

THE NATIONAL

# gardener

SUMMER 2017



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AMERICA

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CONVENTION

PLANT AMERICA

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## The National Gardener

Summer 2017 | Vol. 88, No. 3

### National Garden Clubs, Inc.

5,000 Garden Clubs  
165,000 Garden Club Members  
50 States and the National Capital Area  
60 National Affiliate Member Organizations  
330 International Affiliate Member Organizations

**Nancy L. Hargroves**, President  
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### THE COVER

The PLANT AMERICA initiative emphasizes the cornerstone elements of gardening: the variety of garden types; healthy, sustainable gardens; awareness of environmental issues; and resources to put garden plans into action.  
Photo by Nancy Hargroves.

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## INSTALLATION ACCEPTANCE SPEECH



### Nancy L. Hargroves

2017-2019 NGC President

**T**hank you for your confidence in me to perform the duties of the president of National Garden Clubs Inc. It is a great honor.

As I reflect on my journey to this night, it seems inevitable that I would be involved in an organization with horticulture and design focuses. I grew up on a farm that raised and shipped vegetable plants, and on that farm was my grandmother's florist shop. So, horticulture and floral design have been a part of my life since day one.

A change of administrations is also a time for reflection. It is a time for three things: a time to look back, a time to evaluate where we are and a time to look ahead.

I want to thank Shirley and Renee for

the wonderful **look back** that they gave us in the installation ceremony. They have shown what a rich history this organization has and what this organization has accomplished in 88 years.

It's also a time to thank the former presidents for their leadership that has guided this organization to have such a long, productive length of service to our members and to our communities.

A little more history is that I am the last fourth vice president. Someone asked me once did that make me feel superfluous when we did away with the position? "No," I replied. The organization saw the need for change and made the change. This brings us to **a time to evaluate where we are.**

The changing world around us will con-

▶ NGC 2017-2019 President Nancy Hargroves and Sandra Robinson, NGC 2015-2017 president.



tinue to be a challenge for our organization—just as it is for all volunteer organizations. People say that they can get all the gardening information they need from the Internet. They can Google how to prune a rose bush or how to make a floral centerpiece for their dining room table. But, nothing beats the hands-on experience of actually doing either task.

I have a classic example for you from my second day of work as assistant supervisor of food services for Roanoke City Schools in Roanoke, Va. The U.S. Department of Agriculture sent surplus turkeys to all school lunch programs for us to serve—tractor-trailer loads of frozen whole turkeys!

That second day on the job, I was told that we were going to have a meeting in the afternoon for all the school cafeteria employees to teach them how to debone a whole turkey. I asked which school kitchen we were using? The answer: the auditorium. No kitchen. No actual turkeys to use for demonstration purposes. No PowerPoint presentation. And, by the way, I was told a supervisor from the state department of education would be attending.

So, I proceeded to explain this verbally. I used my own body as a prop, hoping

the absurdity would stick in their minds when they actually got into the kitchen with a knife and a turkey. Was that all they needed to know? No, they also needed to know how to safely defrost a frozen whole turkey. But, if you Google "deboning a whole turkey," and don't put in the word frozen—you don't have all the information that you need to know.

Those cafeteria employees can attest that there is value in hands-on learning, not just someone telling you how. I told them how at one point you have to crack the backbone away from the breast, but you have no idea how much strength that takes; the angle that is better; what happens if the backbone cracks in the center before it breaks away from the ribs; and on and on. Garden club meetings, workshops and projects give you



◀ More than 800 garden club members attended the 2017 NGC 88th National Convention. Members found inspiration in the elegant, dramatic floral designs of Ian Prosser, renowned international floral designer and speaker, at the May 19 design banquet.

the hands-on experience with people who have done it before. The Internet cannot do that for you. I haven't seen many computers out planting beds at the neighborhood entrance sign or planting petunias in barrels on the main street in town.

Another of our organization's challenges is fast changes in everything due to technology and events in the world. But, I firmly believe that garden clubs will continue to exist because a lot of our clubs' work is in the community and communi-



▲ More than 600 garden club members from across the nation came to see P. Allen Smith, noted author, television host, entrepreneur and conservationist, and keynote speaker at the NGC 88th National Convention in Richmond, Va., on May 19. His book signing was also a popular event with members, including Blakely Szosz, president, Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.



◀ Former NGC Presidents Shirley Nicolai (left), and Renee Blaschke (right), installed Nancy Hargroves as the 45th president of National Garden Clubs Inc.

ties certainly benefit from our work.

### So how does a community that has a garden club benefit?

- In these communities—garden clubs are the vision, plan and manpower behind community beautification. Whether it is flower-filled planters and barrels or tree-lined town streets, manicured public buildings, welcoming neighborhood and community entrances, partnerships with public departments of transportation for roadsides or holiday designs in public buildings—a garden club's presence is evident.
- In these communities— garden clubs started and promoted recycling many years before it was a national movement. It is now a way of life in our country, not a project.
- In these communities—garden clubs know the importance of working with youth for the future of gardening, conservation and the environment. They are an additional resource for teachers to work with youth in after-school programs and school classrooms. National Garden

Clubs and individual garden clubs provide college scholarships for students in horticulture-related fields.

- In these communities—garden clubs realized early on what gardening did for the soul. Garden club members have been interacting with people in nursing homes and retirement homes long before we called it “garden therapy.”
- In these communities—garden clubs are often the conscience of the community. Their voices speak up to save a tree, to save a park and to prevent too much development.

Gardening touches everyone in some way. It can be beauty, color, solitude, food, memories, therapy, land value, exercise, to attract wildlife or just the thrill of making something grow.

#### Gardening teaches life lessons:

- To everything there is a season
- Appreciate beauty of the world
- Sharing
- Patience - waiting for a plant to grow or a vegetable to ripen
- Optimism and Hope - to plant a seed, bulb or tree is to believe that tomorrow will come and many tomorrows after that.

A community full of people that have learned these life lessons is a good community! Communities with a garden club are usually a more beautiful place, a “greener” space and are a community with a conscience.

Margaret Mead is credited with the statement: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Garden club members are fiercely committed. Aren't gardening people the happiest, friendliest, and most generous people you know?

Yes, we have membership challenges ahead, with competition for people's time and garden clubs no longer being the only source of gardening information. We are fortunate right now that there is an emphasis in our country on vegetable gardening, community gardens and healthy lifestyles that wasn't around 15 years ago.

Now it's time for our third step—it's time to **look ahead**. Just as we heard in the installation service about our significant projects, we are now at the beginning of a major new project.

I truly believe that the service to our communities that our garden clubs give assures our future.

That belief is the basis for the theme and projects of the administration: **PLANT AMERICA**. The words of this theme can either be a command to service or a description of what NGC clubs do in communities all over the world. This theme can cover any and every aspect of gardening, horticulture, garden design and community service — even water issues, as one cannot garden without water! It applies to every kind of garden: Blue Star Memorial Marker plantings, vegetable gardens, community gardens, container gardening on town streets, neighborhood plantings, etc.

There will be a singular focus on gardens and gardening. Often a nation-



▲ As NGC's 45th president, Nancy Hargroves will visit garden clubs in states across the U.S. to promote **PLANT AMERICA**, a national initiative that focuses on gardens, gardening and community service. Photo by Poss Tarpley.

al organization has many projects to appeal to the interest of a broad base of members. But, after being in existence for 88 years, we're a little like the legislature we keep adding things, but we don't remove anything. If you ask someone why they joined a garden club, nine times out of 10, they will tell you it is to learn about gardening.

Gardening will be at the center of every facet of this administration from its theme to its projects. Each

state was asked to consider using the same theme so that we can have a unified feeling of all states working together.

Due to the success of “The Frightened Frog” in the previous administration, there is a new NGC book for youth on gardening, “The Saved Seed.” Its premise is to teach a young child that seeds come from nature, not in a package at the store.

NGC-sponsored tours will be visiting gardens in the United States.

This administration will begin another important time in our organization with the launch of the new project of club grants and a fund to support them. A new grant program entitled **PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants** will provide financial support for new or existing club projects of NGC member clubs in their respective communities. The first grants will be given during the 2017-2019 administration. It is the hope



▶ Sharon McGurkin, Oasis Floral Products, drew a large audience to her seminar.

▶ The Salisbury Garden Club honors one of its own members, NGC President Nancy Hargroves, with a beautiful garden vignette.



▶ A floral tribute honors Sandra Robinson, NGC 44th president, for her service. Photo by Poss Tarpley.



Julia Clevert, NGC Flower Show School and Symposium design instructor, master flower show judge and former president of The Garden Club of New Jersey Inc., was a speaker at the May 20 Installation. She created stunning floral designs in honor of NGC Presidents Nancy Hargroves and Sandra Robinson.

that this grant program becomes as significant a project for NGC as its scholarship program.

National Garden Clubs needs to sustain itself and its member clubs for now and in the future. An additional benefit of the grant program is that it will be a membership tool—a reason for clubs to stay with us, as they can apply for money to help finance their projects. It can help answer the question: “What does National Garden Clubs do for us?”

Not only will the grants be of help to NGC’s member clubs, it is an additional opportunity for visibility for National Garden Clubs in these communities where grants are used. Signage and publicity for the projects of the grant recipients will be emphasized. A logo has been designed for the project for use on the website, signs and other products as a graphic visual reminder for this project.

There is a company that also believes in club projects in communities. It, too, sees the value in bringing neighbors, cultures and generations together to share the experience and the joy of gardening. It wants to join our effort to PLANT AMERICA together. In recognition of the valuable resources that clubs contribute to their communities, 20 garden clubs will be awarded grants of up to \$250 of Organic Plant Foods and Potting Soils. Not only is it providing grants for its products for our clubs’ projects, but it has added a page to its website for

garden clubs and is using our PLANT AMERICA logo. This company has been in existence since 1929, and I’m sure almost all of you in the room have used at least one of its products, Holly-tone®. The company is Espoma. Help me welcome and thank John Harrison, vice-president

of marketing for Espoma, and Bonnie Satterthwaite, territory sales manager for Espoma for supporting National Garden Clubs.

