

# The National Gardener

Spring 2015





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# The National Gardener

Spring 2015  
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## National Garden Clubs, Inc.

6,000 Garden Clubs  
200,000 Garden Club Members  
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70 National Affiliate Member Organizations  
300 International Affiliate Member Organizations

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## Table of Contents

Welcome to the 86th NGC Convention	4
Landscape Design: Xeriscaping	5
Keep Your Iris Divas Dancing	8
The Benefits of Native Bees	12
Environmental Studies	15
Vision of Beauty Deadline for Entries	15
Club Makes a Difference for Youth	16
Cherokee Trail Tree	18
Photography Workshop, NGC Convention	19
NGC Schools News	20
BeeGAP to Continue Next Term	22
Landscape Design Schools	23
Saving the Monarchs	24
Member Services	26
Children's Book Reviews	28
Book Reviews	29
2015: Year of the Coleus	32
Flower Show Schools	34
NGC Schools and Courses	37
Gardening Study	40

## The Cover

*The Armature form design is by Tony  
Todesco, Stow, Massachusetts.  
The structure is Rivercane, Hydrangea,  
and flax foliage.  
Photograph by Cheryl Collins*

# President's Message

Making A World Of Difference—Choices Matter

Spring has arrived—really it has. It is just mixed in with some rain and some snow, but soon *Spring Reign!* It will bring the blooms of the bright daffodils (and I will think of Renee), tulips, and crocuses. The forsythias will brighten fence lines, then the iris blooms show up—the 'Barbara May' and the 'Linda Nelson'—and soon the cherry trees will be fluffy balls of white and pink. Currently, I am enjoying the 'Shirley Snow' Lenten rose. I love it! With spring we see the *Endless Possibilities* of gardening.

Speaking of *Endless Possibilities*, that is what we will be celebrating in Louisville, Kentucky, May 15-17. As I have been traveling, visiting our state meetings, I am amazed, as well as impressed, with all the various possibilities that our members have developed to protect and conserve our natural resources: the efforts to protect our pollinators—bees and butterflies; to keep our soil healthy; teaching our neighbors and our young people the value of planting native plants; growing healthy food; and cleaning up our water and keeping it clean. The interest and action to save our bees and butterflies is heartwarming and, to the bees and butterflies, their salvation! We have endless possibilities of gaining knowledge during the convention. There will be several workshops each day focusing on a wide variety of subjects, including birds, butterflies, native plants, and children's gardens, as well as top-notch parliamentary lessons for all, but especially helpful for club and state presidents. We hope you plan to come early



for the exciting tours and the Tuesday night special design program presented by National Flower Arrangers, featuring Esther de la Torre. Esther is a creative designer who incorporates visual effects into her designs. Arabella Dane will present a photography workshop early in the afternoon. Both are not to be missed. During this convention we have a very important issue to decide—a dues increase. Please read the information

below this message for the rationale for why we find this increase necessary. Come join us in Louisville, Kentucky—***The Possibilities are Endless!***

As I close out my term, I want to thank all of our members for the kindness extended to me as I visited with you. You have made a world of difference in my life. I know as you continue to work in your communities you will make significant progress to protect and conserve our natural resources and make a world of difference where you live. I want to say a special thank you to some people who have worked very diligently to provide the information and energy behind the President's special projects: Marion Hillard, general chairman of President's Projects, along with her team of Mary Sue Colvin, Doris Jackson, Phyllis Besch, Caroline Wittman, Mary Jacobs, Sylvia de Porras, and Sandy Mangels. I hope your clubs are applying for the awards, which recognize your conservation efforts ([www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), then click *Presidents Projects*, then click *applications*). A big thank you to Debbie Skow, chairman of the Crown

Bees partnership, and to Elaine Gunderson, chairman of the highly successful AMES garden tools partnership. Each week I receive confirmation of more clubs receiving tools to complete youth gardens, Habitat landscaping, community gardens, or civic plantings. AMES Company and Crown Bees share the conservation objectives of NGC and we are grateful to them for their support. I am grateful to the Conservation committee for their stellar work in producing the booklet "Ecology Warriors," and to Chairman Mary Sue Colvin for this useful tool. Please go to our website and download this booklet. It's free, ya know! To each and every one of you, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the love and support you have given me. May God bless you and your work, and may your choice be to always work to protect our world and be an active part of garden clubs. We are a Force for Good!

Love,



## ● ● ● ● ● ● ● NGC Dues Increase Request

In 1995, National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (as it was then known) raised the dues to 50 cents per member, per year. At that time, we had 320,000 members, so the dues produced \$160,000 for our General Fund. NGC is very fortunate to have had members who want to donate significant money to establish funds for certain uses. These funds are designated in their purposes; the donor decides what we can spend the money on. These funds are vital because they provide the money for much of our expenses: the maintenance of Headquarters; its grounds and landscaping; the Scholarships we give; and certain staff expenses. However, our membership has declined to 180,000 and the income from dues is now \$90,000. You understand from your own life experiences that 50 cents will

not buy today what it would buy in 1995. The basic fact is: income is down and expenditures are up. Not only are dues down, but so is the income from sales of our *Vision of Beauty* calendars and other Member Services items. This has been the case for many years. We have taken significant steps to reduce expenses over those years. We have reduced our staff, which means we have had to increase the workload of the remaining staff. We no longer print information sent to our 300 board members, instead we require them to use email for all our communications. These two steps have kept us afloat until now. However, this has placed the burden of saving money on our staff and our volunteer board members. This next budget year we had to make up the deficit from our savings, but we will not be able to do that again. We are asking that our dues be increased to \$1.00, effective **June 1, 2016**. This increase will bring us back up to the income we had in 1995, so I believe we are demonstrating that we are doing more with less. Compared to other national organizations, our dues are very, very small. When we work together as an organization, sharing all the best talent from our states to develop programs and projects, we have valuable educational opportunities. This, in turn, builds the clout to attract national companies to cooperate in our goals and is worth a dollar a year. So please join me in approving this dues increase request; it is just a cup of McDonald's coffee.

—Linda Nelson, 2013-2015 NGC President

## 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.

# 86th NGC Convention

## Louisville, Kentucky

May 15-17, 2015



you entertained and your appetite satisfied. Many of our Flower Show Judges are designing interesting and exciting designs for you to enjoy at your meals.

We have a great variety of vendors for your shopping pleasure, and you will find pottery, books, clothing, jewelry, plants, flower show supplies and much more during your stay.

We hope to see you in May!  
—Joanna Kirby, *President, The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc.*

The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. is looking forward to hosting the 2015 National Garden Clubs Convention, in Louisville, Kentucky. We have been preparing many wonderful activities, workshops, and tours for everyone attending, and we will be rolling out the “Bluegrass Carpet” of welcome to all.

We have pre-convention tours that will take you to spectacular gardens and historic homes, to Churchill Downs and to our own state headquarters, The Wallis House and Arboretum. You will see our beautiful state in her early spring glory as you travel through rolling landscapes and see our many horse farms. We have one of the few floral clocks in the country, and you will have a chance to see it in person at our state capitol and Governor’s Mansion.

Our speakers and banquets will leave



**Louisville, nicknamed Derby City, is the home of the Kentucky Derby’s “Run for the Roses” at Churchill Downs. Don’t miss a visit to Churchill Downs—one of the highlights of the NGC Convention Tours.**

## Xeriscaping

As the demand for water has increased, and the amount of available water has been reduced, we have become aware of the need for water conservation. *Xeriscaping* is a landscaping technique that reduces the need for supplemental water for irrigation. Xeriscape is a combination of two words: *xeri*, from the Greek word *xros*, meaning dry; and *scape*, meaning scene. It is landscaping in which consideration is given to water availability in an area and the use of plant materials appropriate for that area. Often native plants are the best choice. Water-conserving landscapes, drought-tolerant landscaping and smart-scaping also refer to landscaping that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental water from irrigation.

Xeriscape is a trademarked term, first

used in 1981. The Denver, Colorado, Water Department and the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado created a program that encouraged the public to use landscape water in a more efficient way. States with similar water problems adopted the program, and the National Xeriscape Council came into existence, in 1986. States with limited accessible water or reliable supplies of water promote xeriscaping. Many have public education programs promoting xeriscaping. It can be established anywhere resulting in reduction of residential water usage.

The advantages of xeriscaping are multiple and should be considered. The demand on a region's water supply is reduced. Xeriscapes require up to two-thirds less water than a regular lawn landscape. Less time and work is required in maintenance of a xeriscape as these landscapes need less fertilizer and usually have smaller areas of lawn. It costs to use water and to apply it. Less fertilizer reduces pollution in runoff. The



***Xeriscaping does not create a barren, desert display of plants.***

unused fertilizers can be used in areas of the world where they are needed to improve gardens and to reduce hunger. Xeriscaping encourages the use of native plants and of plants appropriate for local climatic conditions.

Disadvantages would be a smaller area for recreation due to reduced lawn areas. The cost of creating a xeriscape must be considered.

There are seven principles that guide the development and maintenance of Xeriscaping.

1. The first principle calls for proper planning and design of the area to become a Xe-



*Beauty in xeriscaping.*

riscape. Water use for each area is defined and plants are *hydrozoned*, grouped on the basis of their water needs. Natural moisture areas are taken into consideration.

2. Proper soil analysis must take place before plantings occur. A soil environment in which the plants will thrive is crucial, no matter where the landscape is located.

3. Suitable plants for the site must be selected. Consideration of water use is important in selection. The size of the plant will affect water required. If necessary, soil may be amended to fit plants.

3. Suitable plants for the site must be selected. Consideration of water use is important in selection. The size of the plant will affect water required. If necessary, soil may be amended to fit plants.



*Plants are selected with similar water requirements.*

4. Turf grass areas should be limited. Less turf results in reduction in watering and maintenance requirements. In the United States, turf is the single most irrigated crop in surface area. Lawns should be used where it is the functional plant of



**Ornamental Grasses provide contrast of color and texture.**

choice and where alternate ground cover or non-living surface is not appropriate. Turf grass areas can be a small part of a xeriscape but not be overused.

5. When irrigating a xeriscape, the system needs to match the site and the needs of plants located there. Water-efficient planning should take place, with the correct amount of water being applied for deep roots. Drip systems and other micro-irrigation systems should be considered. Water is best applied in the morning. Soil moisture sensors assist in preventing overwatering. The turf grass areas should be watered on a different zone from other plants.

6. Organic and fine-textured mulches help retain moisture and should be used. A thickness of between two to four inches is best. Mulches reduce weed growth, keep roots cool, and prevent soil from crusting.

7. Appropriate maintenance is required for both xeriscapes and turf grass areas, but xeriscapes call for lower maintenance. Minimized water usage and conservation of water result from properties where xeriscaping exists. The maintenance program must be to minimize water-demanding new growth and to conserve water. Tasks such as proper mowing of turf areas, keeping plants healthy—disease and bug free—using a broom instead of the hose to clean walks, all should be considered.

Everyone benefits from xeriscaping. This

is creating sustainable landscapes, not barren, desert, dry displays of plants. Gardeners should consider this technique and its principles when making plans for their home garden or for a club project. Awareness of plants appropriate for their region and the plants' growing requirements, especially their water requirements and tolerances, will enable gardeners to make wise choices. We can make a difference.

—**Jane R. Bersch**, *NGC LDS Chairman*  
*References: Jack E. Ingels, "Landscaping, Principles & Practices," Seventh Edition; "Xeriscaping" — Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

### **A Few Xeriscaping Plants**

**Trees:** *Cercis Canadensis texensis* (Redbud); Amelanchier species (Serviceberry); *Acer negundo* (Boxelder)

**Shrubs:** *Prunus fasciculata* (Desert Almond); *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese Barberry); *Pyracantha coccinea lelandei* (Leland Firethorn); *Rosa floribundo* (Floribunda Rose); *Yucca filamentosa* (Adam's Needle Yucca)

**Ornamental Grasses:** *Pennisetum alopecuroides homeln* (Dwarf Fountain Grass); *Miscanthus sinensis gracillimus* (Maiden grass); *Phalaris arundinacea* (Ribbon grass)

**Groundcovers:** *Juniperus horizontalis* (Creeping juniper); *Phlox subulata* (Moss phlox)

**Vines:** *Ficus pumila* (Climbing Fig); *Clematis* hybrids (Flowering clematis)

**Perennials:** *Perovskia atriplicifolia* (Russian Sage); *Sedum*; *Agastache*; *Lavandula angustifolia* (Lavender); *Echinops* (Globe Thistle); *Echinacea purpurea* (Coneflower)

# Keep your Iris Divas Dancing!

Late summer is the prime time to divide bearded irises

With frills and a flourish they command admiration like a princess on the ballroom floor. Spring reveals the bearded iris like a debutante, elegant yet common, and a centerpiece of American gardening culture. Even a simple roadside mailbox, when circled with waltzing irises, can join in on the celebration.

