos. Who hasn't toured



arts at public gardens or museum gift shops. Craftsmen and artists often accompany and offer demonstrations of art featured in the exhibits and visitors



Public botanical gardens and other institutions that feature art installations or special exhibits offer inspiration for your home garden landscape.



can learn how the art work is created. Special themed exhibits of art are important ways for these institutions to raise financial support and admission dollars during the year, and they can also dramatically increase attendance due to the popularity of art in the public setting these days.

Your Local Garden Shop

Art created by world-renowned master artists is likely far beyond the budgets of most gardeners. This is where your local garden shop becomes a trusted resource. Local retailers offer affordable specialty items, with large inventories of specialty containers, statuary, fountains and outdoor artwork – sometimes displayed in creative plant settings – to capture the imaginations of gardeners.

These specialty shops often offer a more “gift shop” design and product mix than found at many landscape nurseries and large garden centers. If you are

familiar with a garden gift store in your community, why not stop in to see what they have for your patio, deck or garden?

Garden Retail Centers

Finally, another source for garden art is the traditional landscape nursery and garden center, as well as garden centers found at big-box hardware stores, discount stores and home stores. While the focus at these stores is significantly upon their plants and plant health products, they also provide garden furnishings, statuary, fountains and a variety of garden markers, flags, wind



▲ A plethora of decorative accessories, containers or figurines for the garden landscape can be found at retail outlets that feature garden items.

chimes and decorative containers. Gardeners may appreciate the affordability of some of these specialty items that may provide a starting point for those who are just beginning to explore ways

to enhance the landscape and garden.

It has been said many times that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that remains true with art in the

landscape, in whatever form it may come. Whether it is a bronze sculpture of children or animals, or an abstract glass or stone design, art can truly transform your landscape! While plants still are the key to a vibrant, beautiful landscaped garden, art just seems to bring in a new excitement, particularly if the works selected are thoughtfully chosen. As you travel around and take in some of these events, activities and shopping experiences, may you find the perfect work of art to enhance your unique garden setting. ■

Photos by Allan Storjohann

For more than 35 years, Allan Storjohann has been the popular host of the Gardening Show on KRMG-AM in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he fields gardening questions from listeners and shares a wealth of knowledge, education and horticultural experiences.

Storjohann served as manager for 22 years at Myriad Botanical Gardens, a 17-acre botanical garden and interactive urban park and home to the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory, which features thousands of varieties of tropical and desert plantings in Oklahoma City. The premier garden, a division of the Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Department, offers a wide range of events, educational opportunities and entertainment to Oklahomans and visitors from around the world. In addition, he supervised the Will

Rogers Garden and Arboretum, a 30-acre park in Oklahoma City, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A third generation nurseryman, Storjohann has been active in nursery and landscape businesses during his lifetime, including working at multiple landscape and lawn care firms. He is an Oklahoma Certified Nurseryman and served as past president of the Oklahoma Greenhouse Growers Association and the Oklahoma Horticulture Society. In 2013, Storjohann was selected as Green Industry Professional of the Year by the Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Association. In addition, he is an active member of the American Horticulture Society and American Public Gardens Association.

Storjohann was named head of the horticulture department at Oklahoma State University in Oklahoma City from 1985 to 1991, where he developed and taught a wide range of horticulture courses, seminars and workshops. He holds a master's degree in horticulture from OSU-OKC.

In April, Storjohann was a speaker at NGC's South Central Region convention. Currently retired, he continues his weekly radio broadcast, writes for horticulture publications, and assists in statewide horticulture programs and volunteers locally. He can be reached at algardens@cox.net or 405-823-2792.

The National Gardener Schedule

WINTER

January, February, March
Articles and Advertising
due: November 1

SPRING

April, May, June
Articles and Advertising
due: February 1

SUMMER

July, August, September
Articles and Advertising
due: May 1

FALL

October, November,
December
Articles and Advertising
due: August 1

a tranquil space

The atrium garden at NGC headquarters undergoes a dramatic transformation

As many gardeners will attest, renovating an older, established garden may pose challenges, but with the right mix of planning, a design that incorporates a variety of plantings and hard work and enthusiasm, the results can be rewarding.