National Garden Clubs is an organization composed of dedicated members in our state garden clubs who accomplish great things for our communities and our nation. I look forward to working with all of you, and my life has been enriched by knowing all of you.

I’d like to end with this quote from Marina Schinz, noted gardening author and photographer, as it very beautifully states how we all feel and what all of our members strive for every day:

“To create a garden is to search for a better world. In our effort to improve on nature, we are guided by a vision of paradise. Whether the result is a horticultural masterpiece or only a modest vegetable patch, it is based on the expectation of a glorious future. This hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening.” ■

*Nancy L. Hargroves*

**Photos by Melody Robbins Photography**

To view and/or order prints online, digital files and memory books, access the online gallery at [www.MelodyRobbinsPhotography.com](http://www.MelodyRobbinsPhotography.com):

- Click on Client Galleries
- Enter password: *gardenclub*
- Click on GO

## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS welcomes new president

*Virginian Nancy L. Hargroves leads one of the nation’s most-recognized nonprofits and largest volunteer gardening organization in the world*

**N**ancy L. Hargroves of Richmond, Va., has been installed as the 45th president of one of the nation’s most-recognized nonprofits—National Garden Clubs Inc., the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.

The installation was held May 20 at NGC’s 88th national convention in Richmond, Va. As president, she will spend much of her two-year term traveling coast-to-coast to promote National Garden Clubs’ causes and projects, seek new ideas geared to current needs and network with many of the organization’s 165,000 members.

Hargroves will guide the national organization and work with NGC members nationwide through “PLANT AMERICA,” the theme for her administration. “The singular focus of PLANT AMERICA is on gardens and gardening,” she explained. “Gardening is again at the forefront in America, especially with the surge in popularity of

vegetable gardening. In addition, the new PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants program will provide funding to NGC members in recognition and support of their community gardening efforts.”

As part of her focus

—  
**“Gardening is again at the forefront in America...”**  
 —

on gardening, Hargroves introduced “The Saved Seed,” a children’s book that offers an intriguing glimpse at how seeds originate from plants in nature, rather than in commercial packaging. The book, written by NGC members, may be used as an educational tool and resource for garden clubs nationally in their youth programs or as a donation to local public or school libraries. “The Saved Seed”

joins “The Frightened Frog,” an early-reader book introduced two years ago that offers fun facts and downloadable lesson plans on nature and the environment for children in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Hargroves, who hails from Franklin, Va., in Southampton County, previously served as first vice president of National Garden Clubs Inc. She has held various positions on a state and regional level, including serving as president of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. and historian of the South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs Inc.

Hargroves is a member of the Salisbury Garden Club and also has been a member of the Westham Garden Club for more than two decades, serving as president from 1987 to 1989. She previously was a member of the Thomas Jefferson Garden Club from 1993 to 2007 and

**...Continued on page 10**

...Continued from page 9

served as president for one term. Hargroves serves as secretary on the executive committee of the board of directors of the American Horticultural Society and is a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in Philadelphia. She also serves on the advisory council of

Seed Your Future, a national initiative to promote horticulture as a vital, viable and exciting career path for the nation's youth.

Hargroves holds a Bachelor of Science in human nutrition and foods and Master of Science in food service management from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. ■

**Does your club have a great idea for a project in your community...but not enough funds to implement it?**

**National Garden Clubs can help!**

**Apply for a PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grant**



**What types of project can apply?**

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Habitat for Humanity landscaping
- Blue Star Memorial Marker landscaping
- Implementation of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public

**It's easy:**

- Fill out the application form
- Email the application form to PLANTAMERICAGRANTS@gmail.com by November 1, 2017

**Winners will be notified by January 31, 2018.**

Project must be completed by May 2019.

**Application and Guidelines are on the NGC website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)**

# PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants

National Garden Clubs Inc. has established a new grant program for clubs entitled PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants with a simple application process. The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial support for new or existing club projects

**“The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial support for new or existing club projects...”**

in their respective communities all across the United States. This fund will be a permanent fund with grants being given for each two-year administration.

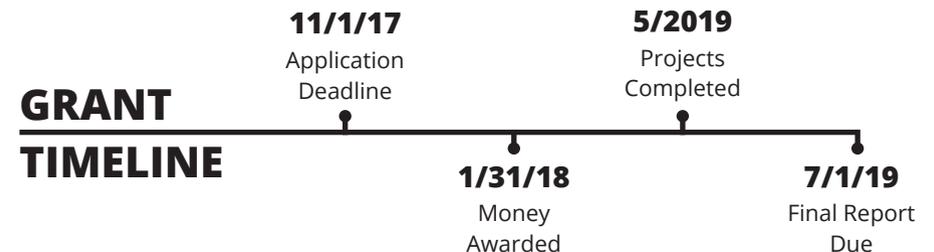
The first grants will be given during the 2017-2019 administration. Individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs Inc. may apply for funds up to \$1,000 for the direct expenses of projects. The deadline

for applications is November 1, 2017. Recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by January 31, 2018. Projects must be completed by May 2019. Final reports are due within two months after the completion of the project or by July 1, 2019.

Projects submitted for receiving a grant may be a joint venture with another organization/s. The scope of these projects in communities may include:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Landscaping for Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Landscaping of Blue Star Memorial Markers
- Implementation of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public and/or youth

Application forms, funding guidelines and final report forms are available on the NGC website. ■





# PLANT AMERICA

## Community Project Grants Guidelines

The PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Program is sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing club projects in their respective communities. Projects may be a joint venture with another organization/s. The scope of these projects may include:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Habitat for Humanity landscaping
- Blue Star Memorial Marker landscaping
- Implementation of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public

**Grant Amount:** Up to \$1,000.00 is available to be used for direct expenses of projects

**Who May Apply:** Individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Application Deadline:** November 1, 2017

Recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by January 31, 2018. Projects must be completed by May 2019, and final report forms are due by July 1, 2019.

**How to Apply:**

Application and final report forms are available on the NGC website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
Send the completed application form and budget to:  
[PLANTAMERICAGRANTS@gmail.com](mailto:PLANTAMERICAGRANTS@gmail.com)

**Program Criteria:**

In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements:

- Impact and scope of project
- Benefits and visibility in community

- Involvement and participation by club members
- Collaboration with other community groups
- Clearly stated plan for future maintenance and/or monitoring of the project

**Funding Guidelines:**

Grants will not be provided for:

- Projects in which the club does not participate in some aspect
- Purchase of Blue Star Memorial Markers
- Competitive Flower Shows
- Private gardens
- Eagle Scout projects
- Salaries or benefits of personnel
- Political action programs
- Capital drives and building funds
- Scholarships and endowments
- Lawsuits and litigation
- Overhead costs

**Final Report:**

1. Deadline: within two months after the completion of the project or by July 1, 2019
2. Send the following:
  - A short one-page report describing the project including photos
  - A copy of the final financial report including all income and expenses
  - A copy of any publicity

**NOTE:** Please indicate if permission has been given for use of photos by NGC in print or on the website. A release form for adults and minors can be found on the NGC website: <http://www.gardenclub.org/about-us/press-room/minor-image-release.aspx>



# PLANT AMERICA

## Community Project Grants Application

**DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2017**

**Date of Application:**

**Name of State Garden Club:**

**Applicant (Club):**

**Contact:** (Name of individual representing club)

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**New Project:** Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ **Beginning date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Completion date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Requested** (up to \$1,000): \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Project Budget:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Project:**

**Brief description of how the funds will be used:**

**Brief statement of any in-kind or volunteer services:**

**Judging is based on the following Scale of Points:**

• Impact and scope of project	30
• Benefits and visibility in community	30
• Involvement and participation by club members	20
• Collaboration with other community groups	15
• Application form complete	<u>5</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Attach: Budget**

Email or mail the completed application form and budget to:  
Betty Cookendorfer [PLANTAMERICAGRANTS@gmail.com](mailto:PLANTAMERICAGRANTS@gmail.com)  
10659 New Biddinger Road  
Harrison, OH 45030-9522

Application is available in a Word document at [www.gardenclub.org/PLANT AMERICA GRANTS](http://www.gardenclub.org/PLANT AMERICA GRANTS)

## MEET THE ngc vice presidents 2017-2019

**G**ay Austin of McComb, Miss., was installed as first vice president. In this position, she will serve as liaison to NGC state presidents and regional directors.



Austin previously served as second vice president of NGC. She has held various positions on a national level, including chairman of the Organization Study Committee and the Award of Excellence initiative to recognize outstanding non-member individuals and organizations that advance NGC causes. Austin also served as recording secretary on the board of directors for National Garden Clubs Inc. She is an accredited master flower show judge and horticulture instructor for numerous NGC flower show schools and symposiums.

On the state and local level, Austin has served as member of the board of directors of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc. since 1995 and the McComb Garden Club for nearly 30 years.

She holds an associate's degree in nursing from Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit. As a registered nurse, Austin served in the emergency room at Southwest Regional Medical Center and as office manager of Southwest Mississippi Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic and Austin Medical Consultants Inc. She also is a board member and volunteer at PALS Rescue

Inc., a no-kill animal shelter in Pike County.

**Mary Warshauer** of Rumson, N.J., was installed as second vice president. In this position, she will chair the NGC finance committee. Warshauer previously served as third vice president of NGC.

Warshauer has held a variety of positions in National Garden Clubs Inc., including chairman of the Blue Star Memorial Marker program and the Award of Excellence and Water Quality and Conservation Committees. As a NGC executive



committee member, Warshauer represented the organization's Central Atlantic Region, where she served as regional director on the Scholarship Committee.