But all that whirling and twirling can be exhausting. To keep your divas dancing with brilliant blooms, irises should be divided. Depending on your climate, July through October, when the plants are dormant, are the prime months for dividing your irises to ensure that they remain healthy and showy.

Kelly Norris, author of *A Guide to Bearded Irises: Cultivating the Rainbow for Beginners and Enthusiasts* (Timber Press), and horticulture manager at Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, grew up surrounded by beauty at his family's commercial iris farm, in Bedford, Iowa. "As a kid, the sprawling fields of multiple colors during May was an enchantment rivaling Christmas. They continue to fascinate."

A lifetime of irises and the science of growing them give Norris an expertise he is happy to share with both amateur and professional growers.

"Diverse and drought-resistant, bearded

irises require little care beyond weeding and an annual dose of fertilizer," says Norris. "Rose growers have it a lot worse than iris lovers, because irises adapt well and flourish in a wide range of temperatures and soils as long as the area is well-drained with lots of sunlight."

"The only real exception to their ease of care, depending on how vigorous the plant, is that irises should be divided every two to four years, even if you don't plan to expand your garden. Bearded irises that are not divided and replanted tend to suffer a decrease in blooms, a sign that it's time to thin," he says.

## Let's dig in

With each passing year, the root of an iris, called a rhizome, grows several increases of younger, fresher rhizomes. In an older plant, it's easy to spot the young rhizomes



encircling the primary rhizome.

Before you begin, gather your tools. Norris recommends a potato fork, a sharp knife or garden shears, a bucket, chlorine bleach, water, old newspaper for drying, and a permanent marker.

Start by using the bucket to mix a solution of water and bleach at a 10:1 ratio. To divide a whole plant, insert a wide garden fork about six inches from the perimeter of the rhizome circle and gently lift the rhizomes and their roots.

“As you trace the outside rhizomes with your finger, you will feel a small indentation that indicates the node’s connection to the mother plant. You can easily snap off the rhizomes or use your knife or shears to slice the node from the primary rhizome and lay it aside,” says Norris. He recommends dipping your cutting tools in the chlorine bleach solution to prevent passing bacteria and parasites from plant to plant.

“Work with one variety at a time and as you divide each plant, don’t forget to label your types, at least by color and height and possibly by cultivar name,” he says. You can do this with garden markers, or with a permanent marker directly on one of the leaf fans.

Transfer your cuttings to the chlorine solution for a 10-minute soak and then rinse well in fresh water. Place your rhizomes in a shady area to dry while you continue your work. Old newspapers spread on the porch or under a tree will work very well.

You will probably have many more divisions than you will want to replant. Choose the plumpest, healthiest ones for replanting, inspecting them for signs of disease, rot, or damage by borers. Feel free to cut out any damaged or soft portions before sending them for their chlorine bath, but make sure to always use sterilized cutting tools to prevent bacterial spread.

Norris advises cutting the leaf fans by 50 percent and the roots by 30-50 percent. The roots serve as a prop for replanting and will form additional, fresh growth from their severed ends.



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Discounts Available  
for Garden Clubs and  
Members



The advertisement features a stainless steel plant marker with a silver cap and a long thin stem. The text is arranged in a clean, sans-serif font. A black box with white text highlights a discount for garden clubs and members. The Kincaid logo, featuring a stylized green leaf and the word 'KINCAID' in orange, is positioned at the bottom.

### Plant for perfection

Once you’ve divided your plants and chosen the best of the best, it’s time to return them to the garden. While it isn’t necessary to replant the same day you divide, Norris recommends getting them back in the





ground as soon as possible.

Plants should be spaced no closer than 18 inches apart to allow for spread. Create a hole deep enough to comfortably accommodate the rhizome and roots. "If you're inclined, you can work a little well-aged compost into the hole. The plants will love it, but it's not necessary," says Norris. Place the new rhizome with the top third of the horizontal part rising slightly above the soil line. Fill in with soil, and firm with your hand. Water, and continue to water lightly if the weather is dry.

Norris recommends waiting until the plant is well established before fertilizing. Top-dress with a low-nitrogen fertilizer such as the standard 6-10-10. Depending on your growing season, well-established bearded irises should receive a light dose of fertilizer in March, or just before the blooming



season, and again when the blooming season is over. Rebloomers, irises that can bloom up to four times a year, should get an extra dose of fertilizer in August, plus light watering into the fall.

Control weeds the old-fashioned way or by using a corn gluten herbicide, such as Preen, that doesn't contain nitrogen. If you prefer mulch, spread it lightly around the crown but not over the top.

Now that your divas are waltzing once more, your neighbors may be tempted to snitch a few to fill a vase. That's okay, because irises thrive on admiration. Just remember those neighbors when it's time to divide, and cultivate a few more friends in the process.

—**Carole Howell**

*is a freelance journalist who grows her own colorful irises in North Carolina.*

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It's no wonder that the showy bearded iris, often called the "poor man's orchid," is a garden favorite. It certainly has a fan base. The American Iris Society has more than 4,000 members, not to mention local and regional societies and amateur growers and collectors. The Society lists more than 50,000 registered iris cultivars, well over half of these of the bearded type, and more are hybridized each year in all colors of the rainbow.

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**Friday, August 21, 2015 - 1st Day**

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Afternoon program by ***Helga Sallmon*** "Inspirations from the Wilderness"  
**"The Gallery"** dinner with ***Soho Saiki*** presenting "Hanakubari- designing with plant material as your mechanics"

**Saturday, August 22, 2015 - 2nd Day**

Morning workshop with ***Soho Saiki*** "Designing without mechanics" \$100.

Afternoon program with ***Pauline Flynn***, "Midwest Musings"

**Keynote designer, Char Mutschler "Creative Design Fusion"** a merging of elements with energy and light.

**Sunday, August 23, 2015 - 3rd Day**

Morning workshop with ***Char Mutschler*** "What's your angle?" \$125.

Afternoon program by ***Kren Rasmussen, AIFD Owner of Bloomsters***

Advanced Registration for entire seminar including programs and 4 meals: **\$275.\***

\*Workshops are an additional fee as noted.

For registration form, membership and seminar information, contact Jill Coleman:

**Telephone: 951-684-2635    Email: [bcnjill@hotmail.com](mailto:bcnjill@hotmail.com)**

**Website: <http://californiagardenclubs.org/OFAD>**

# The Benefits of Native Bees

**H**oney bees that pollinate our food crops have been the focus of much media attention in the past two years. Colony Collapse Disorder and the decline of our honey bee population are serious concerns because nearly a third of the food we eat is pollinated by bees. But we mustn't overlook the native bees, the ones who work behind the scenes performing important tasks that affect our lives in other ways.

There are about 4,000 species of native bees in North America. (Honey bees, which are not native, were introduced to our country by early colonists.) Although most of them go unnoticed, native bees are important to our natural ecosystems. They pollinate many trees that make up our forests, trees that stabilize the soil, prevent erosion, and provide shelter to birds and wildlife. These same lesser-known bees also pollinate the wildflowers and plants that sustain our wildlife. Native bees are even proficient at pollinating a few of our food crops as well, crops such as pumpkins, watermelons, and berries.

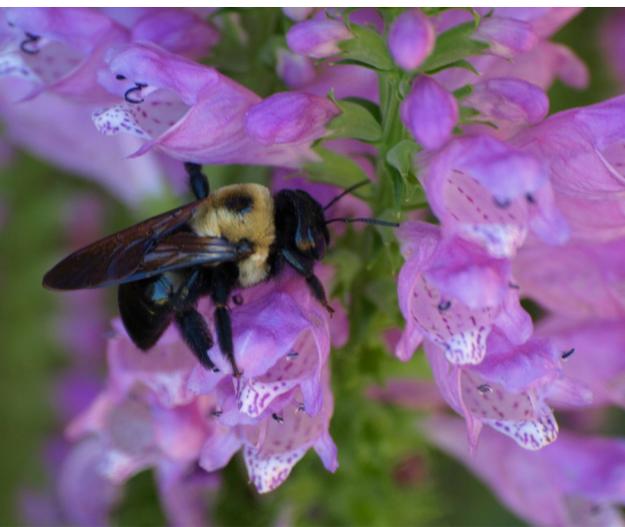
Bumble bees, among the most easily recognizable natives, are known for their "buzz pollination." By holding onto a flower and buzzing, the vibration shakes loose pollen from the anthers of plants that don't readily release pollen grains. Because of this method, bumble bees are used commercially to pollinate greenhouse tomatoes. While many native bees are solitary, bumble bees are not. In late fall, the bumble bee colony dies out with the exception of one fertile female. That female will overwinter underground and emerge in the spring to lay eggs that will start a new bumble bee colony.

Mason bees, also called orchard bees, are small native bees that are solitary rather than social. Unlike honey bees or bumble bees, all female mason bees are fertile and can lay eggs. Mason bees cannot excavate wood, so they are not a threat to homeowners. They look for tube-like holes made by other insects or woodpeckers, or use hollow twigs for nesting. The female gathers pollen and nectar to create a food supply to fill a cell before she inserts an egg and then seals the cell shut with mud. Next, she makes another cell next to the previous one until the tube is filled. Eggs in the back of the tube become female mason bees, while eggs near the front become males.

Native bees come in a wide variety of colors, sizes, and shapes. There are digger bees, squash bees, carpenter bees, blueberry bees, and many more. There are long-tongued bees and short-tongued bees. There are cuckoo bees, which lay their eggs in another bee's nest, sometimes killing the host larvae in the process. Nearly all native bees feed on flower nectar.

## Protecting Native Bees

As responsible landowners and gardeners, we can protect and support these beneficial native bees. Native bees require a sunny habitat and prefer open





**Black-eyed Susan, (*Rudbeckia hirta*)**

meadows but are also found in field margins, woodland edges, roadsides, and home gardens. They benefit from perennials, which are richer nectar sources than annuals. If you plan to create a habitat for native bees, you must avoid pesticides and herbicides. In selecting plants, it is important to provide blooms from early spring to late fall. Also, native bees benefit from a diversity of flower shapes and sizes that will accommodate both long-tongued and short-tongued species. The larger the suitable habitat space you provide, the more diversity of bee species you will attract.

The benefit to homeowners goes well beyond increasing bees in your yard. By enhancing your landscape to attract native bees, you will also be making a significant contribution toward biodiversity. According to author and entomologist Doug Tallamy, planting natives in your landscape to increase biodiversity also increases the number and species of birds and other wildlife you will enjoy seeing on your property.

**Native Plants to Support Native Bees**

- ◆ Anise Hyssop, (*Agastache spp.*)  
June—July
- ◆ Joe-Pye Weed, (*Eupatorium dubium*)  
August—September
- ◆ Black-eyed Susan, (*Rudbeckia hirta*)  
June—July

- ◆ Spotted Horsemint, (*Monarda punctata*)  
July—August
- ◆ Wild Bergamot, (*Monarda fistulosa*)  
August—September
- ◆ Golden Alexander, (*Zizia aurea*)  
April—June
- ◆ New York Ironweed, (*Veronica noveboracensis*) August—September
- ◆ Milkweed, (*Asclepias spp.*)  
June—August
- ◆ Giant Sunflower, (*Helianthus giganteus*)  
August—September
- ◆ Great Blue Lobelia, (*Lobelia siphilitica*)  
August—September
- ◆ Blazing Star, (*Liatris spicata*)  
August—September
- ◆ Black Gum Tree, (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
May—June
- ◆ Black Willow Tree, (*Salix nigra*)  
July—August
- ◆ Black Cherry Tree, (*Prunus serotina*)  
May—June
- ◆ Dogwood Tree, (*Cornus florida*)  
March—April

Mason bee nest boxes are available from Crown Bees. NGC members receive a five percent discount by using the “NGCnat” code.

