



Keeping In Touch

August - October 2015



Sandra H. Robinson

*2015-2017 President
National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

In This Issue

- The President's Greeting and Travel Schedule
- NGC Schools News
- National Wildlife Federation Certification
- Membership
- NGC Website
- Million Pollinator Garden Challenge
- Butterflies, Bees and Bats!
- Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl
- Youth Container Gardening Contest
- AMES Tools Project
- Take a Byte
- News from the Regions
- Leap Into Leadership!
- In Memoriam

The days working in my garden have been limited this spring and summer. Traveling has replaced weeding, mulching, and deadheading, but meeting members across the United States and South America is an exciting and rewarding replacement. Every club, state, region, or country has its own "personality" with programs and projects reflecting the interest of their hardworking, dedicated, and environmentally conscience membership.

I wish everyone could visit the states and hear firsthand the wonderful projects that are changing local communities as well as our members' lives. The focus of clubs is as diverse as the members and their geographic regions. One thing remains the same no matter the location, garden clubs make their communities and members stronger through active participation. Garden club membership is ultimately what you make it to be.

Looking for a new way to raise money for your club projects? One local club in Montana provides labor and expertise in planting homeowner's gardens each spring. The homeowner purchases the plants and the members plant a beautiful garden for a donation to the club. They reported on one annual customer who pays \$500.00 for this service.

The members of Oregon were challenged to donate excess produce from their gardens equal to their body weight to a local food pantry or other organizations dedicated to fighting hunger. Can you imagine the impact on local hunger if every garden club member took this as their personal challenge?

How are your local garden club members recognized for their work in your state? Wisconsin's "And Any Other" award, Iowa's "Circle of Roses" and many others are presented to deserving members in recognition of their significant contributions.

Several states are **Leaping into Action** by promoting youth projects. Kentucky is "Paving the Way to the Future," as the Pacific Region encourages us to "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child, A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities," while New Jersey prepares for "Youth Lead the Way," and we hear Wyoming cries to "Hop on Board." Indiana "Gardeners: Preserving the Past, Beautifying the Present, Preparing for the Future" is fulfilled partly through their strong scholarship program. While heeding Massachusetts call to "Grow Together," our youths' development will be enhanced as we find stress relief in our natural surroundings. Let's unplug our children, let go of our fears and play together.

Nevada recently gave \$1,564.00 to Penny Pines for restoration projects and welcomed a new club to the federation. Please visit our website, www.gardenclub.org, for the complete list of continuing programs and projects of NGC.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. offers several established programs and projects for consideration in fulfilling the mission of all garden clubs. None are mandatory, but are intended to expedite the work of interested member clubs. NGC chairmen are knowledgeable and ready to assist whenever possible with requests for information or resources to implement local projects. The most important thing is to honor the interest

and goals of your local clubs. Every project and program has merit.

Beautiful Monterrey, Mexico was the site for “Belleza Nor-estense” (The Beautiful Northeast) International Convention (COMHDE). Members from several countries enjoyed the outstanding programs, tours, and the warm hospitality of Mexico.

Gay Austin, Idalia de Aguilar and I were privileged to judge an advanced flower show for the 200th Anniversary Celebration “Cathedral Metropolitana de Santiago de Guatemala” in Guatemala City. All the clubs in Guatemala worked together to stage this impressive show on the altars, benches, columns, and atrium of the historic cathedral.

Thank you, to each state, region, and country visited for the invitation to attend your meetings, the generous hospitality extended, and for sharing your love of gardening. Take time to enjoy all that garden club offers as we **Leap into Action**.

Sandra H. Robinson

PRESIDENT’S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Guatemala	July 20-24
Panama	August 5-11
Rocky Mountain Region Sioux Falls, SD	September 10-12
Fall Board in St. Louis	Sept. 15-19
Rhode Island	Sept. 24
Central Region Cedar Rapids, IA	October 2-3
New England Region Portsmouth, NH	Oct. 20-21
Galapagos and Peru NGC Environmental Studies Refresher	Oct. 30 - Nov. 8

PLEASE SHARE THIS ISSUE WITH A MEMBER IN YOUR CLUB



Visit the [NGC website](#) for information about the 2015-2017 President’s Projects