On the state and local level, Warshauer was president of The Garden Club of New Jersey Inc. from 2009-2011 and has been a member of the Garden Club of Fair Haven for nearly 20 years.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in education from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

**Brenda Moore** of Oak Hill, W. Va., was installed as third vice president. In this position, she will serve as chairman of several NGC national programs including the Organization Study Committee and the Award of Excellence initiative to recognize outstanding non-member

individuals and organizations that advance NGC causes.

Moore is the author of "The Saved Seed," and co-author of "The Frightened Frog," two NGC children's books that serve as educational tools and resources for garden clubs nationally in their youth programs. In addition, she has held a variety of positions in National Garden Clubs Inc., including chairman of the national membership committee.



Moore is a certified Master Gardener, an accredited flower show judge and landscape design consultant.

On the state and local level, Moore was president of the West Virginia Garden Club Inc. from 2011 to 2013 and continues to serve on WVG's board as an adviser and NGC special projects chairman. She is a member of Woodland

Oaks Garden Club in Oak Hill. She also served on the advisory committee of West Virginia Botanic Garden in Morgantown.

Moore holds a Bachelor of Science in family resources from West Virginia University in Morgantown. She previously worked for the Fayette County Board of Education and the Fayette County Public Libraries.

In addition to providing support and promoting PLANT AMERICA, NGC's new initiative that focuses on gardens and gardening, with an emphasis on community service, the three vice presidents will help guide the national organization and work to advance NGC's mission: promoting civic and environmental responsibility, as well as a love of gardening and floral design. They also will support the organization's major objectives—to foster education and participation in the organization's many local, regional, national and international outreach programs. ■

## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC. executive committee 2017-2019



▲ Front row (left to right): Shane Looper, historian; Robin Pokorski, corresponding secretary; Sandra Robinson, PH&E director; President Nancy Hargroves; Gay Austin, first vice president; Mary Warshauer, second vice president; Brenda Moore, third vice president; and Betty Grimes, treasurer. Back row: Regina Brown, Central Atlantic Region; Jackie Watts, Rocky Mountain Region; Fran Stueck, Central Region; Susan Hinkel, New England Region; Joan Corbisiero parliamentarian; Judy Barnes, South Atlantic Region; Isabel Olsen, South Central Region; Peggy Olin, Pacific Region; Ann McCormick, Deep South Region; and Mary Owen, recording secretary.

# NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC. 2017 award of excellence

*NGC's Award of Excellence recognizes exceptional individuals, organizations or institutions that have made significant contributions to their communities in such areas as environmental and civic responsibility, conservation or community beautification through gardening projects.*

**A**lan Steinman, Ph.D., is a champion in the protection, conservation and restoration of the quality of the nation's coastal waters, wetlands, aquifers, watersheds, lakes, rivers and streams.

Steinman is the Allen I. and Helen J. Hunting director of the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley State University, [www.gvsu.edu](http://www.gvsu.edu), in Muskegon, Mich. He has published more than 150 scientific articles and book chapters, been awarded over \$50 million in grants for scientific and engineering projects and testified on the protection of water resources before the U.S. Congress and the Michigan and Florida state legislatures.

Nominated by Michigan Garden Clubs Inc., Steinman is a popular speaker at local and state garden club events and was a presenter on the impact of climate change at a seminar at NGC's 87th national



▲ Alan Steinman. Photo courtesy of Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

**“The Award of Excellence is our organization’s highest honor for non-members,” said Nancy Hargroves, president, National Garden Clubs Inc. “By recognizing these deserving recipients from different parts of the nation, NGC hopes to educate and inspire others in communities coast-to-coast.”**

convention last year in Grand Rapids. Through his work at AWRI, he works with area youth through the organization's free programs, including hands-on learning aboard two vessels on Lake Michigan and adjoining waters. In addition, Steinman advises and mentors undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral candidates.

Steinman is a member of the science advisory boards for the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Joint Commission; Michigan



▲ NGC 2017 Award of Excellence Recipients. Pictured from left to right: Sandra Robinson, NGC 2015-2017 president; Neil Lash, director, Heirloom Seed Project, Medomak Valley High School, Waldoboro, Maine, accepting the award on project's behalf; Pearl Fryar, Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden, Bishopville, S.C.; Alan Steinman, Ph.D., the Allen I. and Helen J. Hunting director of the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley State University, Muskegon, Mich.; and Mary Warshauer, chairman, NGC Award of Excellence Committee.

Department of Environmental Quality; the Sea Grant College Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Healing Our Waters Coalition; the Water Center for the Graham Sustainability Institute of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; the Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research; and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

Steinman's areas of concentration include aquatic ecosystem restoration, harmful and nuisance algal blooms, phosphorus cycling and water policy. He currently serves as associate editor of *Freshwater Biology*, an international scientific journal that publishes papers on all aspects of the ecology of inland surface waters, including rivers and lakes, connected ground waters, flood plains and other freshwater wetlands. Prior to joining GVSU, Steinman served as director of the Lake Okeechobee Restoration Program for the South Florida Water Management District. He was a postdoctoral research fellow at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

in Tennessee and holds a doctorate in botany/aquatic ecology from Oregon State University.

**Pearl Fryar** is a horticultural phenomenon and creator of the inspiring and whimsical Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden in Bishopville, S.C. Nominated by The Garden Club of South Carolina Inc., Fryar was selected for the award for his efforts in conserving natural resources, promoting civic beauty and advancing horticultural education.

Fryar began his journey as a self-taught topiary artist and horticulturist in the early 1980s. By collecting discarded plants from compost piles at local nurseries and using sustainable planting techniques, he transformed the plantings into feats of

artistry and horticulture on three acres at his home.

Visitors from around the globe travel to Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden, [www.pearlfryar.com](http://www.pearlfryar.com), to marvel at the remarkable abstract shapes that Fryar formed from over 300 individual plants. He also created topiary works on civic projects, at public garden sculpture exhibitions and



▲ Pearl Fryar. Photo courtesy Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden.

received a commission for a topiary exhibit at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.

Fryar is the subject of a 2006 award-winning documentary, "A Man Named Pearl," which introduced him, and his unique garden, to a national audience. He has been featured on National Geographic News.com, in garden industry publications and local and statewide magazines. His story and garden also were a focus on The Martha Stewart Show and he appeared in a TV commercial for John Deere.

In addition, Fryar fosters education and dedicates his efforts to local youth, working with students of all ages through arts councils and colleges to demonstrate topiary techniques and illustrate elements of art in garden sculptures. The Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden has awarded a total of 13 scholarships of \$1,500 each to local high school students to further their education at two-year colleges in Lee County.

Fryar is a recipient of the Winthrop University Medal of Honor for significant contribution to the arts. He also is a popular speaker on the lecture circuit across the United States and leads topiary workshops at Moore Farms Botanical Garden in Lake City, S.C.

In 2006, the Garden Conservancy, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving exceptional gardens and landscapes, formed a partnership with Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden—a collaboration that will provide ongoing care and preservation.

Nominated by The Garden Club Federation of Maine Inc., the **Heirloom Seed Project at Medomak Valley High School** in Waldoboro, Maine, [www.mvheirloomseedproject.com](http://www.mvheirloomseedproject.com), is the oldest, and one of the largest, school-based seed saving programs in the United States.

The project took root in 1991, stemming from a popular school horticulture class

that began in the early 1970s. "The Heirloom Seed Project was created to teach students how to grow, collect and save heirloom seeds, pass down history to the next generation, preserve and promote the biodiversity of open-pollinated seeds and learn how to be self-sufficient by producing their own food for themselves and in their community," said Neil Lash, director, Heirloom Seed Project. Nearly 30 students participate each year on the project.

The Heirloom Seed Project is situated on two acres on the grounds of Medomak Valley High School. It includes two greenhouses, a seed bank of over 800 varieties of heirloom seeds collected from local, national and international sources, an online seed exchange catalog developed and managed by students that provides seeds to people globally, an onsite "living history" tree arboretum, a collection of 70 heirloom hosta plants and the newest addition—a collection of endangered heritage breed chickens. In 2015, the project received a \$20,000 grant from Seeds of Change, an organic seed and food company. "The project fosters leadership skills in managing the greenhouses, working in the garden and provides a real-world experience in working with retail seed companies who partner with our program," added Lash. ■



▲ Heirloom Seed Project. Photo courtesy Heirloom Seed Project, Medomak Valley High School.

## National Garden Clubs Inc. 2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

National Garden Clubs Inc. is proud of its college scholarship program, which offers financial aid to students majoring in fields of study related to horticulture and the environment. NGC granted a total of 43 scholarships of \$4,000 each this year to the following students who are planning a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture.