—**Donna Cottingham**, *Butterfly and Pollinator Education Chairman, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs*



**Common Milkweed, (*Asclepias syriaca*)**

# Galápagos

Aboard the National Geographic Endeavour

A NGC Environmental Studies Refresher



October 30-November 8, 2015

With an Optional Extension for  
Machu Picchu & Peru's Land of the Inca

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# Environmental Ethics

## Choices Matter

Environmental Studies Schools provide the opportunity to get a better understanding of the effects man's choices have on the world around us. Chief Seattle, a leader of the Suquamish, understood our place in nature. In 1854, President Franklin Pierce offered to purchase Suquamish lands in what is now the state of Washington. Chief Seattle gave a speech, in January 1854, that was reported by Dr. Henry A. Smith in the *Seattle Sunday Star*, in 1887. "Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother." Then Seattle answered his own questions: "What befalls the earth befalls the son of the earth.... The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth.... All things are connected like the blood which unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

*Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time* is a CD that has been available as a supplemental topic to local and state Environmental Studies Chairmen for a couple years. I am making the *Green Fire* video available to clubs. The only charge is the postage. Contact Judy Newman to secure the CD: [newman9641@aol.com](mailto:newman9641@aol.com)

—**Judy Newman**, *NGC Environmental Studies School Chairmen*

*The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before.*

— *Vita Sackville-West*

### Author Presentation at Your Next Garden Club Meeting *America's Romance with the English Garden*

UK's *Spectator* magazine called it: "best garden book of the year."

Reviewed in *National Gardener* Winter 2014

For more reviews: [www.ohioswallow.com](http://www.ohioswallow.com)

Contact the author, Thomas Mickey, at: [tmickey@AmericanGardening.net](mailto:tmickey@AmericanGardening.net)

## Vision of Beauty Calendar

### New Deadline for Entries

July 1, 2015

The 2013-2015 Vision of Beauty Calendar Committee would like to thank all the garden club members who have supported this project by entering or through sales. We congratulate those members whose entries are in the 2016 edition of the calendar. It has been my pleasure to serve as the calendar chairman for six years. Please join me in welcoming the 2015-2017 Vision of Beauty Chairman, Brenda Bingham.

After the Annual Convention, in Louisville, Kentucky, please send all entries and inquires to: **Brenda Bingham, 7 Lenape Trail, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009; [ngcvob@gmail.com](mailto:ngcvob@gmail.com)**

The 2017 Entry Form and the Requirements are on the NGC website and in the 2016 edition of the calendar. Please note the new deadline for entries: July 1, 2015.

—**Jan Warshauer**, *2013-2015 Vision of Beauty Chairman*

*"Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?"...*

*"It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine..."*

~*Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden*

# Club Makes A Difference for Youth and Butterflies



**M**ake a difference for our pollinators! New Smyrna Beach Garden Club recognized the difference that teaching our youth to care for our pollinators would have on our environment. The club chose to do something positive. They partnered with Burns Science and Technology Charter School to teach fourth-grade students the life cycle of butterflies. Eight club members led the six-week seminar courses, which included watching their own chrysalises develop into butterflies that they then released into the butterfly garden they had created and planted with na-

tive nectar plants the butterflies require. AMES Companies, Inc., a partner of NGC, supplied the gardening tools, which ultimately will belong to the school. ***Making A World of Difference—Choices put into Action.*** Education is the key to progress. This president applauds them.

—Linda Nelson, NGC President



*There are many tired gardeners but I've seldom met old gardeners. I know many elderly gardeners but the majority are young at heart. Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized. The one absolute of gardeners is faith. Regardless of how bad past gardens have been, every gardener believes that next year's will be better. It is easy to age when there is nothing to believe in, nothing to hope for, gardeners, however, simply refuse to grow up.*  
~Allan Armitage

# NATIONAL FLOWER ARRANGERS

Is Honored to Present

## Esther de la Torre,

### INTERNATIONAL FLORAL DESIGNER

Esther represented Mexico in WAFA Japan and WAFA Ireland. She chaired the design & flower show for National & International Flower Shows in 2009, 2011 & 2013. A truly creative talent, her unique concept of design is awe-inspiring.



**WHERE:** Crowne Plaza,  
Louisville, Kentucky

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015

**TIME:** CASH BAR 6:45 PM

**DESIGN/DINNER:** 7:30 PM



**COST:** NFA MEMBER \$70.00 \_\_\_\_ NON-MEMBER \$85.00 \_\_\_\_

Please tear off and send with check **MADE OUT TO:**  
**NATIONAL FLOWER ARRANGERS**

**NFA MEMBER:** \$70.00 \_\_\_\_ **NON-MEMBER:** \$85.00 \_\_\_\_  
Advanced Registration only. Deadline: Friday May 1, 2015

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ 9 Digit Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check made out to: National Flower Arrangers  
Mail to: Jeanne T. Nelson, 143 South Harrison Avenue, Congers, NY 10920-2229  
Phone: 845-268-6220 Email: j.t.nelson7@gmail.com  
For Confirmation: Please print email address on your check

# Cherokee Trail Tree

What a strange looking tree? How did it grow that way? These are a few of the questions that arise when someone comes upon a Cherokee Trail Tree. These trees were purposely disfigured by the Cherokee Indians in the early 1800s in order to identify a trail leading to camps, water, or other locations by having the tree actually point the way. The Indians would take a young sapling, usually a white oak, and make a bend, as close to a right angle as possible, pointing to the desired location. At this point, they would position a crutch-like prop from another tree under the bend. This bend was known as the hip. Next, several feet from the prop, they would

make another bend upwards and tie a loop around this second bend anchoring it to the ground with a leather thong. This was called the knee. Marks can often be seen at this point on the mature tree where the thong once held it down. Many times they would need to cut into the tree to facilitate the bend and often would “mend” the cut with charcoal from a similar tree forming a nose-like structure. These props were left for several years until the “set” was permanent.

Many of these trees have been found in the Keowee Peninsula, in South Carolina, but also can be found all over the United States. They were usually planted less than 100 yards apart, but many have been cut down as the land was developed. The only positive way to identify the age of these trees is to cut them down for a core sample, but

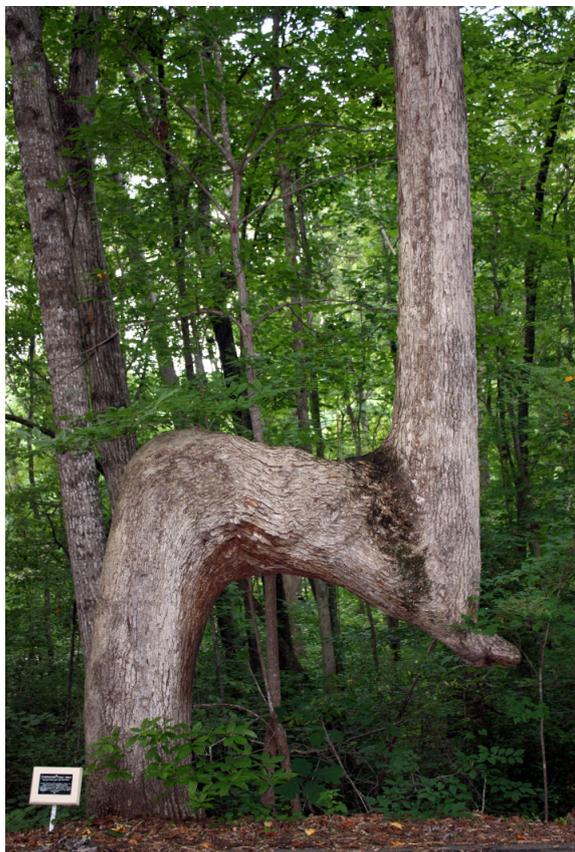
since the Indians were known to occupy this area up to the 1780s when they signed a treaty with South Carolina ceding all their land to the state, it is safe to say that many of them are over 200 years old.

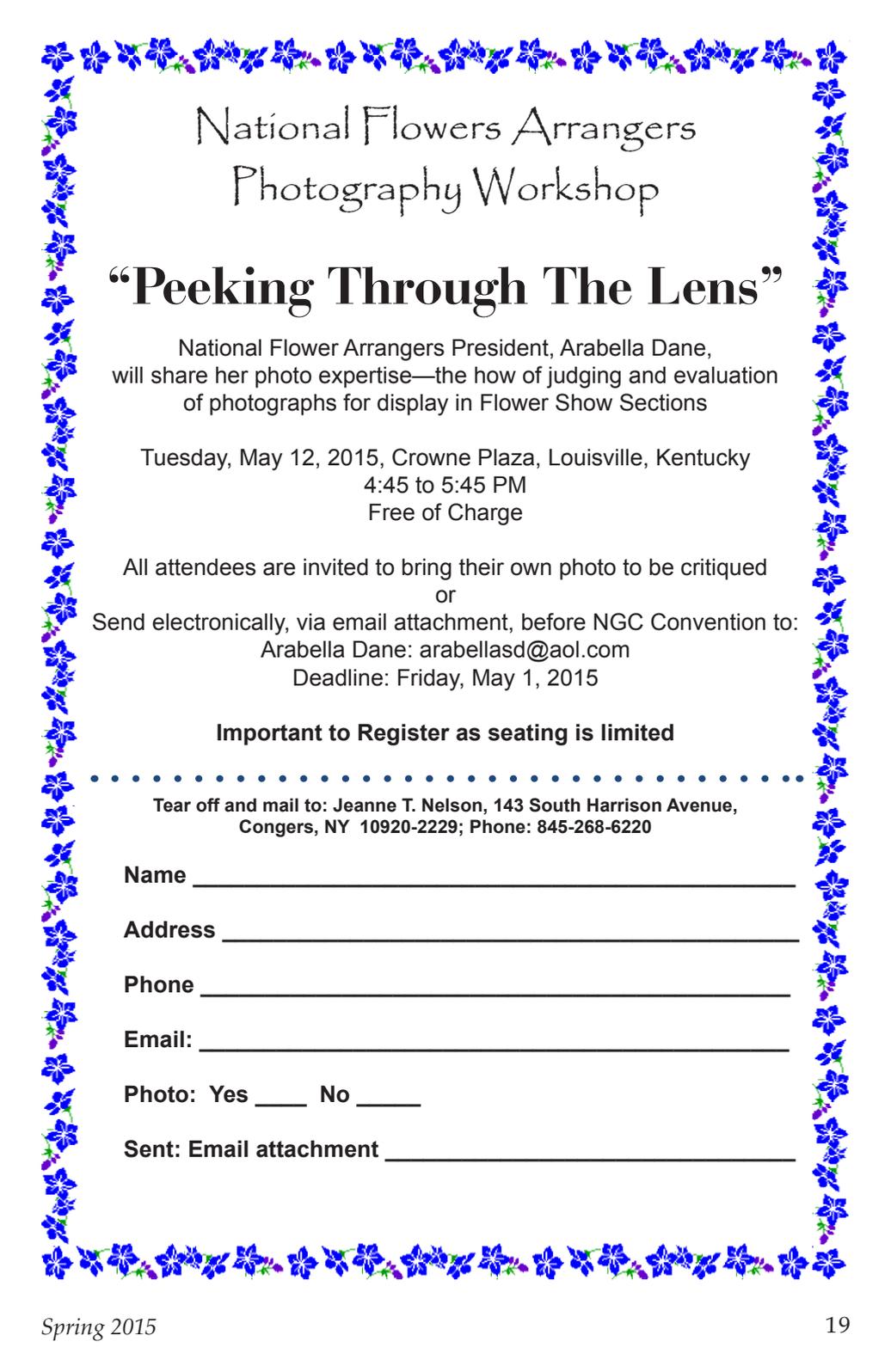
This simple “construction” technique is a credit to our Native Americans. They have left us markers of their creativity, which we need to recognize and preserve. Next time you are hiking or even driving, look for these amazing trees and take a moment to reflect on their history.

More information can be obtained from a booklet, “Cherokee Indian Trail Trees in the Keowee Peninsula,” by Harvey Hallman, 12 Marina Village Way, Salem, SC 29676, from which the information in this article was taken.

Another source is “Mystery of the Trees” by Don and Diane Wells, 2011.

—Edna Melamed, *President, Lake and Hills Garden Club, Salem, SC*





# National Flower Arrangers Photography Workshop

## “Peeking Through The Lens”

National Flower Arrangers President, Arabella Dane, will share her photo expertise—the how of judging and evaluation of photographs for display in Flower Show Sections

Tuesday, May 12, 2015, Crowne Plaza, Louisville, Kentucky  
4:45 to 5:45 PM  
Free of Charge

All attendees are invited to bring their own photo to be critiqued  
or

Send electronically, via email attachment, before NGC Convention to:  
Arabella Dane: [arabellasd@aol.com](mailto:arabellasd@aol.com)  
Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2015

**Important to Register as seating is limited**

.....  
Tear off and mail to: Jeanne T. Nelson, 143 South Harrison Avenue,  
Congers, NY 10920-2229; Phone: 845-268-6220

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Sent: Email attachment \_\_\_\_\_

## NGC Schools News



Our choices matter and your NGC Schools Committees are delighted that many of you are choosing to conduct and attend Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Schools, and Multiple Refreshers. Many listings for each category are posted on the NGC website. Coordinating such educational opportunities with your Arbor Day and National Garden Week observances and with state and regional meetings is an excellent way to share local, state, regional, and national levels of garden club with the public and to make a world of difference by offering education about how our environmental, gardening, and landscape design choices matter. Your state and national schools chairmen can assist you.