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

GREG POKORSKI, ES, GS AND LD SCHOOLS
COORDINATOR

Recent inquiries warrant these reminders:

Attention: Students and Consultants

- Once you begin a school series, you must complete all four courses within seven years in order to achieve Consultant status. Keep a record of courses taken.
- Once you become a Consultant, you must refresh your credentials by the end of the fifth calendar year to remain in good standing. Keep a record of refreshers taken.
- If you receive an extension to complete courses or to refresh, it is valid to the end of the next calendar year.
- Once you complete four refreshers in one school, you become a Master Consultant in that school.
- Once you become a Master Consultant, you can receive simultaneous refresher credits (in a Multiple Refresher) for all schools for which you have Master Consultant status.

Attention: State Schools Chairmen

- Continuity and transition of information and records from one administration to the next is essential for Schools Chairmen to be able to perform their duties. Mentor your successor. Seek background and advice from your predecessor.
- There are no time requirements between school courses.
- Proof of subscription to **The National Gardener** is no longer required for a student to become a Consultant or for a Consultant to refresh.
- Provide students and Consultants with the brochures detailing school requirements (ESS Brochure, GSS Form 05-21 and LDS 16 – all available on the website).
- Interactive forms for all schools are available on the website. Save and send these as pdf documents, not as jpgs. Transmit these by email whenever possible to save time and money.
- Keep students and Consultants informed regarding scheduled courses and refresher needs.

We hope you will **Leap into Action** in this new garden club term, to hold and attend NGC schools for the benefit of your members, and to provide educational opportunities to the public.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

BARBARA HADSELL, CHAIRMAN

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

GS School chairmen are being encouraged to include related topics that provide more information about NGC's vision and direction for 2015-17. These would include subjects such as Reconciliation Ecology—the science of inventing, establishing, and maintaining new habitats in places where people live, work and play—thus creating backyard habitats to help endangered species such as pollinators and amphibians. **NEWS FLASH!! Revisions to the GSS Curriculum are now available as well as Interactive Forms. Check out the new NGC GSS website information and bring Gardening Study School to your state.**

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

JANE BERSCH, CHAIRMAN

In keeping with President Sandra Robinson's suggestion to *Leap Into Action*, the Committee will provide members with courses containing information to increase their appreciation and knowledge of good landscape design practices for their home and community. The Committee's contact information is posted on the [NGC website](#) under Landscape Design Schools, Forms. [Victoria Bergesen](#) has taken over the responsibilities of LDS Instructors' Chairman and state LDS chairmen should be aware that that their LDS Accrediting Chairman may have changed. Mary Jane Peters, MaryJaneGarden@comcast.net, will be working with SC, RM and P Regions and Heather White, HeatherMWhiteMD@aol.com, with the NE and CA Regions. Alexis Slafer, ASlafer@ca.rr.com, continues with SA, DS and C Regions. Any changes in LDS chairman or Council President should be sent to Donna Donnelly, DDon21@aol.com. We urge state presidents and Councils to share with us activities, landscape projects and programs held in their state by sending information on

them and photographs to Caroline Carbaugh, CScarbaugh@verizon.net, for inclusion in the LDS newsletter, *Newscape*.

Landscape Design Schools forms are all available on the NGC web and can easily be filled out, "saved as" a document, then emailed to the required LDS chairmen. Some forms require a signature. Please send forms to all required LDS chairmen, as stated on the form itself. Early submission of the Event Registration LDS 1, and the \$5 fee to the Schools Secretary, Katie Roth, means announcement of the Course in *The National Gardener*. State LDS Chairmen should have the 2012 NGC LDS Operations Guide, available from NGC Headquarters in St. Louis, as it will be of great assistance in planning a Course.

As plans are made by each state president, I encourage them to include a course or two of the Landscape Design Schools. Why not hold a refresher or even a bi-refresher with Gardening Study Schools or Environmental Studies Schools.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION CERTIFICATION SPECIAL THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH!