*"Education is the transportation to our future"*

STATE	STUDENT NAME	NAMED SCHOLARSHIP
Alabama	Zachary Andrew Slay	Phyllis Wood
Alaska	Libby Jayne Jacobson	Linda Nelson Bentson
Arizona	Eric Lee Olsen	Mary Badham Kittel
California	Benjamin Reed Brown	Ellamae Fehrer
Colorado	Rachael Latta	Mary Louise Michie
Connecticut	Jacqueline Degregorio	Hazel L. Knapp
Delaware	Mark Anthony Meloni	Hubert Bond Owens
Florida	Quinn Christian Zacharias	Ellen Griffin
Florida	Raymond Odeh	Jessie M. Conner
Georgia	Danielle Schwartz	Deen Day Sanders
Georgia	Hayley Adair Schroeder	Martha Smith
Hawaii	Jeffery K. Stallman	Hazel Dillingham
Idaho	Julia Reese	Robert H. Rucker
Illinois	Skyler Brazel	Violet Herich Dawson
Indiana	Eric Thomas Walker	Jane Layman
Iowa	Shelby M. Poole	Eleanor R. Crosby
Kansas	Megan Haresnape	Katherine Henby Hedley
Louisiana	Courtney Ann Poirier	Barbara Barnette
Maine	Angela Masse	Tempie Dahlgren
Maryland	Mikayla Nicole Call	Miriam Anderson Steel
Massachusetts	Caitlin Swalec	Barbara D. May
Massachusetts	Jeremy Trevor Price	Cordelia Gray Brumby
Michigan	Jill Marie Syrotchen	Osa Mae Barton
Minnesota	Heidi R. Shol	Helen Hussey Champlin
Mississippi	Dane Antone Christensen	Geraldine Dean
Missouri	Megan Rae Tyminski	Thekla Neuner
Montana	Kaitlyn A. Goroski	Junne Johnsrud
Nebraska	Collen Elizabeth Ocken	Lorena Martin Spillers
New Jersey	Jacalyn DeValue	Cornelia H. Kellogg
New Mexico	Katelyn Nicole Steen	June P. Wood
New York	Jacob Rathbun	Helen S. Hull
North Carolina	Genevieve Alexander	Eleanor L. Yates
Ohio	Bree Lacey Richardson	Winifred Fink
Pennsylvania	Michael Legros Dautlick	Lois Dupre Shuster
Rhode Island	Joseph Anthony Loffredo	Sandra H. Robinson
South Dakota	Jonathan Linke	Lucille Mauntel
Tennessee	Dylan Thomas Keller	Jean T. Ladson
Texas	Olivia Sievers Ross	Renee D. Blaschke
Utah	Anna Michelle Thurgood	Evelyn Mooney
Vermont	Frederick Petzoldt	May Duff Walters
Virginia	Elizabeth Gray	Shirley S. Nicolai
Washington	Evelyn Hanlin	Violet Gose
Wisconsin	Mikayla Moran	Kitty Larkin



*Carex pensylvanica*, showing new growth emerging in mid-May. ▲

By Bruce Crawford

It has often been said that the quiet and the subdued perform the work in support of those who prefer the limelight.

That parallel could also be made for your garden! Just think how many plants scream and vie for your attention, when it is the subtle plants that do the work of holding or pulling the garden's composition together. Ornamental grasses have become all the rage over the past 25 years, and they also fall into those categories of the subdued supporter and the limelight seeker. Whether considering ornamental grasses with tall delicate foliage that sways in the breeze, forms with colorfully variegated leaves, or even low-growing evergreen sedges, the contribution of ornamental grasses is enjoyed by many.

I, too, have found the contribution of ornamental grasses to be significant, and I typically was smitten by those evergreen or variegated forms standing in the limelight. However, as the gardener ma-

tures—a much nicer way of saying “getting older”—we tend to look at the world of plants differently and grow to appreciate the “workers.” For example, consider the sedge, (*Carex*). As a designer, I first considered only those that were evergreen, dismissing the deciduous selections as inferior. Things have changed!

There are over 1,500 species of sedge worldwide, many of which are very difficult to decipher their true identity, even when they are in flower. *Carex* is found in the family Cyperaceae, and is typically described as having “edges.” Unbeknownst to me for many years, the descriptive word for edges actually comes from a little rhyme: “Sedges have edges, rushes are round, grasses are hollow right up from the ground.” The poetic focus on edges is a reference to the triangular flower stems and the typically sharp-toothed margins of the foliage. The name *Carex* comes from the Greek word “Keiren,” which means to cut—a reference to the leaf margins. Interestingly, to those who enjoy the origin of words, the

name “sedge” is derived from the Old English “Sagu,” which means “saw”—another reference to the toothed-leaf margins. Aside from the triangular flower stems, they also are solid and lack nodes, which help differentiate them from grasses, which have round, hollow stems with nodes. The flowers, or inflorescences, of sedges typically are not showy, but do possess a subtle beauty. Unlike grasses, the flowers of sedges are monoecious, which means the male and female organs are found on separate “flowers” within the same plant. In fact, they often exist on the same stem, with the female flowers located just below their male counterparts, allowing the windblown pollen to simply drop downward for pollination.

My roots as a garden designer began as early as a child of eight years of age, when I became fascinated with the tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*), a name that comes from the mounded “tussocks,” or “hummocks,” that develop from rhizomes and fibrous roots that have not decayed. Interestingly, the species epithet of “*stricta*,” is from the Latin for “straight” or “rigid,” referring to the upright form of the foliage and flower spikes that emerge in the spring. I hold great memories of these wondrous plants, even though, as a garden designer, evergreen sedges, many



▲ *Carex stricta* starting to flower in late April.

of which are native to Asia and New Zealand, initially captured my attention.

I once transplanted tussock sedge from a woodland section of my parent's home to a moist area in the garden. Fifty years later, it still flourishes! What makes the age of the plant even more interesting is the lack of maintenance it requires, compared to its ornamental kin. Other than needing a “hair cut” each spring, this plant has never been divided, fertilized, watered, or otherwise cared for in the

**“My roots as a garden designer began as early as a child of eight years of age...”**

least and it looks absolutely awesome! *Carex stricta* typically is found in moist or boggy soils from North Dakota east to Quebec, Canada, and south to Missouri and North Carolina. In sunny locations, the slender foliage arches up to 24-to-30 inches in

height and 24 inches wide, providing an elegant and dense appearance. In shady areas, the foliage is less dense, but still attractive. The inflorescences appear in late April, blending among the emerging, stiffly upright foliage. Flowers are subtle, yet attractive. The deep purplish-brown male flowers are tightly compressed against the stem, while the subtending green female flowers often are hidden within the foliage.

Native to central and eastern North America, *Carex stricta* is often a pioneer



▲ The habit of *Carex stricta* in mid-summer. ▲



▲ A close-up of the flowers of *Carex stricta*.



▲ *Carex pensylvanica*, showing its winter habit. ▲



▲ *Carex pensylvanica* in August, showing the form of the plant when mature.

plant in wetland areas, thriving in full sun and serving as a slightly higher and drier location for tree seeds to germinate and grow. The trees gradually transition the open area into a shady marsh, which would not have occurred without the sedge! In the garden, plants can be used individually for the very attractive fountain shaped foliage, which provides a great textural contrast for broader foliaged plants. Or it can be used in mass as a groundcover. In moist locations, a mass of tussock sedge looks very attractive in combination with sweeps of sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) or the ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*).

Recently, I have become intrigued by another of our deciduous native sedges: *Carex pensylvanica*, commonly known as Pennsylvania or oak sedge. Unlike its previous-

ly described cousin, this sedge prefers dry shade and is rhizomatous, which allows it to spread and knit together. This ability to spread allows it to be used as a great groundcover, thriving in areas where traditional turf is not an option. Although the species epithet indi-

—  
**“The advantage of using this plant as groundcover is its ability to tolerate moderate foot traffic. ...”**  
—

cates Pennsylvania, the plant is native to nearly all of Eastern North America, from Manitoba, Canada to Mississippi, east to Quebec, Canada, and Florida. It is often found growing in dry regions in association with oak trees, hence the common name. In warmer regions, the plant

is semi-evergreen, but turns tan during colder winters. Previous year’s foliage mats down under the weight of winter’s snow, eliminating the need to cut it back in the spring. The foliage also serves as mulch, with new foliage growing through and concealing the previous year’s foliage by late May. New foliage is light chartreuse in color, which slowly deepens to a medium green by July. Although the slender leaves reach a length of 12 inches, they tend to layer on top of one another, with the plant only reaching a total height of

six-to-eight inches. With a touch of imagination, this habit yields the appearance of water flowing downstream. The advantage of using this plant as groundcover is its ability to tolerate moderate foot traffic. The plant also can be mowed two or three times throughout the sea-

son to achieve a more manicured look. However, I question whether anyone would look for more tasks in the garden, when this plant requires so little work. In a shady environment, the only weeds that may become problematic are Norway maples and poison ivy. In a sunny environment, the plant is less vigorous, but weeds can become more of an issue. If simply left to its own devices in a shady location, the plant provides a nearly weed-proof groundcover that requires no water, fertilizer or cutting. Now that is sustainable!

One maintenance chore that does help the appearance of *Carex pensylvanica*, especially if it is to be used as a groundcover panel in a more formal area, is to edge the panel as much as you would normal turf. It simply makes the area appear neat. Inflorescences appear in April, but they may be more diminutive and less pronounced than on *Carex stric-*

*ta*. Aside from using *Carex pensylvanica* as a turf substitute or a groundcover, it also makes a great ground plane through which other woody and herbaceous plants can emerge. This is similar to the layering of herbaceous materials in the prairies of the Midwest. The lowest vegetation is always the sedges, with taller flowering plants and grasses layered above. For the shady garden, this improves weed management and provides a more overall cohesive appearance.

Defining a person as a “mature gardener” should never be confused with considering that person as an inventive, or even a good gardener. However, as I can attest, there is much to be said about a person who has jeopardized the health of many a plant—and learned from the experience. My experiences with *Carex* span nearly 50 years of gardening, from a plant whose beautiful silhouette captured the interest of an eight-year-old, to a plant that a 59-year-old garden designer has only begun to understand its full design potential.

There will always be plants that demand to be in the limelight, but it is only appropriate that the spotlight be shown upon the more subdued plants that provide solutions regardless of whether the garden is wet or dry. ■

 **Photos by Bruce Crawford**  
bcrawford@sebs.rutgers.edu

*Bruce Crawford is director of Rutgers Gardens, the official botanic garden of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. A popular destination for students, faculty and the community, the 130-acre Rutgers Gardens includes 60 acres of horticultural collections featuring designed beds, specialty gardens, tree and shrub collections, lawns and walking paths, as well as the adjoining 70-acre Frank G. Helyar Woods. It is open to the public year-round and admission is free. Visit [www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu](http://www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu)*

# blue star memorial marker

## DEDICATED AT ALABAMA NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program of National Garden Clubs Inc. honors all men and women serving in the five branches of the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those who have served or will serve.