We continue to encounter some confusion about the number of hours of instruction needed for a Consultant to receive refresher credit. Consultants may refresh at a school course, which requires ten hours of instruction; or in a single subject refresher, which requires eight hours of instruction; or in a Multiple Refresher, which requires eight hours of instruction; or in a Multiple Refresher at an NGC Convention, which requires only seven hours of instruction.

The reminder that a minimum of seven hours of instruction is needed to receive credit for the upcoming NGC Convention Multiple Refresher, in Louisville, Kentucky, was not included on the Consultant Form on page 17 of the Winter issue of *The National Gardener*. If Consultants wish to receive refresher credit at that event, they must be sure to attend a combination of tours and seminars providing a minimum of seven hours of credit. All information pertaining to Multiple Refreshers is included in the Multiple Refresher Forms posted on the NGC website. All involved in conducting and attending these events should be familiar with this information, especially Form 1-14

(Instructions and Guidelines) and Form 5-14 (Ten Easy Steps).

When a Consultant refreshes, the Consultant must know the date that they became a Consultant or the date that they last attended a refresher event for credit, and they need to coordinate with their State School Chairman to be sure that state records are maintained correctly. Since Consultants must refresh by the end of the fifth calendar year after the last course or refresher, those seeking refresher credit in 2015 must have attended such an event no earlier than some time in 2010 (unless they are on a valid extension).

For Multiple Refreshers, if a Consultant wants credit for a subject in which they are not a Master Consultant, they can only take credit in that one subject. If they are Master Consultants in two or more subjects, they can take multiple credits for the two or three subjects in which they are Masters. They cannot take two Master Consultant credits and one non-Master Consultant credit.

The NGC Convention Multiple Refresher now is a reward in several areas—it encourages attendance at conventions and keeping credentials current, respects the time constraints and ages of attendees, providing more than enough instruction to absorb by taking into account all else the convention has to offer since meal programs, seminars, and exhibits typically contribute additional “refreshing moments.” And Multiple Refreshers, in general, should encourage all Consultants in each school to become Master Consultants so that they can reap the benefit of simultaneously refreshing in multiple schools.

We are pleased to hear of the success of a recent Multiple Refresher sponsored by the Judges Council, in Monterrey, Mexico.

**Use Water Wisely**

[www.PlantWaterRing.com](http://www.PlantWaterRing.com)

Forty-three attendees benefitted from instruction provided by university professors and researchers and found the material so interesting that they extended classes by an hour each day. We love to hear that education is useful enough to extend beyond the scheduled class time. A class on Crasunomo, small and miniature gardens on natural rocks, was given by the professor (who patented the name) and proved most interesting.

Your choices to continue learning about good environmental, gardening, and landscape practices are making a world of difference in garden clubs and communities all over the country. Thank you.

—**Greg Pokorski, ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator, [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)**

## Learn To Make Authentic Japanese Flower Arrangements



Ikebana professor Vera Arnold brings 40 years teaching experience to guide you step-by-step in making eight beautiful arrangements in this high-quality, professionally packaged, 72-minute DVD. Discover creative ideas and how to select and position flowers using this ancient art. \$12. **Spring TNG Special: Buy one, get one half off to share with a friend!** Free S/H in U.S. Please make your check or money order payable to Christy Arnold. 1721 N. Daffodil St., Tempe, AZ 85281.

## Protecting Georgia's Coastline



to post "Marshies" (a selfie with the marsh or wetland in the background) on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. The Landings Garden Club, located on Skidaway Island, in Savannah, enthusiastically supported this cause by gathering some of their members in a marsh holding signs of why the marsh is important to them and why a 25-foot buffer of undisturbed vegetation provided for

 ne Hundred Miles, directed by Megan Desrosiers, is an organization dedicated to preserving the 100 mile coastline of Georgia. In order to alert state legislators of the importance of the marsh to Georgia residents, a campaign has begun

the in the Erosion And Sedimentation Act must be enforced on the salt marsh.

—**Leslee Bowler, President of the Landings Garden Club, Savannah, Georgia; [jbowler814@comcast.net](mailto:jbowler814@comcast.net)**



## BeeGAP to Continue Next Term!

**N**GC's BeeGAP (Gardeners Adding Pollinators) Project and partnership with Crown Bees will continue next term. This means you still have an opportunity to participate and grow your region and state BeeGAP programs.

With spring in the air, requests for BeeGAP programs are coming in from garden clubs, nurseries, gardens, and community groups. These groups WANT to learn about the overachieving pollinators called mason bees. To fill these speaking engagements, please consider becoming a BeeGAP Speaker. You will have the opportunity to educate these groups not only about BeeGAP, but also about garden club membership. Please sign up at [crownbees.com](http://crownbees.com), then download the BeeGAP Power Point presentation provided. Speakers will receive mason bee product samples to display during their presentations. Speaker fees are arranged between the speaker and the entity requesting the program.

BeeGAP provides additional fund-raising opportunities. In 2014, clubs earned over \$200 by participating in the 5% coupon rebate program, Bee Buyback Program, and 30% discount fund-raising option. Be sure to request a state, district, or club coupon code at: [info@crownbees.com](mailto:info@crownbees.com) to earn a 5% rebate from purchases made using that code, with an additional 2% going to NGC. Provide this code to plant sale, flower show, club meeting, and BeeGAP presentation attendees to reap this financial reward. Nothing to lose! In the fall, participate in the annual Bee Buyback Program or exchange bee cocoons for products. And finally, order at least ten items at a 30% discount for

fund-raising purposes, a great addition to your plant sales!

As you prepare your gardens for spring, consider encouraging gentle mason bees to nest in your gardens. If you provide these basics, mason bees will come!

- Nesting materials (paper tear away tubes, reeds, wood trays)
- Housing for those nesting materials
- Southern or eastern exposure for the house
- Pollen-rich plants within 300 feet
- Clay-ey mud within 50 feet

Spring mason bees fly when temperatures are steadily in the fifties; summer bees fly in the seventies. Crown Bees provides a terrific New2Bees Course (Quick Intro Course) online, and their monthly e-newsletter, titled "Bee-Mail," will guide you throughout the year.

With the decline of the most widely used crop pollinator, the honey bee, we have an opportunity to *Make a World of Difference* by participating in BeeGAP. Scientists far and wide are studying the use of mason bee pollination for large food crops, and crop managers are reaping the rewards of these overachieving pollinators. Your gardens will too! Thank you for participating in BeeGAP.

—**Debbie Skow**, NGC Native Bees/BeeGAP/Crown Bees Partnership Chairman, NGC President's Project Committee, NGC Environmental Concerns Committee, [d.sk.1159@gmail.com](mailto:d.sk.1159@gmail.com)



*Mason Bee House from Crown Bees.*

# Landscape Design Schools

**A**s terms of office are coming to a close, those of us on the Landscape Design Schools Committee want to thank the many state presidents, Landscape Design Schools chairmen, and Landscape Design Consultants chairmen who have promoted the Landscape Design Program. You have enabled your members to have a greater appreciation, pride, and knowledge of the environment, both natural and manmade. They have a better understanding of the landscape design process and are able to promote sound ecological decisions in their own gardens and in their communities. The members have been able "to study and to advance the fine arts of gardening, landscape, floral design, and horticulture," in keeping with NGC Bylaws. With knowledge gained, they can have a positive effect on decisions that will impact our environment. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all of you.

Current LDS state chairmen and LD Council chairmen are requested to send us the name of their replacement, should they not be continuing for 2015-2017. Please include their name, title, and complete contact information, including address, telephone and cell phone numbers, and email address to Victoria Bergesen, current LD Councils Chairman/Newscape Editor, at: [victoriabergesen@gmail.com](mailto:victoriabergesen@gmail.com). Following the Convention in Louisville, the LDS Directory will be updated.

—**Jane R. Bersch**, NGC LDS Chairman



*Even the prick of the thistle,  
queen of the weeds, revives  
your secret belief  
in perpetual spring,  
your faith that for every hurt  
there is a leaf to cure it.*

~Amy Gerstler, *In Perpetual Spring*

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BANDTWISTED@GMAIL.COM**



## 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 Summer Issue**

**Copy due by May 1, 2015**

# Saving the Monarchs



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has launched a major new campaign aimed at saving the declining monarch butterfly. The Service signed a cooperative agreement with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), announced a major new funding initiative with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and pledged an additional \$2 million in immediate funding for on-the-ground conservation projects around the country.

While monarchs are found across the United States—as recently as 1996 numbering some 1 billion—their numbers have declined by approximately 90 percent in recent years, a result of numerous threats, particularly loss of habitat due to agricultural practices, development, and cropland conversion. Degradation of wintering habitats in Mexico and California has also had a negative impact on the species.

“We can save the monarch butterfly in North America, but only if we act quickly and together,” said USFWS Director Dan Ashe. “And that is why we are excited to be working with the National Wildlife Federation and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to engage Americans everywhere, from schools and community groups to corporations and governments, in protecting and restoring habitat. Together we can create oases for monarchs in communities across the country.”

“If we all work together—individuals, communities, farmers, land managers, and local, state, and federal agencies—we can ensure that every American child has a chance to experience amazing monarchs in their backyards,” said NWF President and CEO Collin O’Mara. “By taking action today and addressing the growing threats that are affecting so much of America’s treasured wildlife—habitat loss, pesticide overuse and climate change—we will preserve monarchs

and America’s rich wildlife legacy.”

From California to the Corn Belt, the Service will also fund numerous conservation projects totaling \$2 million this year to restore and enhance more than 200,000 acres of habitat for monarchs, while also supporting over 750 schoolyard habitats and pollinator gardens.

The monarch’s exclusive larval host plant, and a critical food source, is native milkweed, which has been eradicated or severely degraded in many areas across the United States in recent years. The accelerated conversion of the continent’s native short and tallgrass prairie habitat to crop production has also had an adverse impact on the monarch.

Spectacular as it is, protecting the monarch is not just about saving one species. The monarch serves as an indicator of the health of pollinators and the American landscape. Monarch declines are symptomatic of environmental problems that pose risks to our food supply, the spectacular natural places that help define our national identity, and our own health. Conserving and connecting habitat for monarchs will benefit other plants, animals and important insect and avian pollinators.

The Service’s public engagement effort includes a monarch website ([www.fws.gov/savethemonarch](http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch)) with details and photos on the monarch’s plight, information on how Americans can get involved, and direct outreach to schools and communities.

—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



## National Garden Clubs, Inc.

### NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants and the riches of their efforts; and

Whereas, Gardeners seek to add beauty, splendor, fragrance and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage and flowers; and

Whereas, Gardeners work to preserve our country's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through innovation and hard work; and

Whereas, Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small, that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and

Whereas, Gardening furnishes a challenging and productive activity for our citizens, for those just learning as well as those having years of experience; and

Whereas, Gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our life, teaches that rewards can come from diligent efforts; and

Whereas, Gardening enables members of Garden Clubs across the nation and the world to make a world of difference in the communities where they reside and work;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that in an effort to acknowledge the importance of Gardening and the numerous contributions of Gardeners, National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates the week of June 7-13, 2015 as National Garden Week.

*Linda G. Nelson*

Linda G. Nelson, 2013-2015 President, NGC, Inc.



# Member Services

Member Services Chairman

**Barbara Campbell**

bcdeerpath@aol.com  
4401 Magnolia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110

Orders only, please: 800-550-6007

E-mail: [headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)

You may order by Fax: 314-776-5108

7 days a week, 24 hours a day

■ **OUR LATEST ADDITION:** Two newly minted pins; a member's pin and a Blue Star marker pin. Gift your new members with a member pin and give out Blue Star marker pins at dedications.

■ A reminder to shop early for your flower show supplies. Member Services has ribbons, seals, and entry cards.

■ **ORDER YOUR 2016 Vision of Beauty Calendars now.** See for yourself: The cover of the calendar is pictured on the outside back cover of this magazine.

■ Still available—Our NGC Silk Scarf. The 100% silk georgette scarf contains the logos of all the states, as well as the NGC and International Affiliates logos. The scarf measures 22" wide x 67" long and comes in green or blue.

■ State prints depicting each state flower by Kristen Ley are still available.