BECKY HASSEBROEK, NWF LIAISON

We know you read about our new partnership with National Wildlife Federation in your Summer Issue of *The National Gardener*. They are extending a special offer to our members only for a discounted package in which you will receive a Certified Wildlife Habitat certification, attractive metal yard sign (a great way to share your passion for wildlife and sustainable gardening with others), one year subscription to *National Wildlife Magazine*, and NWF's online Garden for Wildlife Newsletter for only \$35.00. Please be reminded that this special offer expires on *September 30th!*

We want our new partner to know that we appreciate them and what they stand for. This is a great deal – so please sign on to our website www.gardenclub.org and follow the link to NWF to take advantage of this special. **PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION** with your fellow members. I have been assured that, if they receive a good response, the special will be extended! In addition, they are discussing a special article about NGC for their 2016 Spring Edition of *National Wildlife Magazine* – which has a huge subscription base. They will also add a special blog on their website for NGC's Certified Wildlife Habitats across the nation. This

is incredible exposure for NGC. So...please be sure to sign up and send me pictures of your certified gardens!

THE LINK BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

BRENDA MOORE, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”

~ George Bernard Shaw

The National Garden Club Membership Committee isn't in place to solve the ills of individual states' and clubs' declining membership. Membership increases can only happen at the local level. We exist to make club members understand that National Garden Club Board members are concerned and aware of their declining membership. We exist to offer suggestions and encourage each club to work to increase membership. When there is an increase in federated garden club members there is an increase in National Garden Club membership. Membership follows this progression – CLUB MEMBER -> FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB -> DISTRICTS WITHIN A STATE GARDEN CLUB -> STATE GARDEN CLUB -> NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB REGIONS (Central, New England, Central Atlantic, South Atlantic, Deep South, South Central, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific) -> NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB.

One area of extreme importance to membership is communication. I have observed that there is a link between communication and membership - when there is a lack of communication between leaders and members there is a loss of club membership. Likewise, when there is good communication between leaders and members, membership increases. We, whether it's a club president or the National President, hold positions of leadership and it behooves us to become good communicators. We've all experienced poor communication - unanswered R.S.V.P.'s, the lack of a thank you note for a gift sent, an untimely or never received email response, a telephone call that is never returned, or it can be someone that never attends functions although always invited. Usually when we experience that it causes us to be frustrated or feel as if we are not important enough to warrant a response. Poor communication can also be a misunderstood message. We've all played the game of "gossip" which emphasizes how communication can become distorted. We, as club presidents, as state presidents, as regional directors, as NGC Board members, as state membership chairmen and membership committee members, need to set an example of what a good communicator is. We shouldn't simply assume that communication has taken place. We need to make sure it has taken place and that involves giving and receiving. Most good communication involves common sense and good manners. Read your emails/messages daily or at the least twice a week and

reply within a day, even if you don't know the answer. Return all phone calls. Visit clubs and make an effort to attend and be visible at Garden Club functions. Send out newsletters. Write articles for local publications. Good communication really is taking the time to make your members feel they are important and special!

Make sure you are really communicating with your members and we, as NGC Membership Committee members, will continue to communicate with you and offer suggestions on how to communicate the positives of belonging to a federated garden club. But it all starts with you and communication.

NGC WEBSITE

POSS TARPLEY, WEBMASTER

I hope that everyone is visiting the newly-updated NGC website, finding pages on projects, schools, awards and a wealth of other information. A new addition is the Forms Library where all forms available from NGC will be posted. The forms will also be with their relevant sections, such as awards.

A Little Technical Advice:

Please remember to keep your Adobe Reader (or whatever Reader you use) up-to-date. The documents and forms on the website are in PDF, making them available to all. The forms are fillable on line, and can be saved and used as attachments.

By the way, sending your forms/information documents as attached PDFs is "cheaper" than sending as JPGs, which may be too big to send! For instance, one document may be a PDF of 158 Kilobytes, but as a JPG that same document is 351 Kilobytes! That's a big difference, and several forms in JPG may fill up your recipient's mailbox.

Any issues with the website? Please feel free to contact me at posst@aol.com or ngcwebsite@aol.com.

THE MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE

BECKY HASSEBROEK, HABITAT CHAIRMAN

The White House says "This Needs To Be Done! Our pollinators are in a serious decline!" But then they ask "How Can It Be Run?" This is where NGCers can shine!

A Million Pollinator Gardens in 2016 – that is the goal! The National Pollinator Garden Network has been started. NGCers are Naturally Great Conservationists – that is our role!