The program is named for the iconic “blue star” displayed on banners and flags in homes, churches and businesses across the United States to recognize sons and daughters serving overseas in World War II. The Blue Star Memorial Program was launched in 1944, with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. The following year, NGC adopted and expanded the program that involved placing Blue Star Memorial Markers along thousands of miles of highways across the continental United States and Hawaii.



Members of the Montevallo Evening Garden Club and Blue Star Salute Foundation of Alabama, pose with the new Blue Star Memorial Marker. Photo by Marshall Goggins.

Today, Blue Star Memorial Markers are highly visible along the nation’s highways and byways, and at national cemeteries, government facilities, veteran’s facilities and public parks and gardens. Currently, there are 2,844 Blue Star Memorial Markers across the United States.

In 2015, NGC adopted Gold Star Families Memorial Markers as an adjunct program under the jurisdiction of the Blue Star Memorial Marker Program. Gold Star Families Memorial Markers honor families that have lost a loved one in the Armed Forces who paid the ultimate sacrifice during combat. ■

The Montevallo Evening Garden Club of Garden Club of Alabama Inc. dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo, Ala., in Shelby County, in April. Photo by Melanie Poole.



Tricia Mitchell, president, Garden Club of Alabama Inc., provides the history of the NGC Blue Star Memorial Marker Program. Photo by Melanie Poole.

CENTER RIGHT: Glenn Nivens, Blue Star Salute Foundation of Alabama, reads a proclamation from Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey. Photo by Melanie Poole.  
FAR RIGHT: Gene Ramsay, Bugles Across America, played “Taps,” at the conclusion of the dedication ceremony. Photo by Melanie Poole.

# meet the driggs dragon gardeners!

## YOUTH GARDEN CLUB DIGS IN FOR ITS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

When the landscaped courtyard at Howard R. Driggs Elementary School in Halladay City, Utah, was in desperate need of a makeover, a collaboration of cultivation was born. School Principal Mike Douglas, and members of The Neighborhood Garden Club of The Utah Associated Garden Clubs Inc., seized upon the opportunity of a teachable moment for students to replant the courtyard, as well as increase awareness of and encourage an interest in gardening and the natural world.

The Driggs Dragon Gardeners, a youth garden club at the elementary school, was established to take on the daunting project. Although the youth garden club is limited to 20 third-grade students in the program managed by Douglas, as well as Alison Jueschke, a third-grade educator, additional children in the 640-student school were enlisted to help in the project, which created a sense of personal investment and school pride.

In fall 2016, the Driggs Dragon Gardeners, along

with parent and other adult volunteers, weeded and cleared the area of debris, forming a bucket brigade to transfer soil to designated planting areas. Perennials were planted, as well as 125 spring

bulbs donated to the school as part of the “Tulips Journey North” outreach program by Thanksgiving Point, a nonprofit farm, garden and museum complex for

family learning in Lehi, Utah.

As news of the school courtyard project grew, the community enthusiastically responded. Donations of garden gloves

**“...a teachable moment for students to replant the courtyard...”**

**...Continued on page 27**



The Driggs Dragon Gardeners.

# seed your future

## Dear Seed Your Future Leadership,

Here's a quick note to share some great Seed Your Future coverage and update you on our progress.

Thank you to Anna Ball, Mark Broxon, and Jamie Kitz for ensuring that Seed Your Future cards were visible and distributed the week of the California Spring Trials in April.

Thanks to Terri McEnaney and John Dole (and maybe others of you, as well), we've been given an actual session slot at Cultivate '17, July 15-18, in Columbus, Ohio. Cultivate '17 is the premier

national event for horticulture professionals. Speaking of Cultivate '17—the work group chaired by Terri McEnaney is at work to make the best use of our time at Cultivate this year. You'll hear more soon. Thanks for being on the team, Cole Mangum, Jeff Gibson, John Dole, and

Karla Kares.

During a very productive week at the Children and Nature Network Conference in April, we were able to secure a commitment for a Seed Your

Future interview on Sirius XM's Children and Nature Podcast.

The PR and Marketing Committee and the Education Committee met last week

**“A more detailed “plan for the plans” is expected by early May.”**



with FleishmanHillard to react to their initial thoughts on creative design themes. It was a productive meeting, and we provided helpful feedback. A more detailed “plan for the plans” from FH is expected by early May.

By sheer coincidence of fate (or maybe just that SYF is getting even better connected every day), Scholastic joined the leadership of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids. I serve on its leadership on behalf of SYF – a role I played as well, when I was with the American Camp Association. That new person turns out to be the same person who will lead the

Scholastic efforts for SYF! He and I will be meeting in person in two weeks when I'm in Washington DC. He already has been meeting with FH about our projects.

We also took the opportunity to promote SYF's connection to National Environmental Education Week (April 23-29), through social media. ■

**Susan E. Yoder, IOM**  
*Executive Director*  
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@SEYOYODER

### ...Continued from page 25

for each student participant, snacks and rewards were provided by the school's parents. Local businesses, including Millcreek Gardens garden center and nursery; Red Butte Garden at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City; and Earth Farms Community Garden participated with monetary or in-kind donations. The Ames Companies Inc. donated gardening supplies, including shovels, rakes, troughs and edgers.

Building upon the positive momentum, members of the garden club are working to develop and expand the curriculum to teach about awareness of pesticides, dis-

eases, habitat loss and pollution. These efforts are bolstered by helpful NGC resources such as “The Frightened Frog” book, Ecology Warriors workbook, Bee a Wildlife Action Hero and Pollinator Power.

Our experiences have been wonderful for our garden club members, students, teachers, parents and community. We highly recommend that other schools across the nation tap into their local garden clubs to form similar programs at their schools. ■

**Connie MacKay**  
*President, The Neighborhood Garden Club*  
*The Utah Associated Garden Clubs Inc.*

# neonicotinoids

## TAKE ACTION, PROVIDE EDUCATION

**P**ollinators are essential to our world and play a large role in the foods we consume. According to Joe Lamp'l, host of the award-winning PBS television series "Growing a Greener World," pollinators are responsible for more than one out of every three bites of food we eat or beverages we drink.

**Our pollinators are under a national and global threat.** Neonicotinoids (pronounced nee-oh-NIK-uh-tin-oyds), are systemic insecticides that began to be used in the mid-90s as a supposedly less-toxic alternative to those then on the market that were decided to be harmful to humans. They were deemed "reduced risk" by the Environmental Protection Agency and fast-tracked to market. They quickly became the most heavily used class of insecticides worldwide.

"Neonics" are similar in chemical structure to nicotine, and all seven of the chemicals classified as neonicotinoids

control pests by binding to receptors in the insects' nervous systems and blocking nerve impulses. Neonics are believed to be one of the main causes in the demise of our pollinators!

- They are highly toxic to insects and many animal species including beneficial insects and all of our pollinators!
- They persist in plants and soil for months to years after they're applied and can accumulate from one season to another.
- They are water soluble and readily move into water bodies. The latest research found neonics in more than half of our streams!
- And, because they are absorbed by plant tissues and become systemic (even when sprayed on foliage), they move into pollen and nectar, thereby following a direct route to our pollinators!
- Neonicotinoids are present in a wide environment beyond the annuals

**“...she raised 64 monarchs from eggs or caterpillars.”**

and perennials in retail garden centers. They are widely used on farms and in other agricultural operations.

### TAKE ACTION, PROVIDE EDUCATION

Recently, a concerned NGC member reported that milkweed—the host plant for monarch butterflies—for sale on shelves in a retail garden center at a leading national big box chain in her area, sported small tags indicating the plants had been treated with systemic neonicotinoids.

### THE POWER OF A NGC COLLECTIVE VOICE

**This NGC member made her voice heard.** In bringing her discovery to the attention of the store's manager, she was able to get all of the plants in her local store removed. She also shared the information with NGC. Upon the quick action and persistence of our NGC board members, the support of our partner the National Wildlife Federation, as well as our Million Pollinator Garden Challenge partners—the Xerces Society and The Pollinator Partnership—our concerns were brought to the chief executive officer of this national retail chain. The matter was researched by the firm, and according to its findings, an error in labeling had occurred on the grower's assembly line. While we are relieved the milkweed plants at this particular store were not treated with poison—neonicotinoids—we should remain vigilant in

our efforts to identify risks and provide education.

### What You Can Do!

- Read labels.
- Not all stores will alert you to the use of neonicotinoids, so ask questions.
- Become educated on neonics and spread the word on the harm they pose to pollinators.
- Plant bee-friendly plants using only organic starts or untreated seeds in organic potting soil.
- Do not use neonics of any kind in your garden!
- Share your knowledge. This is a serious problem that requires a combined effort.
- Let your voice be heard!
- Need help? NGC has multiple resources to assist you.

**You can make a difference.** Many of us have experienced firsthand the many benefits of belonging to NGC, but if you ever encounter the question: "What are the advantages to us in belonging to National Garden Clubs Inc.?" please share this story. It's just one of the many examples of what we can accomplish together that might not be accomplished alone.

### Becky Hassebroek

*Chairman, Wildlife Gardening  
NGC Representative, National Wildlife Federation  
and Million Pollinator Garden Challenge  
beckyhasse@aol.com*

## The National Gardener



### FALL

October, November, December  
Articles due: August 1  
Advertising due: August 15



### WINTER

January, February, March  
Articles due: November 1  
Advertising due: November 15



### SPRING

April, May, June  
Articles due: February 1  
Advertising due: February 15



### SUMMER

July, August, September  
Articles due: May 1  
Advertising due: May 15

## NEWS FROM ngc schools

**“Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching.”**

We are pleased and grateful that schools are taking place all over the country. The NGC website lists scheduled courses for all three schools—Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design— and upcoming Multiple Refreshers. Seven multiple refreshers were held in 2016. Seven are so far completed or pending for this year. We are hoping to soon qualify an additional refresher in California. If your good standing status expires this year (December 31, 2017), be looking for refresher opportunities. Consultants may refresh at school courses or at single subject refreshers or at multiple refreshers. If a number of consultants in your area need to refresh, be part of the solution and help to put on a refresher. Reach out to your clubs and communities to draw others in for the education and information and networking opportunities (and, there is always food, too).