■ Books—We have lots of exciting garden-related books and required-reading books for all courses. Prices on books we publish are 50% less than you would pay on the leading web book store.

■ Visit the MEMBER SERVICES table during the NGC Convention in Louisville. Stop by to say hello; we will have many new surprises!

Remember, we all win when you CHOOSE to shop with NGC!

## Impatiens Bounce™

Pink Flame PPAF 'Balboufink'

AAS 2015 Winner

*Impatiens hybrida*

"Bounce" impatiens provide gardeners with shade-garden confidence. 'Bounce' looks like an *Impatiens walleriana* in habit, flower form, and count, but is completely downy-mildew resistant, which means these impatiens will last from spring all the way through fall. 'Bounce Pink Flame' boasts a massive amount of stunning, bright pink bicolor blooms with tons of color to brighten your garden, be it in shade or sun. And caring for impatiens has never been easier: just add water and they'll "bounce" right back!

—**National Garden Bureau, NGB.org**



*'Bounce' impatiens are downy mildew resistant and will bloom in sun or shade.*

# **Attention:** State Treasurers, National Affiliates, & International Affiliates

## **Section 1. — DUES**

a. Annual dues of each State Garden Club shall be fifty cents (\$.50) per capita on all categories of members, including NGC Life Members.

1) Annual dues for State Garden Club membership shall be paid to NGC Headquarters between June 1 and October 31 of that year.

2) Annual dues shall be delinquent after October 31. Notices of dues unpaid as of the Fall Board Meeting shall be given by the NGC Treasurer to the Regional Directors and State Garden Club Presidents at that meeting.

3) State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues by October 31 shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention.

4) State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards.

5) Additional dues payment for members not included in the original report may be remitted by a State Garden Club to NGC Headquarters prior to March 31 of the following year.

6) State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

b. Dues of each Affiliate Member organization shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31. Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards and shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention. Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

c. Dues of each National Affiliate Member

organization shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31. National Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards and shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention. Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

d. Dues of each International Affiliate Member organization shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31. International Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards and shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention. International Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

e. Youth Gardener groups shall pay no NGC individual dues.

## **Section 2. — FEES**

One annual fee for all Youth Gardener groups within a State Garden Club or country shall be ten dollars (\$10.00 U.S.) per state or country payable by October 31.

# **Atención:** International Affiliates

d. La cuota anual de cada organización Afiliada Internacional será de veinticinco dólares (\$ 25), a pagar en la Oficina Central NGC antes del 31 de Octubre. La organización Afiliada Internacional que no remite dicho pago antes del 31 de Octubre será excluida de cualquier tabulación utilizada para determinar los Premios NGC, y perderá representación en la Convención NGC. La organización Afiliada Internacional que no remita el pago de la cuota antes del 1ro de Junio del siguiente año, perderá su calidad de asociado.

# Children's Book Reviews

Nicki Schwab

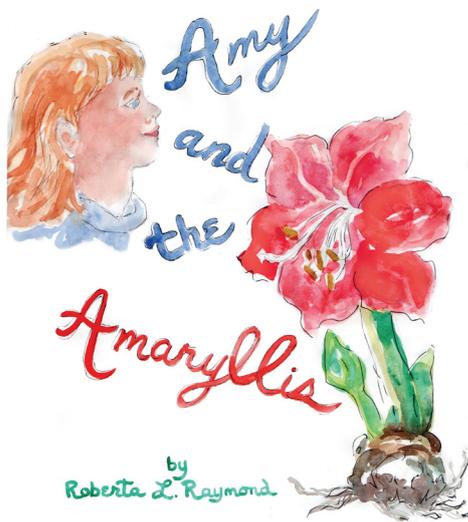
NGC Children's Book Review Chairman  
Mako261mom@aol.com

The following recommendations  
are for young readers (ages 4-10).

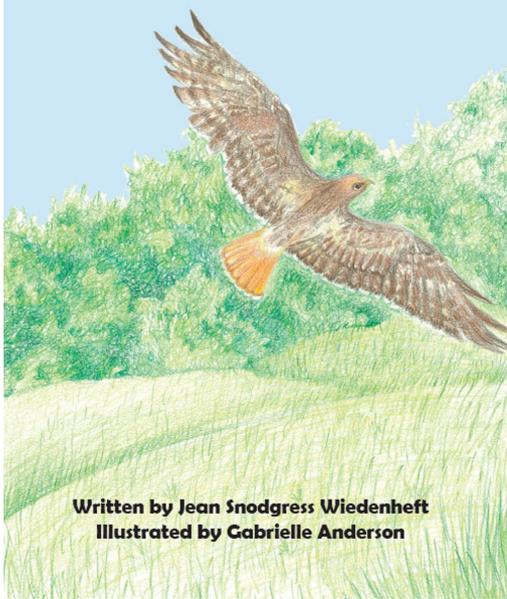
**Amy and the Amaryllis**, by Roberta L. Raymond, \$20.00.

*Amy and the Amaryllis* is geared to the budding gardener who is interested in planting and growing. Beautifully illustrated by the author, Roberta Raymond, her story begins when a garden club is having an amaryllis bulb sale. Amy and her mother purchase three large exotic bulbs that come in red, pink, and white! Experiencing the growing stages proves to be a magical, bonding experience for Amy and her family, especially when the spectacular bulbs begin to bloom!

What a great way to encourage a young gardener to witness a miracle of nature at its best! To order a copy, please contact: [www.gcprf.org/](http://www.gcprf.org/) or [Bobbie.raymond@gmail.com](mailto:Bobbie.raymond@gmail.com)



## Hunting Red



Written by Jean Snodgrass Wiedenheft  
Illustrated by Gabrielle Anderson

**Hunting Red**, by Jean Snodgrass Wiedenheft, Illustrated by Gabrielle Anderson, Pocket Mouse Publishing, paperback, ISBN: 9780615907925, \$10.00.

Learning about the natural world is a rite of passage for every young child, but it is especially wonderful when experienced through the beauty of color! The story of two youngsters sitting in a tree asking each other about his favorite color, is related to the hues of the plants and animals that surround them!

*Hunting Red* is not only a great educational tool for teaching color, but also for identifying the wild plants and animals that exist on the prairie. Inspired by the Indian Creek Nature Center, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the reader will be transported to a magical place where red-tailed hawks fly and sycamore trees grow. Enjoy the journey!

*I'm not aging, I just need repotting.*  
~Author unknown

# Book Reviews

Linda Jean Smith

NGC Book Review Chairman

***Flora Illustrata, Great Works From the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden*, by Susan M. Fraser & Vanessa Bezemer Sellers, Yale University Press, New Haven & London, 2014. large hardcover, 320 pp., ISBN: 9780300196627, \$50.00.**

Author Susan M. Fraser is the Director of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden. She is a member of the Council of Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, on the Executive Committee of the Biodiversity Heritage Library and serves on the Council of the Torrey Botanical Society as historian.

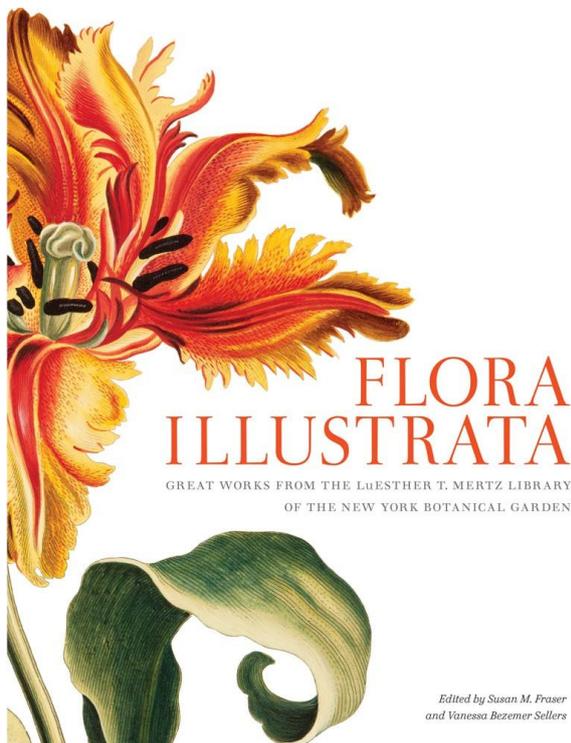
Vanessa Bezemer Sellers is a garden and landscape historian and coordinates the Humanities Institute of the New York Botanical Garden. She has a Ph.D. from Princeton and taught at the Bard Graduate Center at Dumbarton Oaks and worked for the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

This exceptionally well-written and edited book is divided into five sections, which focus on five areas: the library, great books and prints, groundbreaking works, celebrated works, and the landscape of the New York Botanical Garden. Part I, "The Library of the New York Botanical Garden," discusses how the collection started and how they went about building the collection. Part II, "Great Herbals, Flower Books, and Garden Prints," takes the reader from European Medieval and Renaissance Herbals, through botanical gardens and up to the pleasure garden prints, covering 1550 to 1850. Part III, "Groundbreaking Works on Botanical Discovery," talks about Linnaeus and the foundation of

modern botany, new world explorations and creating a North American flora. "Celebrate works on American Gardening and Horticultures" is discussed in Part IV, including early American horticultural traditions, an American landscape theory and concludes with the nineteenth century and horticultural enterprise. Part V focuses on the New York Botanical Garden itself, as the book was printed in time to celebrate the Garden's 125th anniversary.

Some of the best things about this book are the numerous colored, black and white and rare, tinted prints—sometimes full page—that are found throughout. Even if you never read the wealth of information in the book, you could spend an afternoon just going through the prints. This book is history: the history of science, of art, of botany and pharmacy, of gardens and garden design.

If gardening history is your area of interest, this is a must have. Its illustrations also make for a beautiful coffee-table gift book.



■ **The English Country House Garden**, text by Marcus Harpur & George Plumptre, photographs by Marcus Harpur, Frances Lincoln, Ltd. London, 2014, large hardcover, 208 pp., ISBN: 9780711232990, \$40.00.

Author George Plumptre is acknowledged as an international authority on gardens and garden design. He has contributed articles for many publications, including *The Times* and *Country Life*. He is Chief Executive of the National Gardens Scheme, a charity that organizes garden openings in England and Wales.

Author and photographer Marcus Harper began in book publishing and then joined his father to form Harper Garden Images, in 1992. He has been photographing and writing about gardens around the U.K. ever since.

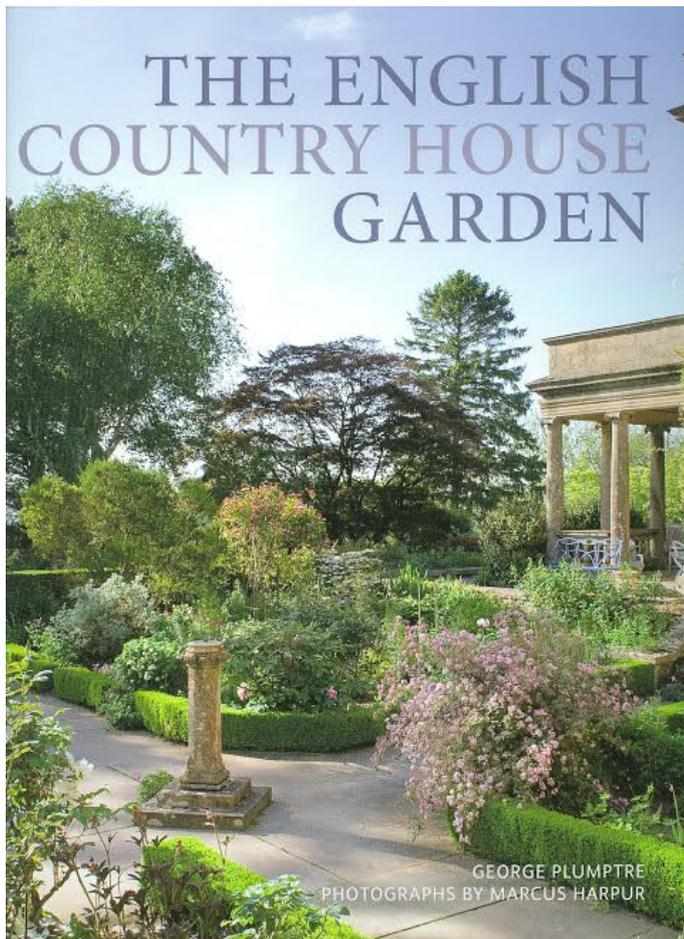
This book might be called a coffee table book. A rainy day, a cup of tea and this book will brighten things up as you enjoy the many garden photographs. However, the purpose of this book is "to complete the jigsaw that is the English country house garden so as to bring together all the contributing strands and show a picture that is more than just a compilation of the garden." The book will "look at the rich variety of country house gardens, their stories, styles, and personalities."