Are we up to the task? You bet – we will not be thwarted!

Plant their food, their host plants, natives will do.
Sign in to the website, and click the "Challenge" link.
Register your gardens, include pictures, be sure and tell who.
Show the World NGC is "In The Pink!"

BUTTERFLIES, BEES AND BATS! OH MY! **MARY SUE COLVIN, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS/ CONSERVATION COMMITTEE COORDINATOR**

Butterflies and bees and bats, oh my! Hummingbirds and moths and beetles, oh my! Pollinators come in all shapes, colors and sizes and are nearly as important as sunlight, soil and water for over 75% of the world's flowering plants. They are just as vital to the formation of most berries, nuts and fruits in our food chain. Over 150 food crops in the United States alone are dependent on pollinators for their production.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. has been an advocate of pollinators for many years, but now members are dedicated to a more proactive, concerted effort to identify, protect and champion our pollinators. We are partnering with other national organizations to plant a million pollinator-friendly gardens. We are planning and preparing educational materials for youth and garden club members. We are focusing on educating communities on the critical need for using native, pollinator-friendly plants in the landscape – public and private, thus providing habitat for nesting and egg-laying and avoiding or limiting pesticide use in those areas.

The next two years should prove to be exciting, invigorating, and rewarding for garden club members and their beneficial friends – the pollinators.

SMOKEY BEAR / WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST **JENNIFER MORENO, CHAIRMAN**

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

Ohmsen, for all of her dedication and hard work. Way to go Barbara!

This year's National winners by grade level are:

- 1ST Grade ---Molly Hutton sponsored by the Hill and Dale Garden Club, TN
- 2ND Grade--- Laasya Yalaverthy sponsored by the Southern California Garden Club
- 3RD Grade ---Spencer Morga sponsored by the West Valley Garden Club, CA
- 4TH Grade ---Ryan Bollimpolli sponsored by the Scottsdale Garden Club, AZ
- 5TH Grade ---Audry Morga sponsored by the West Valley Garden Club, CA

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

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



YOUTH CONTAINER GARDENING CONTEST **"BEES - BUTTERFLIES - BIRDS"**

**MARY ANN MORENO, BEES AND BUTTERFLIES CONTAINER GARDENING CHAIRMAN,
PRESIDENT'S PROJECT**

What a wonderful way to start our new administration with a Youth Container Contest for first to fifth graders. Children will plan a pollinator-friendly container by choosing plants that encourage threatened pollinators to eat, drink, pollinate and possibly reproduce.

Students in first through fifth grades who plant a container must be sponsored by a garden club. Containers must be placed in a public place. As with any contest, there are simple rules to follow. Compile a book of evidence with pictures of the project and finished container, what plants the student chose for their container, and where the container was placed. The rules are listed in the awards section of ***The National Gardener***. We will award \$100 to the first place winners, \$75 to second place winners, \$50 to third place winners, and \$25 to honorable mention winners. We encourage the students to be creative and to research the wonderful plants that attract pollinators. The NGC website has information you can use to research plants, growing conditions and pollinators in your area or region.

We need garden club members to help children get involved with planting pollinator containers. For some children it will be a brand new experience. Equip the children with trowels, containers and potting soil. Take them shopping for those pollinator plants and seeds. Teach the children the ABC's of how to plant the container, nurture the plants, and then the pleasure of watching it grow. This project could also be done by adopting a classroom or youth group, and be sure to involve your own children or grandchildren. What a joy it is to see the caterpillars on my own container, munching away on dill, fennel and milkweed; I get excited and call the neighbors to see the event. Please join us in giving children the opportunity to plant a pollinator container. Let them be an EVENT PLANNER. Share the happiness!

**“GARDEN TOOLS 4 GARDEN PROJECTS”
NGC AND AMES PARTNERSHIP
AMES + NGC = GARDENING**

**ELAINE GUNDERSON, NGC/AMES
TOOL PROJECT CHAIRMAN**

In 2014 NGC formed a partnership with AMES Companies, Inc. This partnership continues during 2015-2016.

Founded in 1774, AMES is the largest U.S.A. manufacturer of gardening tools. Over the coming year, AMES will again grant tools up to \$5,000 (retail) for approved NGC state or local club landscaping projects/programs.