Kudos to the consultants and judges councils of Florida and Maryland who hosted fabulous education days featuring programs in all four school disciplines during National Garden Week in June, to celebrate the week, our schools, councils and garden clubs.

As one garden club year draws to a

close, it is time to be planning your state and club events, projects and programs for the next garden club year. Include NGC school courses and refresher events in your schedule. You may find the experience rewarding and do it more than once. My garden club has held three complete Gardening Study Schools and a Flower Show School. As you make plans, consider referencing and incorporating Nancy Hargroves's theme for the 2017-2019 NGC administration: PLANT AMERICA.

NGC provides the infrastructure for you to carry out its educational mission with these well-established programs that have been presented nationwide. Information is available to you on the “Schools” pages of the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), in every issue of Keeping in Touch and The National Gardener, in Newscape, the Landscape Design Schools newsletter, in the Gardening Consultants newsletter (Gardening Study Schools web page) and by reaching out to chairmen of NGC Schools (listed in these publications and on the website) and region and state schools chairmen. Previous issues of Keeping in Touch and The National Gardener are available on the NGC website. Login to the Mem-

ber area and go to the member section menu on the left side of the page. State presidents and state schools chairmen need this information. The support and understanding of state presidents is critical to state schools chairmen, especially in those cases where the state president has not attended the schools. There is much helpful information available to be read and shared.

Many thanks to all who have “leapt into action” this term to sponsor, conduct or attend NGC School courses and refreshers and to all who served on the 2015-2017 NGC, region and state schools committees. We appreciate your volunteer work. We hope you have learned, and will keep learning and using the information you have obtained. Please note: incoming 2017-2019 state presidents and/or state schools chairmen are asked to provide NGC Schools chairmen with names and contact information for your schools chairmen for the new term so that we can update our records.

This Environmental, Gardening Study, Landscape Design Educational Schools Committee will not exist in the same format next term, but there will be a “Policies for ESS, GSS and LDS Committee,” that will be chaired by Patricia Rupiper. She also will continue to serve as chairman of Environmental Studies Schools. Barbara Hadsell will continue to serve as chairman of Gardening Study Schools. I will replace Jane Bersch as chairman of Landscape Design Schools. We are here to serve you. ■

*“Don't let there be a vacation from learning! It's what we think we know that keeps us from learning.”*

— Claude Bernard

**Greg Pokorski**

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



This federal initiative's goal is for a **MILLION GARDENS** to include plants for pollinators across our great country. It's not unreachable at all.

**NGC alone has almost 200,000 members.**

If each of you include pollinator plants in your garden, and through your passion to stop this decline cause just **four more people** to do the same, we've reached this goal all by ourselves!

Please Plant **NOW** for our pollinators and share the word!

[millionpollinatorgardens.org](http://millionpollinatorgardens.org)

**Becky Hassebroek**

MPGC Liaison  
[beckyhase@aol.com](mailto:beckyhase@aol.com)

# landscape DESIGN SCHOOLS

**W**hy should your state hold a Landscape Design Schools series? Why should you attend NGC Landscape Design Schools?

On October 7, 1958, National Garden Clubs Inc. established a series of four courses on landscape design to develop in its membership a greater appreciation of the environment, both natural and man-made. This also is in keeping with NGC Bylaws Article II, Number 5: “to study and to advance the fine arts of gardening, landscape design, floral design and horticulture.” At that time, Professor Hubert Bond Owens was appointed chairman of this new program.

The curriculum for NGC Landscape De-

sign Schools continues to cover a broad range of landscaping topics, including History of Landscape Design, Landscape Design Process, Plant Selection, Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures, Herbaceous Materials in the Landscape, History and Development of Community Gardens and Contemporary Landscape Design. The program is one of the educational opportunities offered to garden club members, as well as to non-members. Master Gardeners in states across the nation attend NGC Landscape Design Schools as part of their credit hours toward becoming community educators in gardening and environmental stewardship.

The diversity of the course curriculum provides a wide range of instruction on many aspects of landscape design. Each series consists of four courses. Upon full completion of the four courses, and passing the examinations with a grade of 70 percent or higher, garden club members are eligible to become NGC Landscape Consultants. This certification designates a special achievement among

NGC members, but does not qualify the consultant as a professional. LDS attendees report that the process is a positive experience: they put their knowledge to the test in planning their own personal gardens and many become involved in civic and private projects, such as a church garden, a garden for children or one to attract pollinators.

The objectives of Landscape Design Schools as outlined in the “Operations Guide,” include:

- Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride and knowledge about our private, public and historical gardens.
- Become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, convenient, ecologically sound and easily maintained.
- Encourage a better understanding of the landscape design process, in order to promote landscapes that will sustain sound management.
- Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including commu-

nity planning.

- Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards and promoting better landscape design.

State presidents of National Garden Clubs are encouraged to schedule a series of Landscape Design School courses. Attendees will learn much while having a good time with fellow gardening enthusiasts.

Our communities and the environment will benefit from the knowledge our garden club members receive in NGC Landscape Design Schools as we promote “Plant America,” the theme of our newest NGC President Nancy Hargroves. ■

## **Jane Bersch**

*Chairman, Landscape Design Schools  
janebersch@aol.com*

# gardening STUDY SCHOOLS

**G**ardening Study Consultants—a wonderful new opportunity awaits via NGC’s Horticulture Specialty Shows. A “horticulture-only” flower show is now part of the shows described in the rules of the 2017 NGC Handbook for Flower Shows.

Gardening Study Consultants can participate in these shows in a variety of ways. The number one request from potential new members is to learn more about personal gardening. Promoting, attending and entering horticulture shows by our GSS consultants benefits all of our clubs. And, GSS consultants have studied and been tested on “Binomial Naming of Species,” which includes the scientific epithet, a classification requirement for every specimen entered (see page 53 of the new handbook).

In my recent interview with past NGC President Barbara May on this topic, she also recommended the purchase of “Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging,” which is

available at NGC headquarters. For further local contact information, please go to the NGC website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), under “Schools.” On the FSS forms page, go to “State Flower Show Schools Chairmen,” and on the GSS forms page, scroll to the bottom to find the “GS Schools and Councils Directory.” PLANT AMERICA with more flower shows and more new members!

A special thank you to the GSS committee for its hard work during the 2015-17 administration: Carol Yee, Bonni Dineen, Brynn Tavasci, Inger Jones, Judy Pitcher, Cathy Felton and our advisor Greg Pokorski, Interna-

tional Affiliates representative Patricia M. de Nasraliah and her representative Idalia Aguilar. You made Gardening Study Schools possible in so many ways!

Lastly, don’t forget to include the PowerPoint presentation on “Reconciliation Ecology,” in your 2017-18 club/district program plans. This “modifiable” presentation can be downloaded from our NGC Gardening Study Schools website overview page. ■

## **Barbara Hadsell**

*Chairman, Gardening Study Schools  
barbarahadsell@cs.com*

# environmental STUDIES SCHOOLS

# Flower Show SCHOOLS NEWS

**H**ave you ever wondered why attending a NGC Environmental Studies Schools class is beneficial?

I challenge you to take up a conversation with a consultant. You just might be surprised! Interactive classes cover a wide range of topical issues of current concern for our water, air and land.

Each of the Environmental Studies Schools comprises four classes, with each class featuring a field trip. Many class instructors are, or have been, leaders in their respective fields, and often are college science professors or naturalists who look forward to interacting with students who are eager to learn. ESS classes are interesting and fun. Where else can you learn about tornadoes from a meteorologist, get up close and personal with penguins or a giraffe, take a river cruise to examine the health of the body of water, learn about invasive or endangered species, or the science of gathering sunlight for energy use? All of this learning is reinforced through open-book quizzes to ensure each student acquires the knowledge necessary to complete course requirements.

Courses in ESS offer aspects from both the NGC Landscape Design Schools and Gardening Study Schools to help you make personal ecology-minded choices

for your home and yard, as well as share that knowledge with your friends and neighbors. For example, you will learn about how the plants you choose, treatment you apply to your lawn and food you select for dinner all impact our lives and world. For example, what are the best methods to catch rainwater—in a barrel or a rain garden? What trees should be planted in a specific area? Should a flower bed be designed with edible landscaping, or created for pollinators? Do children in your family or neighborhood know where food comes from? Some are astonished to learn the same vegetable may come in more than one color—tomatoes are red, but they also may be orange, yellow or green; eggplants may be white, and even the ubiquitous orange carrot can come in a rainbow of colors.

Talk today with your NGC state leadership regarding opportunities for ESS classes. A listing of current classes can be found under the “Schools” tab on the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

I hope to hear that your state is hosting ESS classes soon!

**Pat Rupiper**

Chairman, Environmental Studies Schools  
[patrupiper@gmail.com](mailto:patrupiper@gmail.com)

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**“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and, suddenly, you are doing the impossible.”**

**- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

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**H**ave you read the 2017 edition of the Handbook for Flower Shows? It is available from NGC Member Services.

The intent is to promote the aims and objectives of National Garden Clubs Inc., using flower shows as the vehicle to educate people, not only about the beauty of the plants in their environment, but also, about the creative and artistic ways they can be used. The 2017 Handbook has removed limitations in some respects, but put in place more clearly defined guidelines in others. Many

states and judges councils are holding meetings to become acquainted with the 2017 Handbook. If you have not planned or attended any of these yet, we strongly urge you to do so soon. Only by repetition and actively taking part will the opportunities become real to you. Have demonstrations, hold workshops and plan for exhibiting opportunities to encourage members to become acquainted with the new designs. Use the revised scales of points to stimulate comments and practice evaluating.