In all, a total of 25 country houses and their gardens are featured. Although the authors included Hidcote and Sissinghurst, which are more well-known gardens, most of the gardens are probably lesser known to those outside the U.K.

In section II, Unfolding

History, the authors describe Tyntesfield and its being taken over by the National Trust and the excitement at discovering a scattering of autumn ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*)—a small, white-flowered native orchid. For the most part, there are only occasional mentions of specific plants, and only general references to plants, such as boxwood, roses, hornbeams, and others. Many of these gardens were originally created by a designer years ago and updated by a modern designer.

For example, the garden at Scampston Hall has a Walled Garden and a Capability Brown landscape beyond, but a new garden was added by Dutch master Piet Oudolf showing "how compatible naturalism is with



a historic landscape setting."

One of the lovely things about this book is that it doesn't have to be read in any order. Just sit down, open the book to any section, and enjoy the story of how one of the gardens was created. If your passion is landscape design, this book affords many interesting looks at how a variety of people were able to create, restore, and add to amazing gardens. Some of the gardens were designed by well-known garden designers, but just as many were created by the owners and their descendants.

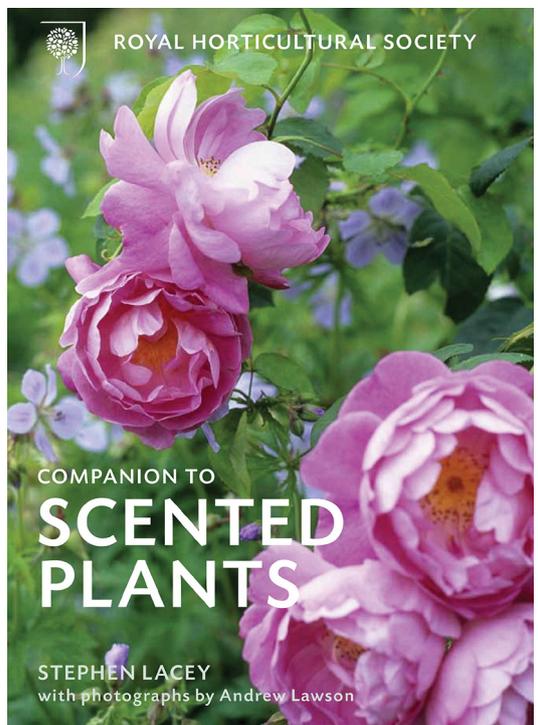
■ **Royal Horticultural Society Companion to Scented Plants**, text by Stephen Lacey, photographs by Andrew Lawson, Frances Lincoln, Ltd. London, 2014, hardcover, 320 pp., ISBN: 9780711235748, \$40.00.

Author Stephen Lacey is a gardening correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* and contributes to various magazines, including *Country Homes and Interiors* and *Hortus*. Andrew Lawson is a distinguished garden photographer and author of several gardening books. He holds the Royal Horticultural Society's Gold Medal for photography.

This book is a revised, updated, and enlarged version of a book published in 1991. It explains and explores the world of scented plants, which have always fascinated the author.

In the first part of the book, the author talks about scents: pleasant and unpleasant scents, the placement of scent in the garden, and the sources of scent in a plant.

The main part of the book is broken down into sections devoted to various categories of scented plants. Included in these sections are trees and shrubs; perennials, bulbs and annuals; walls and vertical plantings; alpine, trough, and water gardens; roses; herbs; and indoors, summer pots; and mild climates. The beginning of each section gives information on choosing a plant from



that section and features to look for in the plant. Following that are listings of specific plants, with a write-up on each. My criticism of this section is that there is not a picture for each of the listed plants. There are only one to two pictures per page, and a page may have four plants listed. If you are not familiar with one of the plants, you have to go another source to find out what it looks like.

The last section of the book features charts, one of which lists plants by when they produce the best scent. There is also a chart listing plants by habitat, including, sun/well-drained soil, sun/moist soil, and shade.

Keep in mind that the climate zone chart references the U.K.

This is a specialty book with beautiful photographs and would interest anyone who loves scented plants or who wants to put in a scented garden. It does have some drawbacks, as noted, but contains a lot of useful information as well.

# 2015: Year of the Coleus

With the continued emphasis on the importance of foliage in our gardens, the wide and exciting range of coleus varieties available to the gardening public should augment the planting palette nicely. Coleus is a durable plant with very significant gardening potential for a wide range of gardeners and their garden situations. Coleus has a long history of use in our gardens as a foliage plant and has gone through various phases of popularity over the past couple of centuries. The relative ease of establishment after planting, combined with a wide range of selections, has made coleus indispensable in the garden and popular in the container as well.

## History

Coleus is thought to have originated in Southeast Asia. While there is some debate as to when it arrived in Europe, Dutch botanist Karl Ludwig Blume is credited with naming and introducing the plant in mid-19th century England. This member of the mint family, with the traditional square stems and opposite leaves, comes in a wide range of foliage coloration, leaf texture, and plant form. Considered an herbaceous perennial in its native range, coleus are used primarily as annuals by a wide range of the gardening public. Previously grouped into different species or classified as hybrids, coleus (formerly *Coleus blumei* and *Coleus hybridus*) were all placed under *Solenostemon scutellarioides*, in 2006. As of 2012, taxonomic authorities consider the correct name for the coleus to be *Plectranthus scutellarioides*. Victorian gardeners utilized coleus in vivid bedding designs, also called “carpet gardening.” These elaborate patterns were frequently designed to be viewed from above and coleus were a common component in these planting schemes. New introductions generated excitement during this period of history and “coleus fever” was rampant for a time. Because coleus



mutate frequently, sports and reversions were not uncommon and could result in a new variety of interest. Sports are seen as naturally occurring genetic mutations, while reversions represent the appearance of the plant at some point in its “genetic past.” Coleus popularity seemed to dwindle in the early 20th century and didn’t see much of a resurgence of use until the mid-20th century, when uniform, seed-grown varieties became more popular and coleus also found some popularity as a houseplant. In the 1980s, as more gardeners realized the full potential of this spectacular plant, the coleus boom was reinitiated and the past two decades have seen an amazing number of introductions in both seed and vegetative offerings.

While modern coleus breeding still focuses on new selections for the home gardener, featuring new color combinations and foliage characteristics, other features of consideration have become more prominent. There is certainly a focus on breeding and trialing for more sun tolerance, which will expand the use of coleus to the brighter portions of our gardens. For sunny areas

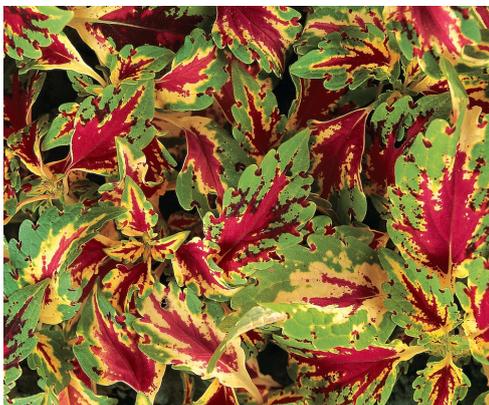
consider these varieties: any of the Stained Glassworks varieties, the Wizard, Versa and Marquee series, or any variety with the word sun in its name.

### Coleus Basics

The primary ornamental feature of coleus is the foliage, which can be represented by green, pink, yellow, orange, red, dark maroon (near black), brown, cream, and white. The range of shades for these colors and the possible combinations is seemingly limitless.

While some gardeners will leave the small flowers, it's recommended that you pinch these off and back to a leaf node to encourage more energy into stem and foliage growth and not flowering. Coleus left to flower may lose vigor as the plant puts energy into seed production.

The variability in patterns, some subtle and some more dramatic, is truly amazing. While some selections will exhibit a solid color, other varieties may feature splashes, blotches, streaks, flecks, margins, and veins. Color intensity may be affected by sunlight, heat sensitivity, and other conditions. Bright sunlight can create a saturation of color and the difference in appearance for most varieties in part shade versus full sun is noticeable. The term "sun coleus" refers to selections that have been observed to tolerate more direct sunlight, although



moisture considerations become even more important in those locations. Darker cultivars tend to tolerate more sun with the lighter varieties benefitting from some degree of shade to minimize leaf scorching. Morning sun and dappled afternoon shade tends to maintain consistent foliage coloration. The underside of the leaf may also feature an alternate color that can be a contributing factor visually as well. Keep in mind that too little light will encourage a weak-stemmed, less vigorous plant without optimal coloration.

The wide range of coleus can be grouped into three basic plant forms, including upright, rounded and prostrate/trailing.

### Planting & Proper Care

Coleus are quite tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions and will do well in even average conditions. Coleus enjoy the heat and languish below 55°F. Cold, overly damp soils can result in leaf drop and may encourage disease problems. However, extreme temperatures over 95°F are also undesirable. Plant coleus after any danger of frost has passed when soil temperatures have warmed sufficiently and evening temperatures are above 60°F. Avoiding too wet or too dry conditions is warranted and coleus are quite pH tolerant except for the extremes of a significantly low (or high) pH. Light fertilization is recommended, particularly in containers.

—Mark Dwyer, for National Garden Bureau, [ngb.org](http://ngb.org)



# Flower Show Schools

*I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose, I would always greet it in a garden.*

~Ruth Stout

How are your plans for “greeting spring” progressing? Are you planning a flower show, a garden walk, a school or symposium? Many times the difference between success and failure, a thrilling experience and a disappointing one, or a feeling of “Can’t wait ‘til the next time!” and “I’ll never try that again!” is planning, communicating, and being realistic.

Whatever your group is thinking of doing, be sensible about it. How many able hands do you have to help? What is the interest level in the proposed endeavor? Do you have a suitable location? Can the club afford to hold the event? Get people involved—don’t make it a one-person effort. Make the participants aware of exactly what is expected of them, give them the framework within which they have to work and then let them have the freedom to be innovative.

Communicating with each other can generate even more ideas. Discuss the pros and cons and details of just how their ideas can be realized. Allow enough time to accomplish what you want without having to sacrifice because a speaker is not available, it is the wrong time of year, or it conflicts with other events. Plan ahead so that you can greet the event with all factors in place. Tell others about it. Make it a pleasant, inspiring experience for all involved.

**Question:** Must the entry card of every exhibit be signed by a member of the judging panel?

**Response:** To be counted as an exhibiting credit for Student Judges, the *Handbook*, P. 261, II. A. 3. C. says: *Entry cards with blue ribbons or 90+ on any other colored ribbons must be signed by an NGC Accredited Judge assigned to that class.* Because Accredited Judges need only to exhibit, but not necessarily win a ribbon to earn an

exhibiting credit, their cards are often left unsigned, without any indication made of having been looked at by the judging panel. To serve as proof of exhibiting, and to reassure the exhibitor that his/her exhibit was considered, it is highly recommended that a member of the judging panel indicates this in some way, either by a check mark or his/her initials on the card.

**Question:** Is the base on which a miniature design staged counted as part of the 5” maximum height requirement?

**Response:** If the base has been provided by the committee for uniformity and is described as part of the staging for the class, it is not considered as part of the total height. However, P. 156 C. 2. *If a base is used [by the exhibitor] it is considered part of the container or plant support, and all must be within the total height allowance.* An exception is noted on P. 203, Miniature 4: *If schedule requires that staging prop, background panel, pedestal, etc., be incorporated into the design, that staging must stay within maximum dimensions allowed for a Miniature Design.*

**Question:** Is a design that wins the Petite Award in a Standard Flower Show eligible to win the Division Award of Design Excellence?

**Response:** Yes. The Petite Award is a Top Exhibitor Award subject to all of the requirements of any other Design TEA. *Handbook*, P. 45, III. B. 1. B. Award of Design Excellence: *One award may be offered and awarded to the highest scoring exhibit in the entire Design Division entered by a single exhibitor, provided all General and Design Award Requirements are met.*

**Question:** Must an entry in a Section eligible for the Club Competition Award be the work of two or more members of another club, or can it be executed by only one person who represents the club?

**Response:** The reasoning for offering a Club Competition Award in any of the three Divisions is that by combining efforts, several members of a club may be able to ex-

ecute an exhibit that goes beyond what most single exhibitors could achieve. *Handbook*, P. 52. V. B., says: *Several club members collaborate on each exhibit.* However, C. 1.a. leaves the door open for allowing only one member to furnish all of the specimens for a horticulture display by saying: *must be grown by one or more members.* In the spirit of the award, and because the entry card will have only the name of the club and its president, the exhibit should be a club effort. The degree to which each person participates is not defined.