The project, undertaken in spring 2019, was the interior garden situated in an atrium at National Garden Clubs' headquarters in St. Louis. The space, a focal point of the building, features a unique circular roofline open to the sky. Noted architect Frederick Dunn, who designed the NGC headquarters building, incorporated the atrium and garden in keeping with the aesthetics of the mid-century modern design. Dunn, a

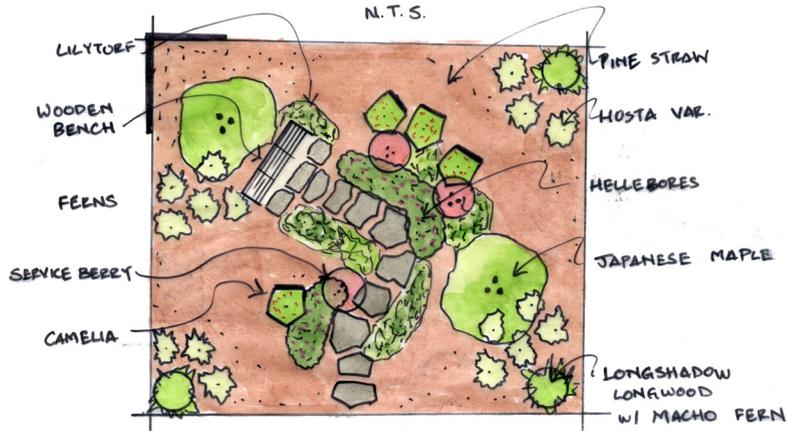
graduate of Yale School of Architecture, collaborated with Nolan Stinson, a graduate of the Washington University School of Architecture in St. Louis, on the building's design. They were partners in the architectural firm Dunn & Stinson from 1952 to 1962. The NGC permanent headquarters building – a modern masterpiece of brick and stone – and the atrium were dedicated in 1959.

It is estimated that thousands of members of National Garden Clubs have viewed the atrium garden space during their visits to the building. However, the age, size and declining health of the plantings in the space became a growing concern. With the objective to fill the space with a fresh landscape and more

Atrium
Concept
- Jon
Carloftis
Fine
Gardens

ATRIUM CONCEPT

JON CARLOFTIS FINE GARDENS
N.T.S.



PHASE 1 Delivery and Demolition



PHASE 2 Placement



PHASE 3 Plant and Water



Phase 1 - Delivery and Demolition



light, Jean Ohlmann, NGC chairman of the Golden Circle Committee and member of The Garden Club of Kentucky Inc., and Thomas McKinley, landscape designer of Jon Carloftis Fine Gardens, introduced an open concept with new plantings for a beautiful and tranquil space. The two-day project yielded a variety of new plantings including two Japanese maples; several varieties of hostas; phlox; ostrich, autumn and ghost ferns; cherry laurel; and several varieties of hellebores. A new garden bench was introduced into the space, as well as NGC's existing garden sculptures. Plantings attract pollinators and birds.

"Our members and staff will enjoy this space for years to come, and for those of us who were fortunate enough to watch the project come together, we will share stories of the large scope of work performed in such a short time," said Sandy Robinson, 2015-2017 NGC president and member of the NGC Permanent Home & Endowment Committee.



Phase 2 - Placement

The NGC headquarters building was featured in a 2016 article "Missouri's Architectural Treasures," in "Missouri Life Magazine," and also garnered a 1995 "Twenty-five Year Building Award" from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) St. Louis.

The building is situated on six acres adjacent to the Missouri Botanical Garden, a leading center for botanical research and science education founded in 1859 by St. Louis entrepreneur and businessman Henry Shaw. It is the nation's oldest botanical garden in continuous operation and a National Historic Landmark. ■

About Jon Carloftis Fine Gardens

Kentucky native Jon Carloftis is an award-winning garden designer, garden writer, TV guest, gardening author and lecturer. His career in gardening began in 1988 in New York City, where he became one of America's pioneers and leading authority on rooftop/small space gardening. Carloftis also specially designed a ceramic wren house as part of his collection for Louisville Stoneware for NGC's Plant it Pink garden therapy program for use in healing gardens.

 Photos by Thomas McKinley, Jon Carloftis Fine Gardens

Phase 3 - Plant and Water



▲ The renovated atrium garden provides the perfect setting for a photo op with Jon Carloftis (center), who is flanked by Sandy Robinson, 2015-2017 NGC president (right) and Jean Ohlmann, chairman, NGC Golden Circle Committee (left). Also shown is NGC Executive Director Michelle Smith (far right) and Katie Roth, NGC administrative assistant (far left).



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