Consult the glossary to verify correct interpretation of terms. Refer to the index to locate specific information. Check out the charts inserted in each chapter for concise and quick references. This is your book—use it. Handy tabs

allow you to turn to any topic you need to find, but once you get there, highlight, circle or underline pertinent information so you can find it again even more easily. Make it work for you. Make sure to visit the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) for information about

Flower Show Schools and Symposiums. A list of the typos, duplications and oversights in the text are listed here. You will find revised forms for every occasion. They are interactive, can be saved and sent as needed. We encourage you to communicate electronically as much as possible. This includes informing this FSS Committee Chairman of Judges who have been granted extensions. Flower Show and schedule evaluation forms

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**“We encourage  
you to communicate  
electronically as much  
as possible.”**

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**...Continued on page 37**

# ESCUELA DE EXPOSICIONES *de Flores*

**“Empieza por hacer lo que es necesario, luego lo que es posible; de repente estarás haciendo lo imposible.”**

**- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

**H**as leído la edición 2017 del Manual de Exposiciones de Flores? Se puede adquirir a través de Servicio a los Miembros de NGC. La intención es promover los objetivos de National Garden Clubs Inc., con las exposiciones de flores como vehículo para educar; no solamente lo referente a la belleza de las plantas en su entorno, sino también como usarlas de manera creativa y artística. En el Manual 2017, se han quitado limitaciones en algunos aspectos e insertado guías más claramente definidas en otras.

Muchos consejos de jueces se están reuniendo para conocer el material. Si no has planeado o asistido a ninguno todavía, te recomendamos que lo hagas. Las oportunidades solamente se vuelven reales cuando uno participa activamente. Hagan demostraciones, talleres y organicen oportunidades para exponer para que los miembros se familiaricen con los nuevos diseños. Utilicen las escalas de puntos revisadas para estimular comentarios y la práctica de juzgar. Consulten el Glosario para verificar la correcta interpretación de los términos. Busquen en el

índice para localizar información específica. Revisa los cuadros de cada capítulo para encontrar rápidamente información concisa. Este es tu libro – utilízalo. Las prácticas lengüetas sirven para acceder a la información que necesitas encontrar. Una vez que la hayas encontrado, resáltala, subráyala o márcala de alguna manera para encontrarla más fácilmente en otra ocasión. Que sirva para ti.

Visita la página web NGC [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) para conocer la información de la Escuela de Exposiciones de Flores y Simposios. Allí se encuentra una lista de errores y duplicaciones en el texto. Encontrarán los formularios revisados para cada ocasión. Son interactivos, se pueden guardar

y enviar como sea necesario. Alentamos a que se comuniquen electrónicamente lo más posible. Esto incluye informar a esta Directora del Comité EEF cuáles son los Jueces que han recibido extensiones. Las evaluaciones de las exposiciones y programas han sido revisadas y se encuentran en la web. Por favor utilicen los formularios revisados después del 1ro de Julio (Als 1ro de Enero 2018). Se ha agregado una página de preguntas y re-

**“Alentamos a que se comuniquen electrónicamente lo más posible.”**

spuestas. Las preguntas enviadas a esta Directora serán respondidas y se agregarán nuevas. Algunas pueden referirse a temas que te interesan. Búscalas.

Para aquellos jueces que renuevan antes del 31 de Diciembre, se aceptan los requisitos del Manual 2007. Sin embargo, después del 1ro de Enero 2018, se deben conformar los requisitos para los créditos de exhibir y de juzgar del Manual 2017. **Para las Afiliadas Internacionales**, se aceptan los requisitos del Manual 2007 hasta el 31 de Julio 2018. Después de esa fecha corren los requisitos del Manual 2017.

¿Cómo es la mejor manera de hacer la transición?

- **Ayudándote a ti mismo y a otros** al organizar más exposiciones de flores. Ahora tienes más tipos para explorar. Anímate, pruébalos!
- **Comunicando tus necesidades.** Asiste a las reuniones de tu consejo de jueces y averigua donde se hacen exposiciones. Avisa que tú necesitas conseguir crédito/s de juzgar. Directores de Consejos de Jueces: informen las fechas de los eventos.
- **Compartiendo responsabilidades.** Si tú no necesitas un crédito de juzgar, por favor deja que los que necesiten tengan la oportunidad. Puedes juzgar otras partes de la exposición o servir en otras capacidades.
- **Sé ejemplo de la ética** que aprendiste. Sé honesto, justo, generoso, amable, cortés y confiable. ¡Juntos podemos lograr y disfrutar de una experiencia de juzgamiento gratificante! ■

## **Dorothy Yard**

*Chairman, Flower Show Schools  
[dotyard@verizon.net](mailto:dotyard@verizon.net)*

*Translated by **Sylvia Wray**  
Chairman, Flower Show Schools  
International Affiliates*

**...Continued from page 35**

have been revised and are available online. Please use the updated forms after July 1. A FAQ page has been added. Questions submitted to this chairman will be answered, with new ones added. Some may pertain to details you are wondering about. Look for it. For those judges who plan to refresh by December 31, you are “grandfathered in” by meeting 2007 Handbook requirements. However, after January 1, 2018, the 2017 Handbook requirements must be met for exhibiting and judging credits. How can we best make this transition?

- **By accommodating yourself and others** by holding more flower shows. You now have additional types to explore. Step up and give them a try.
- **By communicating your needs.** Go to your judge's council meetings and learn where flower shows are. Let others know you need to earn judging credit/s. JC chairmen, inform the judges of opportunities.
- **By sharing responsibilities.** If you don't need a judging credit, please let those who need the credit have the opportunity. You can judge other portions of the shows or serve in other capacities.
- **By exemplifying the ethics and etiquette** you learned early on. Be honest, fair, generous, kind, courteous and dependable. Together we can achieve and enjoy a rewarding judging experience! ■

## **Dorothy Yard**

*Chairman, Flower Show Schools  
[dotyard@verizon.net](mailto:dotyard@verizon.net)*