Judges are reminded that ongoing education is necessary to stay informed. Not only must you refresh at least every three years, but also you can increase your knowledge more often by reading, visiting nurseries, art museums, gardens, and by attending lectures, demonstrations, workshops, and flower shows. By staying abreast of the latest introductions and trends, you are doing your best to be well-informed judges, which is what every exhibitor deserves.

—**Dorothy Yard**, *NGC FSS Chairman*

## Escuela de Exposiciones de Flores

*Amo la primavera en cualquier lugar, pero si pudiera elegir, siempre la recibiría en un jardín.*  
~Ruth Stout

¿Cómo van tus planes para “recibir la primavera”? ¿Estás planeando una exposición, un paseo en un jardín, una Escuela, o un Simposio? Muchas veces la organización, la comunicación y el ser realista establece la diferencia entre el éxito y el fracaso, una experiencia emocionante y una de decepción, o el sentir “Estoy deseando la próxima” y “Nunca voy a hacer eso de nuevo”.

Sea cual fuere lo que el grupo esté planeando, sean sensatos. ¿Cuántas personas hay para ayudar? ¿Cuál es el nivel de interés en lo que proponen? ¿Tienen disponible el lugar? ¿Tiene el club los fondos para af-

rontar los gastos del evento? Involucra a la gente... que no sea el esfuerzo de una sola persona. Informa a los participantes exactamente qué es lo que deben hacer, cuéntales lo que se espera del trabajo, y permíteles la libertad de innovar.

La buena comunicación puede generar más ideas. Exploren las ventajas y desventajas y exactamente cómo pueden llevarse a cabo las ideas. Permite suficiente tiempo para alcanzar la meta sin sacrificar, por ejemplo, un disertante porque no está disponible, o por no ser la temporada correcta, o por conflictos de fechas con otros eventos. Planea con anticipación así podrás llegar al evento con todo preparado. Comenta a los demás del evento. Asegúrate que sea una experiencia agradable y estimulante para todos los involucrados.

■ **Pregunta:** ¿La tarjeta de expositor debe ser firmada por todos los miembros del panel de juzgamiento?

**Respuesta:** Para que el Juez Estudiante la pueda presentar como un crédito de exhibir, el MEF p. 227, II.A.3.c. dice: *Las tarjetas de expositor de cintas azules o 90+, o cintas de cualquier otro color, deben estar firmadas por un Juez Acreditado NGC asignado a esa clase.* Dado que los Jueces Acreditados solo necesitan exhibir, y no necesariamente ganarse una cinta para acceder al crédito, sus tarjetas generalmente quedan sin firmar y sin ningún indicio de que el panel de jueces haya visto la exhibición. Es muy recomendable que un miembro del panel de jueces indique de alguna manera que se ha juzgado, ya sea con una marca o con sus iniciales, para que sirva de prueba y para que el expositor sepa que ha sido juzgada.

■ **Pregunta:** La base de un diseño ¿se cuenta como parte de los 5” (12.7 cm.) de la altura máxima requerida?

**Respuesta:** Si la base fue provista por el comité para lograr uniformidad, y es descripta como parte del montaje de la clase, no se considera como parte de la altura total. Sin embargo, MEF 136,C.2 *Si se utiliza una*

base, se considera parte del recipiente o soporte para plantas, y todo debe estar dentro de la altura total permitida. Hay una excepción. Pág. 179, Miniatura 4. *Si el programa especifica que el montaje, por ejemplo el fondo, un pedestal, etc., sea incorporado dentro del diseño, dicho montaje debe mantener sus dimensiones máximas dentro de lo que permite el Diseño Miniatura.*

■ **Pregunta:** Si un Diseño Pequeño es otorgado el Premio Petite en una Exposición Estándar de Flores, ¿puede también optar por el Premio de División Excelencia en Diseño?

**Respuesta:** Si. El Premio Petite es un Premio Mayor sujeto a los mismos requisitos que los demás Premios Mayores. MEF 39, III.B.1.b. *Un premio puede ser ofrecido y otorgado a la exhibición de puntaje más alto en toda la División Diseño presentada por un solo expositor, siempre que se hayan cumplido todos los Requisitos Generales y de Premios de Diseño.*

■ **Pregunta:** Una exhibición en una Sección que opte por el Premio Competencia entre Clubes ¿debe ser el trabajo de dos o más miembros de otro Club, o puede ser hecho por una sola persona que representa al Club?

**Respuesta:** La intención de ofrecer el Premio Competencia entre Clubes en cualquiera de las tres Divisiones, es que al combinar los esfuerzos de varios miembros de un Club, puedan crear una exhibición que va más allá de lo que pudiera hacer un solo expositor. MEF Pág. 45. V.B. dice... *Varios socios de los clubes colaboran en cada exhibición.* Sin embargo, C.1.a. deja abierta la posibilidad de permitir que solamente un miembro lleve todos los especímenes para un display de horticultura, diciendo... *deben ser cultivados por uno o más socios ...* Tomando en consideración la intención del premio, y dado que la tarjeta de expositor lleva solamente el nombre del club y su presidente, la exhibición debería reflejar el esfuerzo de todo el club. El nivel

de participación de cada persona no está definido.

Se recuerda a los Jueces que es necesario mantenerse informados a través del estudio. No solamente debes renovar cada tres años, sino puedes incrementar tus conocimientos mediante la lectura, la visita a viveros, museos de arte, jardines, y asistiendo a conferencias, demostraciones, talleres y exposiciones de flores. Al mantenerte al tanto de las nuevas introducciones y tendencias, estarás haciendo todo lo posible por ser jueces bien informados—los expositores lo merecen.

—**Dorothy Yard, NGC FSS Chairman**

## NGC Calendar

### Conventions

- 2015 Louisville, Kentucky  
May 12-18 (Installation year)
- 2016 Grand Rapids, Michigan  
May 2-7
- 2017 Richmond, Virginia  
May 16-21 (Installation year)
- 2018 Pennsylvania
- 2019 Mississippi

### Fall Board Meetings

- 2015 St. Louis, Missouri  
September 15-19
- 2016 Portland, Maine  
September 26-October 2
- 2017 St. Louis, Missouri
- 2018 Orlando, Florida  
September 26-September 29
- 2019 St. Louis, Missouri
- 2020 North Carolina

*In his garden every man may be his own artist without apology or explanation. Each within his green enclosure is a creator, and no two shall reach the same conclusion; nor shall we, any more than other creative workers, be ever wholly satisfied with our accomplishment. Ever a season ahead of us floats the vision of perfection and herein lies its perennial charm.*

~**Louise Beebe Wilder**

# Flower Show Schools

## Course I

**Kent, WA** . . . . . **April 14-16**  
Registrar: Betty Burkhart; 253-852-2935

**Springfield, VA** . . . . . **April 17-19**  
Registrar: Poss Tarpley, 1705 Belle Haven  
Road, Alexandria, VA 22307; 703-660-8661;  
posst@aol.com

**Wauconda, IL** . . . . . **April 30-May 2**  
Registrar: Laurel DeBoer; 847-526-8320;  
czygrma@sbcglobal.net

**Lafayette, LA** . . . . . **July 30-August 1**  
Registrar: Mary Jane Peters; 985-580-2864

**Midland, MI** . . . . . **August 25-27**  
Registrar: Alice Mesaros; 989-710-0441;  
alicemesaros@yahoo.com

**Encinitas, CA** . . . . . **September 21-23**  
Registrar: Jill Coleman, 5512 Malvern Way,  
Riverside, CA 92506-3548; 951-684-2635;  
benjill@hotmail.com

## Course II

**Milford, MA** . . . . . **April 29-May 1**  
Registrar: Julie Pipe, 54 Pilgrim Road,  
Holliston, MA 01746; 508-429-7646;  
juliepipe@comcast.net

**Weldon Springs, MO** . . . . . **April 28-30**  
Registrar: Sheri Menscher, 636-625-0851;  
sherimensch@aol.com

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

**Little Rock, AR** . . . . . **June 9-11**  
Registrar: Jo Krallman, 4714 Pine Drive,  
Benton, AR 72019-9196; 501-847-9171;  
krallman@sbcglobal.net

**New Haven, CT** . . . . . **September 30-October 2**  
Registrar: Sheila Ciccone, 89 Noah Lane,  
Tolland, CT 06084; 860-454-0330;  
fssreg@comcast.net

## Course III

**Reading, PA** . . . . . **April 27-29**  
Registrar: Betsy Hassler, 606 Wellington  
Avenue, Reading, PA 19609; 610-777-9956;  
jlvehse@verizon.net

**Gulf Breeze, FL** . . . . . **May 26-28**  
Registrar: Judy Keliher, 2022 Downing Dr.,  
Pensacola, FL 32505-1860; 850-484-9172;  
MrMrsJFK@aol.com

## Course IV

**Canton, OH** . . . . . **May 27-29**  
Registrar: Shirley Wigginton, 5276 Broadview  
St. N.E., Louisville, Ohio 44641; 330-453-  
7056; swigginton@neo.rr.com

## Course IV

**Raleigh, NC** . . . . . **June 8-10**  
Registrar: Maggie Farrell, 18020 Lochcarron  
Lane, Cornelius, NC 28021; 704-892-3559;  
maggiefarr@aol.com

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

# Gardening Study Schools

## Course I

**Madrid, IA** . . . . . **April 9-10**  
State Chairman: AdaMae Lewis, 122 N.  
Russell Ave., Ames, IA 50010; 866-412-9517;  
adamaelewis@gmail.com

## Course II

**Boylston, MA** . . . . . **April 9-10**  
Chairman: Linda Jean Smith, 23 Bentley  
Lane, Chelmsford, MA 01824; 978-256-3101  
lindajeansmith@comcast.net

**Traverse City, MI** . . . . . **April 13-15**  
\*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** . . . . . **September 17-18**  
Local/State Chairman: Ada Mae Lewis, 122 N.  
Russell Ave., Ames, IA 50010; 515-232-0608;  
adamaelewis@gmail.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

## Course IV

**Augusta, GA** . . . . . **May 1-2**  
Local Chairman: Judith Kirkland, 1055  
Fieldstone Road, Grovetown, GA 30813; 706-  
556-3417; jukirkland@knology.net

*There is no "The End" to be written, neither  
can you, like an architect, engrave in stone  
the day the garden was finished; a painter can  
frame his picture, a composer notate his coda,  
but a garden is always on the move.*

~Mirabel Osler

# Flower Show Symposiums

## **Bowie, MD . . . . . April 28-29**

Local Registrar: Susan Middleton, 812 Cooks Point Road, Cambridge, MD 21613; 410-228-5756; smiddleton1@verizon.net

## **Columbia, SC . . . . . April 30-May 1**

Local Registrar: Jerry Weise, 1507 Lorenzo St., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29494-4524; 843-884-8998; jerrywbobw@juno.com

## **Georgetown, KY . . . . . June 3-4**

Local Registrar: Elaine Thornton, 110 Cherry Hill Drive, Georgetown, KY 40601; 502-863-0810; elainevt@roadrunner.com

## **Athens, GA . . . . . June 14-16**

Local Registrar: Cookie Roland, 2771 Anscot Court, Snellville, GA 30078-3005; 770-972-0219; r\_cookie@att.net

## **Anchorage, AK . . . . . July 18-19**

Local Registrar: Carol Norquist, 3734 W. 35th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99517; 907-248-9563; norquist@alaska.net

## **Sherrodsville, OH . . . . . August 13-14**

Local Registrar: Patricia Rupiper, 5580 Jefferies Court, Westerville, OH 43082-8013; 614-423-8646; patrupiper@gmail.com

## **Ann Arbor, MI . . . . . August 19-20**

Local Registrar: Lynn Dinvald, 6802 Springbrook Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665; 269-343-3827; ydoublelne@aol.com

## **Birmingham, AL . . . . . August 19-20**

Local Registrar: Sybil Ingram, 154 Sugar Drive, Pelham, AL 35124-1579; 205-733-9536; sybil40@charter.net

## **Richland, WA . . . . . August 26-27**

Local Registrar: Sharon DeWulf, 2924 S. Everett St., Kennewick, WA 99337-5076; 509-586-6168; sdewulf@charter.net

## **Manchester, NH . . . . . September 2-4**

Local Registrar: Eleanor Morrison, 255 Pemigewasett Shore Dr., Bristol, NH 03222; 603-744-8271; emorrison2@metrocast.net