To submit a project/program, please email Elaine Gunderson, (NGCAmesToolProject@gmail.com), the what, when, why and where of the event - what the project is; what is the garden club involvement in the project; why the tools are needed; what tools are requested (including tool name and item #); where the tools will be securely stored; when

the project will take place; where (location) including address tools are to be sent.

The AMES Companies, Inc.'s tools can be found on ames.com or Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TrueTemperTools>

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesTools1774>

<https://www.facebook.com/RazorBackProfessionalTools>

To allow time to approve the project and for AMES Companies, Inc. to mail the tools, this information needs to be received a month before the event.



If project is approved, photos are to be taken at the event and a short article written for possible promotion/publicity on NGC's Website, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, ***The National Gardener*** and ***Keeping in Touch*** plus your own state and regional newsletter editors. The chairman of each would need to be contacted to obtain the guidelines for submission. Photos and articles are to be emailed.

The photos and short article are also to be emailed to NGC President Sandra H. Robinson, AMES Director of Marketing Karen Richwine, AMES Brand Manager Prema William and myself as NGC AMES Project Chairman.

The AMES Tools Project Application Form is posted on the [NGC Website](#) under Ongoing Projects. Please fill out the Application Form, save it and then email it directly to me at NGCAmesToolProject@gmail.com. I'm looking forward to receiving information about your project.

Pictured on this page are members of the Summit Garden Club of Los Alamos, NM with tools for two of their projects.





Take A Byte JAN SILLIK, KIT ASSISTANT EDITOR

A column devoted to reviews of websites, with recommendations for those of interest to garden club members.

www.nature-watch.com This is a wonderful source for educational materials and products for children. As their own description reads, "The best tools and products for children about nature! Natural craft projects, kits and educational material for kids." There are free catalogues and you can get on the mailing list for future catalogues, as well as be on their email list for sale information.

Anyone with children or grandchildren who is interested in teaching them about the natural world will truly enjoy this site. This reviewer can attest that the products are wonderful, as we used a number of them for nature studies at Wekiva Youth Camp, a sleep-over camp run every summer by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. A wide range of products are offered, including the following: Alternative Energy, Animals, Bats, Birds, Butterflies, Dinosaurs, Fossils and Archaeology, Ecology, Gardening, Earth Science, Insects, Mammals, Life Cycles, Oceans and Sea Life, Owls, Rainforests, Reptiles, Space, Weather, Trees/Plants/Seeds, Water and more!

The materials are all aligned with National and State Education Standards and are of the highest quality. There are a number of craft activity kits that would be valuable teaching aids for schools, camps, museums, zoos, nature centers, park and recreation centers, libraries, scouts, home schoolers, and just curious kids. The goal of the company is to "enlighten and enliven the learning experience for children" and if your garden club works with youth in any capacity, you will find something here that is useful and FUN for kids!

As President Sandy Robinson's theme is *Leap Into Action*, I clicked on to Amphibians to learn more about frogs. There are 79 products in this category alone! There are Field Aids, Posters, Puppets, Puzzles, T-shirts, Video and DVD materials.... just a world of products on this and the other topics. This is a site I would recommend as a great way to bring nature to life for our youngsters, and would be great for gifts for children and grandchildren! Nature Watch offers a world of possibilities with products that make learning FUN.

www.stonelantern-highlands.com For 50 years, the Stone Lantern store in Highlands, North Carolina has been a great source for Ikebana floral designers, and anyone looking for lovely Asian art for their homes décor. As we do floral design with NGC "in the Oriental manner," it is also a resource for us. Highlands is a beautiful mountain resort town and the Stone Lantern store is located on Main Street

there. If you can't make the trip, you will be able to purchase from this comprehensive website, with a wide-ranging selection of Ikebana containers, accessories and tools – supplies of all kinds.