## Environmental Studies Schools

### COURSE I

#### Baltimore, Maryland Sept. 26-27

Local Chairman: Linda Harris, 443-695-2071, lindaharris355@aol.com

### COURSE II

#### Lowell, Massachusetts Sept. 23-24

Registrar: Jan Todd, 781-383-2271

## Gardening Study Schools

### COURSE I

#### New Smyrna Beach, Florida Nov. 7-8

Local Chairman: Sally Flanagan, 386-428-3170, sfflan@aol.com

### COURSE II

#### Madrid, Iowa Sept. 21-22

Chairman: Ada Mae Lewis, 515-232-0608, adamaelewis@gmail.com

### COURSE III

#### Madrid, Iowa April 12-13, 2018

Chairman: Ada Mae Lewis, 515-232-0608, adamaelewis@gmail.com

### COURSE IV

#### Appleton, Wisconsin Sept. 8-9

Chairman: Lucy Valitchka, 920-733-0568, lmvalitchka@new.rr.com

### New Haven, Connecticut Sept. 26-28

Chairman: Katherine Patrick, 203-878-5302, kmpatrick@snet.net

### East Brunswick, New Jersey Oct. 3-6

Local Chairman: Beverly Kazickas, 201-321-7004, kazickas55@aol.com

### Madrid, Iowa Sept. 20-21, 2018

Chairman: Ada Mae Lewis, 515-232-0608, adamaelewis@gmail.com

## Landscape Design Schools

### COURSE I

#### Chillicothe, Ohio Sept. 6-7

Local Chairman: Lynn Fronk, 404-863-4009, lynnfronk353@gmail.com

### Oak Harbor, Washington Oct. 2-4

Local Chairman: Anne Sullivan, absullivan@comcast.net

### COURSE II Canton, Ohio Aug. 30-31

Chairman: Pat Smith, 330-417-0355, playnlearn345@aol.com

### Richmond, Virginia Sept. 26-27

Chairman: Glenda Knowles, 757-345-6618, ggknowles@cox.net

### College Station, Texas Sept. 27-28

Registrar: Michele Wehrheim, texaslandscapedesignschool@gmail.com

### COURSE III

#### College Station, Texas Sept. 25-26

Registrar: Michele Wehrheim, texaslandscapedesignschool@gmail.com

### Elkhorn, Nebraska Oct. 18-20

Alice Hemsath, 308-224-3771, dhemsath@charter.net

### Kalamazoo, Michigan Oct. 23-24

Chairman: Terry Harding, 231-947-0568, wsharding@chartermi.net

### Falmouth, Maine Nov. 2-3

Local Chairman: Harriet Robinson, 207-743-7236, harrietlewisrobinson@gmail.com

### Phoenix, Arizona Jan. 19-20, 2018

Chairman: Judy Tolbert, 602-421-5290, TOLBERT-JL10@gmail.com

### COURSE IV

#### Wellesley, Massachusetts Oct. 26-28

Chairman: Maureen O'Brien, 781-407-0065, Maureen.t.obrien@outlook.com

### Phoenix, Arizona March 3-4, 2018

Chairman: Judy Tolbert, 602-421-5290, TOLBERT-JL10@gmail.com

### Kalamazoo, Michigan April 23-24, 2018

Chairman: Terry Harding, 231-947-0568, wsharding@chartermi.net

## Tri-Refresher

### Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin October 6-7

Event Chairman: Vernon Lowell, 608-335-2079, viowell@mhtc.net

## Flower Show Schools

### COURSE I

#### Tulsa, Oklahoma July 10-11

Registrar: Judy Grotts, 918-630-1979, grotts@cotc.net

### Fairmont, West Virginia July 13-15 2017

Registrar: Jan Heffner, 304-363-3637, jan@ma.rr.com

### Advance, North Carolina Aug. 21-23

Registrar: Trish Sumners, 336-945-4433, brssmn@yahoo.com

### Lynchburg, Virginia Aug. 28-31

Registrar: Mary Ann May, 540-937-4613, ptmboat@comcast.net

### Columbia, South Carolina, Sept. 6-8

Registrar: Jerry Weise, 843-393-8476, mjerryweise@gmail.com

### Chappaqua, New York Oct. 3-5

Registrar: Chris Wolff, 914-923-3238, ckwolff37@gmail.com

### Champaign-Urbana, Illinois Oct. 5-7

Registrar: Elizabeth Wagner, 312-498-5996, elizabeth\_wagner@sbc-global.net

## Flower Show Symposiums

### Columbus, Ohio July 10-11

Registrar: Pat Rupiper, 614-423-8646, patrupiper@gmail.com

### Tulsa, Oklahoma July 12-14

Registrar: MaryAnn Holman, 580-875-3720, mholmanoklahomagardenclubs@aol.com

### Athens, Georgia July 16-18

Registrar: Sally Holcombe, 770-436-9883, smholcombe@hotmail.com

### Missoula, Montana July 21-22

Registrar: Ellen Darling, 208-290-1729, dahliadaring5@gmail.com

### Birmingham, Alabama Aug. 9-10

Registrar: Mimi Potthoff, 256-536-1453, mimitomp@bellsouth.net

### Milwaukee, Wisconsin Aug. 25-26

Registrar: Kitty Larkin, 262-649-3399, kittysltr@wi.rr.com

### Altamonte Springs, Florida Oct. 22-24

Registrar: Maureen Tuber, 407-909-1461, ne-tube@earthlink.net

### Warwick, Rhode Island Oct. 31-Nov. 2

Registrar: Vicki Iannuccillo, 401-253-4535, viannuccillo@aol.com

### Henrico, Virginia Nov. 1-2

Registrar: Brenda McManaway, 540-580-3838, brendamc@shentel.net

### Fernandina Beach, Florida

**Feb. 28-March 1, 2018**  
Registrar: Lois Hannabury-Deno, 904-461-5448, lojodeno@ad.com

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# THE *Happy* GARDENER'S *Guide*

## - ROSE - GET THEE BEHIND ME! -

**W**hat is as rare as a day in June? The day I follow my own advice and edit a long-standing problem! I knew that the 8-by-8-foot hedge of wild roses should go.

This hedge was a species rose that hails back to 1551, and is referred to as “sweetbriar” or the “Shakespeare garden eglantine rose.” Getting rid of it took some doing. The thick and extra-thorny roses are not meant to be touched, and they have

defended themselves with a vengeance for centuries. The rose gloves that reach to my elbows—the ones I was reluctant to spend good money on—paid me back handsomely. They saved me from puncture wounds from some very serious barbs—the kind that draw blood quickly.

Cane by cane, I steadily removed the hedge that was set in place 10 years ago to serve as a wind break on the western edge of the garden. I did not account for its vigorous spread. Gradually they overtook my pathway, reaching out to snag my shoulders, ankles or elbows as I passed.



Why does it take so much blood and such a long time to correct a mistake? Who knows? But this I do know: location, location, location—the mantra of realtors

now rings in my ears. The next time I think rose hedge, I will triple check the expected dimensions of the mature cultivar, and add an extra bit for good measure. Most likely, I'm done with roses as a hedge in the garden.

I hope your gardening mistake is not a thorny wild

rose hedge associated with Shakespeare, but I do encourage not waiting 10 years to deal with it. The season is yet young—let your determination be firm enough to tackle it while the gardening juices are running high. Success is sweet revenge!

P.S. If there are roses in your life, get the expensive rose gloves—your flesh will thank you! ■

**Charlotte A. Swanson**

Consultant, Gardening Study Schools  
swannson@daltontel.net



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# 2017 SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL poster contest

The Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest is offered each year to elementary school students in first through fifth grade. The contest marks the collaboration of NGC and the United States Forest Service, a partnership that has spanned over 50 years. The contest encourages budding artists to express their talents and understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles in a colorful poster that features Smokey Bear, America's icon for fire prevention or Woodsy Owl, which promotes environmental conservation. The 2017 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl contest winners were announced in May at National Garden Clubs 88th Convention in Richmond, Va.

## GRAND PRIZE WINNER

### Fifth Grade

Khushi Patel  
Germantown, Tennessee  
Sponsored by Suburban Garden Club of Germantown

## FINALISTS

### First Grade

Ariana Zuehlke  
Independence, Ohio  
Sponsored by Independence Garden Club

### Second Grade

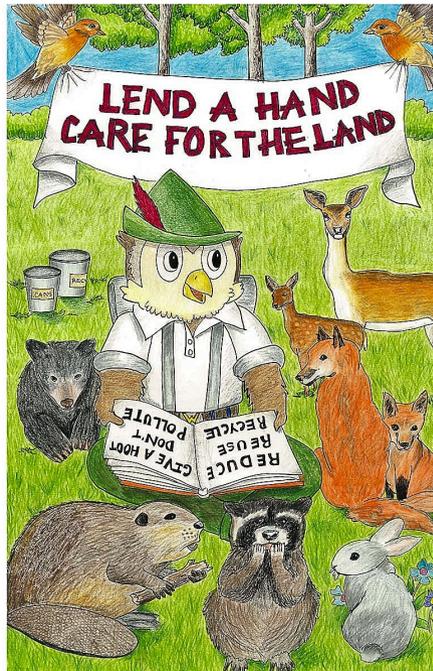
Isabelle Greensky  
Charlevoix, Michigan  
Sponsored by Charlevoix Garden Club

### Third Grade

Mazie Crowder  
Lonoke, Arkansas  
Sponsored by Veranda Garden Club

### Fourth Grade

Salma Sami  
Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Sponsored by Thoroughgood Garden Club



### Jennifer Moreno

Chairman, Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl  
Poster Contest  
moreno\_jen@aps.edu



## PLANT AMERICA

The Plant America initiative, NGC President Nancy Hargroves's signature project, emphasizes the cornerstone elements of gardening: the variety of garden types; healthy, sustainable gardens; awareness of environmental issues; and resources to provide needed funds to put garden plans into action. Stock up on these national promotional items!

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E-mail: [headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)  
Fax: 314-776-5108

# NGC 2017 National Convention Photography Contest

## THEME:

*“Look deeply into Nature, and you will understand..”*

- ALBERT EINSTEIN

### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE AWARD



▲ “Allium After the Storm,” by Cathy Ahrens, Bow Garden Club, New Hampshire

▶ “Fuchsia in Bloom,” by Elizabeth Taylor, The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.

### POPULAR CHOICE AWARD



◀ “Dragonfly on a Water Lily,” by Claire Jones



▶ “Monarch Egg on Tropical Milkweed,” by Sandra Williams



◀ “Brugmansia,” by Dianne Roberts



▲ “Pink Trichocereus Cactus,” by Karen Bowen



◀ “Ring of Orange Native Azaleas,” by Michael Parrish

▶ “Orange Dragonfly,” by Rick Krach

◀ “The Regeneration of the Milkweed Plant,” by Doris Holt



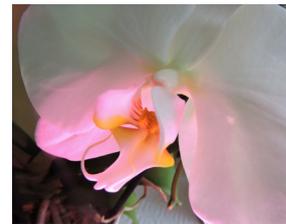
▶ “Magnolia Grandiflora Pods,” by Leigh Kitcher



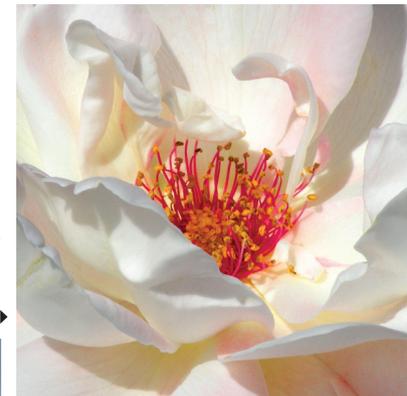
▶ “The Milkweed Plant Starts a New Life Cycle,” by Doris Holt



◀ “American Lady on Sombrero Salsa-Red Coneflower,” by Marcy Cunkelman



▶ “Pink Dreams,” by Idalia Aguilar



▶ “White Rose and Stamens,” by Nancy Reid



◀ “Rosegold Pussywillow,” by Suzanne Mrozak



▶ “Bristly Beard Lichen Perching on a Tree,” by Cathy Ahrens



◀ “Grass Dewed,” by Chris Broshar



▲ "Bumblebee on a Sunflower," by Kathy Green



◀ "Bee on Pollen," by Jill Honer

"Western Swallowtail on Duranta erecta," by Cathy Moog



"Monarch on Purple Asters," by Marcy Cunkelman ▶



"Hummingbird on Tithonia," by Kathy Green



◀ "Continuance of Life," by Page Steed



▲ "Butterfly on a Butterfly Weed," by Jane Allen



▶ "Praying Mantis on Tropical Milkweed," by Sandra Williams



▲ "Ladybug Feast," by Dianne Roberts



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# “The Saved Seed”

As gardeners can attest, one of the many joys of gardening is watching a seed sprout and grow into a plant.

“The Saved Seed” is a beautifully written and illustrated book that takes children on the amazing journey of how a seed extracted and saved from a Halloween pumpkin grows into another pumpkin. The engaging narrative offers young readers a glimpse at how seeds that produce the fruits and vegetables they enjoy originate from plants in nature—not in commercial packaging found in catalogs and retail stores.

“The Saved Seed” provides a wonderful introduction to gardening, written to instill the love and appreciation for the life cycle of plants, as well as how children can experience a sense of wonder and delight in growing their own plants from seeds.

“The Saved Seed” is the second children’s book developed by National Garden Clubs Inc. It can be used as an educational tool and resource for garden clubs nationally in youth programs or as a donation to local public or school libraries. “The Saved Seed” also coincides with “PLANT AMERICA,” the singular focus of NGC 2017-2019 President Nancy Hargroves’s administration that supports and promotes community service.

## ORDER NOW!

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