## **San Antonio, TX . . . . . October 25-27**

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

## **Gettysburg, PA . . . . . October 27-29**

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

## **Palm Beach Gardens, FL . . . . November 8-10**

Local registrar: Phyllis Gidley, 2587 Greenwich Way, Palm City, FL 34990-6055; 772-286-0507; gidleyc@bellsouth.net

# Landscape Design Schools

## **Course I**

### **Auburn, AL . . . . . May 4-5**

State Chairman: K.T. Owens, 42 Longleaf Circle, Monroeville, AL 36460; 251-743-3846

### **Morgantown, WV . . . . . May 20-22**

State Chairman: Donna L. Davis, 64 Bryant Davis Lane, St. Mary's, WV 26170; 304-684-3136; dadodavis@frontiernet.net

## **Course II**

### **Chappaqua, NY . . . . . April 15-17**

State Chairman: Antoinette Babb, 125 West Bridge St., Saugerties, NY 12477-1419; 845-246-4445; aplantlady1011@hotmail.com

### **Santa Rosa, CA . . . . . April 23-24**

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

### **Wellesley, MA . . . . . October 29-31**

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

## **Course III**

### **Madison, WI . . . . . April 14-15**

State Chairman: Gretchen Vest, 704 Spring Drive, West Bend, WI 53095-4642; 262-338-6645; gretchenvest@aol.com

### **East Brunswick, NJ . . . . . April 14, 15 & 17**

State Chairman: Peggy Koehler, 651 Leah Court, Bridgewater, NJ 08807; 908-526-1309; koehlerpeggy@yahoo.com

### **Marietta, GA . . . . . April 20-21**

State Chairman: Jane A. Whiteman, 6590 Long Acres Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30328-3018; 404-252-4473; jamawhit@bellsouth.net

## **Course IV**

### **Louisville, MS . . . . . April 21-23**

State Chairman: Melanie Gousset, 835 Rolling Oaks Dr., Grenada, MS 38901; 662-226-9666; mgousset@cableone.net

### **Marietta, GA . . . . . May 4-5**

State Chairman: Jane A. Whiteman, 6590 Long Acres Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30328-3018; 404-252-4473; jamawhit@bellsouth.net

### **Ann Arbor, MI . . . . . May 7-8**

State Chairman: Terry Harding, 6287 Summit Ct., Traverse City, MI 49686; 231-947-0568; wsharding@chartermi.net

*You know you are a hard-core gardener if you  
deadhead flowers in other people's garden.*

*~Sue Careless*

# Environmental Studies Schools

## Course III

**McHenry, MD . . . . . April 15-16**

State Chairman: Linda Harris, 3252 Walnut Bottom Rd., Swanton, MD 21561; 301-453-3293; lindaharris355@aol.com

## Course IV

**Barrington Hills, IL . . . . . May 5-6**

School Chairman: Leanne McRill, 217 Hackberry Drive, Streamwood, IL 60107; 630-213-2249; lmcRill@comcast.net

## Tri-Refreshers (ESS, GSS, LDS)

**Erie, PA . . . . . April 19-21**

Event Chairman: Judy Morley, 10205 Eureka Road, Edinboro, PA 16412-5913; 814-734-1701; jhmorley@yahoo.com

**Hickory Corners, MI . . . . . May 2**

Event Chairman: Lynn Dinvald, 6802 Springbrook Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49004-9665; 269-343-3827; ydoublelne@aol.com

**Louisville, KY . . . . . May 12-18**

Event Chairman: Jo Jean Scott, 7961 Twin Bridges Road, Alvaton, KY 42122; 270-781-2089; jojogarden.34@gmail.com

**Gainesville, FL . . . . . June 15-17**

Event Chairman: Jeanice Gage, 10819 NW 11th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32606; 352-332-1596; jeanicegage@cox.net

## TNG Online

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# NGC Roster Changes & Additions

2013-2015 Board of Directors

## Calendar Committee

Chairman, **Jan Warshauer**,

Delete: June 15 – Sept. 15, P.O. Box 680363, 3663 Oak Wood Court, Park City, UT 84068-0363,

Add: Nov. 1 – May 1, 144 Viera Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-1741

## Communications: Non-Print Committee

Coordinator/Webmaster, **Kathleen M. Thomas**,  
1200 Gulf Blvd., Unit 904, Clearwater, FL  
33767-2798; [NGCwebsite@aol.com](mailto:NGCwebsite@aol.com) (website information)

## Conventions and Fall Board Committees

Conventions Chairman, **Anne M. Bucher**,  
3529 Twin Branches Drive, Silver Spring, MD  
20906-1452

## Fall Board Meetings

2015 FBM Vice Chairman, **Sue Reed**  
St. Louis, MO, [smr257@gmail.com](mailto:smr257@gmail.com)

Protocol Vice Chairman, **Elise Haymans**  
9160 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, FL  
33950-4303; [melise@earthlink.net](mailto:melise@earthlink.net)

Delete: Glenville, NC address.

## Golden Circle

Committee Member, **Veva J. Schreiber**,  
[Vevajs42@gmail.com](mailto:Vevajs42@gmail.com)

## State Presidents Roster

The Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc.

Delete: **Suzanne Wheeler** (deceased)

Add: **Martha H. Price**, 205 Sullivan Dr., Byron, GA 31008-5241; [Philmprice@cox.net](mailto:Philmprice@cox.net)

The Garden Clubs of South Carolina, Inc.

Delete: **Judith Johnson Dill** (resigned 12-31-2014)

Add: **Yvonne A. Morris**, 219 Amelia Drive, McCormick, SC 29835-3108;  
[ymorris@wctel.net](mailto:ymorris@wctel.net)

*A garden is a complex of aesthetic and plastic intentions; and the plant is, to a landscape artist, not only a plant – rare, unusual, ordinary or doomed to disappearance – but it is also a color, a shape, a volume or an arabesque in itself.*

~ Roberto Burle Marx

# Using Shade and Water to Create That Special Garden Space

by Alexis Joan Slafer, ASLA, CLARB

A well-designed garden doesn't happen by itself; it must be planned in detail, before a single plant is purchased or brick is laid. Special features, including plants, are really the "icing on the cake." Have you brought a plant home from the nursery or plant sale and then struggled to find the right spot to plant it? That is common gardener behavior and if that describes you: embrace it and enjoy finding a treasured plant or experimenting with a new introduction.

Good planning in the beginning will enable you to spend more time enjoying that special space, instead of becoming a slave to its maintenance. The first step towards a well-designed garden is to create the base and framework. When that is complete you are ready to enhance the design. When this planning is put on paper it is called a master plan. A



reating a special landscape can lift your spirits as you walk through a garden, sit on a patio, or see it through a window. The aesthetic and functional features in a landscape are key attractions that enhance that enjoyment. A good design can provide a sense of security, recreation, and comfort, while creating an interesting, fun, and beautiful space to enjoy.





accommodates your lifestyle.

Shade and water are two components of a residential garden. Shade can create an outdoor space for reading, dining, or meditation. Shade can enhance the ambiance of a patio for entertaining with an outdoor kitchen, conversation area, or just a table and chairs.

master plan is developed through the “design process”—a step-by-step method that considers environmental conditions and your desires, along with the elements and principles of design. The goal of a well-designed master plan is to organize the natural and man-made



features into an aesthetically pleasing, functional, and environmentally sustainable landscape.

Celebrating a sense of place by creating a garden that is unique to your lifestyle, environment, and budget is key to accomplishing these goals. The aim is to have the aesthetics seamlessly tie the indoors to the outdoors and create a garden that

The environment changes throughout the year as the sun’s path changes, impacting the shade created in the garden. Consider this when determining where to sit while enjoying a morning cup of coffee or watching the evening sunset. Shade will change dramatically during the day and throughout the year. For example, when deciduous trees are dormant, the area beneath them



receives full sun, but when the trees leaf out, that same area may be in full shade.

Shade can be created by manmade structures or naturally by plant materials. Overheads and leafy canopies cast shade to make gardens livable during hot summer months, and an outdoor dining area surrounded with shade trees provides an inviting environment created by the dappled shade. Man-made elements include such things as arbors, trellises, gazebos, specialty furniture, woven shade-cloth and/or a shade sail. Even small spaces can benefit from the focus created by a small arbor or gazebo. Walk the garden at different times of the day, seasons, and weather conditions to find the perfect point to locate a gazebo or arbor.

Shade can vary dramatically during the day and throughout the year. It is important to choose

plants that are suited for shade conditions. To save you time, effort, and money, before purchasing any plants, determine the sun and shade areas of your garden. Special interest can be created in a shade garden by including plants with variegated leaves, blue or silver leaves, white flowers, and various plant sizes and textures.

Water features help a garden come alive.



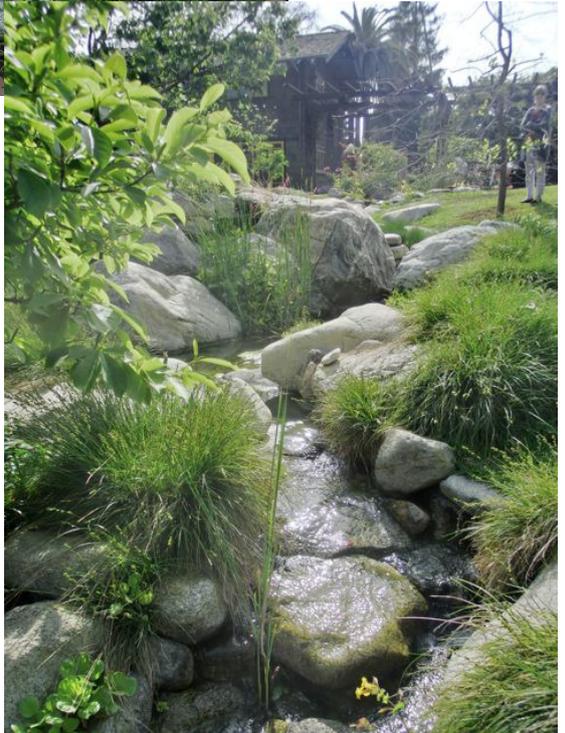


way. Where space is limited consider adding a wall fountain or a birdbath. A small water feature, with mosquito fish and plants, can be created in an attractive container with a re-circulating pump. A water feature should be placed where it can be easily seen and enjoyed. Before selecting a water feature, consider its location, purpose, maintenance, and

Water in motion is enchanting and brings brightness and music into the garden as it spills gently, gurgles, or tumbles. A fountain or small pool can be a mesmerizing focal point that is pleasant to both the eyes and ears. Splashing water, seeing golden fish, or gazing at the petals of a delicate water lily can provide a cool and soothing garden retreat. Consider how pleasant a reflecting pool would be as it reflects the sky and clouds or the branches of a tree, presenting an ever-changing picture.

Historical garden design philosophies continue to be embraced as water features become beautiful and peaceful additions to gardens today. A pleasing water feature can be as simple as a wall-mounted fountain that trickles water into a basin or as elaborate as a stream with bridges and waterfalls. Or perhaps it is a tiered fountain in a patio or a pool, so natural it seems like it has always been there.

A little water in a garden can go a long



feasibility. Environmental factors to consider are high winds, dust, sun, and temperature extremes. Also consider the purpose: is it for recreation, to modify the environment, create a focal point, become an organizing



water into the garden. Splashing water enlivens a garden and can mask intrusive noises, while bubbling water cascading down a boulder or millstone provides soothing sounds.

Water features are as individual as the gardeners who create them. Don't be afraid to play and be inventive, there is no single correct way to create a successful landscape with shade or water. The path that you take to reach your goal is as varied as your imagination.

element of the garden, or enhance views?

Residential design addresses both public and private landscape. Public design concerns the landscapes visible from the street, while private landscapes are the back yard or enclosed areas. A water feature added to the public landscape also enriches the community and enhances the neighborhood.

The selection of a water feature is based on personal preference and the layout of the garden. Whether it is a pond or fountain, functional or aesthetic, visual or habitat, formal or informal—water adds richness to your special space and should be placed where it can be easily seen and enjoyed. Water plants add to that enjoyment, as do Koi and other fish (be sure to provide protection from predators).

Fountains and waterfalls bring moving



—**Alexis Joan Slafer** is a landscape architect, an NGC Gardening Consultant and an NGC Master Landscape Design Consultant. She serves as a Schools Chairman for California Garden Clubs and NGC.

~Alexis Slafer presented a successful and informative program on "Using Shade and Water to Create that Special Space" to our garden club (109 members) in January. I asked her if she could abbreviate her program into an article for TNG. Her program, article, and activities illustrate the extensive interconnectedness of NGC Schools.

—Greg Pokorski, GSS Chairman

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