There are rosewood stands, containers, books, Asian art, jewelry and more, with a large selection that will appeal to the beginner as well as an advanced or Master designer. There are Bonsai supplies as well. You will find books on Japanese gardens, also. Shipping is free in the continental USA. This reviewer especially enjoyed perusing the selection of usubatas, lotus bowls, porcelain and stoneware containers, bamboo baskets, vintage Ikebana containers, and so on. There is simply a wealth of products available for anyone interested in Asian design. As we know, kenzans, as well as good shears and clippers, are a MUST for a floral designer, and there is a good variety available at this website. This is a site that is definitely worth a visit!

www.gardensalive.com A commercial site that would appeal to gardeners everywhere, with a wealth of "environmentally responsible products that work" as the company states. There are many, many products. Just to name a few, the visitor to the site will find: insecticidal oils, fertilizers, seeds, tools, sprayers, spreaders, timers, soil test kits, birding supplies and more. The topics that are available to click on are wide-ranging, including Weed Control, Vegetables, Fruits, Flowers, Lawn Care, Trees and Shrubs, Backyard Birding, Pest Control, etc.

This reviewer clicked on ANNUALS and found a large selection of seeds available for purchase. In the BIRDING section, there are all kinds of bird feeders, bird food, birding accessories, birdbaths, and more. For anyone who is interested in getting more into birding or having a backyard bird habitat, the needed supplies are here!

Clicking "Healthy Eating Guide with Quick Links" offered valuable materials. The information on Antioxidants seemed useful for anyone wanting to have a more healthy diet, and that is everyone these days! My favorite section on the site was "Garden To Table Recipes" with easy-to-use recipes that will inspire the viewer to get to the nearest source for fresh veggies (hopefully it's your own garden) and then to get into the kitchen.

The site promotes "environmentally responsible products" and there are natural pest control and organic household cleaners available that, hopefully, work as advertised. Serious gardeners will enjoy visiting this site, as it's a learning source that also offers a wide range of products. There is a newsletter that a viewer can subscribe to, and that would be a nice resource.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS

NEW ENGLAND

www.ngcner.org

Vera Bowen, Director

Regional Project: To work together to call on the resources of all of our committees to enhance our environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how honored I am to be serving as the New England Regional Director. We in New England have six very special 'State Presidents' who are working hard to encourage their respective states to work with the whole region to combine and coordinate our resources to enhance the effectiveness of the New England Region (NER).

We are so fortunate in New England to have states that have a common history and mindset. Our 23,000 members are close in proximity allowing for cross border collaboration. With this commitment to improving our environment, the 2015-2017 administration's theme is "Let's Protect Tomorrow Today."

Protecting our earth is more critical today than ever before! We are all aware of our need to conserve, protect and preserve any and all aspects of our environment. Climate change, pollution and land abuse are wreaking havoc on our world. This is a global problem for which the NER is in a position to help remedy. As members of NGC and NER we are charged to educate anyone and everyone who will listen. We owe this to our organization, our future generations and our planet earth.

We in the NER are striving to work with our states, clubs, communities and youth to educate, collaborate and promote interest in being part of a needed change. We will work together, call on the resources of all of our committees to enhance our environment, act as responsible stewards of the land and to heed NGC President Sandra Robinson's call to **Leap into Action** to Protect Tomorrow Today!

CENTRAL ATLANTIC

<http://www.ngccar.org>

Anne M. Bucher, Director

The Central Atlantic Region (CAR) is made up of seven states: Delaware, Maryland, National Capital Area, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Four of our states are on the East Coast. The other three are inland and have large bodies of lakes and rivers in their area. We share areas with two states: Maryland and Virginia. In Maryland, the two largest counties, Montgomery and Prince Georges and in Virginia, Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William counties. All the federated garden clubs in these counties are members of the National Capital Area including the District

of Columbia. Our total region population as of 10/31/2014 is 28,831 members.

During the next two years the state presidents will be working on their own themes as well as the National and Regional projects. I would like to introduce the presidents of the CAR and their themes.

Martha Rushlowe, Delaware, "Soaring to New Heights- Leadership, Scholarship and Flower Showmanship"

Nicki Schwarb, Maryland, "Coming Back in Contact with Nature and Saving What We Have Left"

Jo Sellars, National Capital Area, "Mentoring Today's Youth to Become Tomorrow's Gardeners"

Susan O'Donnell, New Jersey, "Youth Lead the Way"

Pat Wania, New York, "Linking Community Gardens to Protect Our World"

Lynn Fronk, Ohio, "Create, Educate & Grow"

Sharon Brown, Pennsylvania, "Accomplish Great Things, One Garden at a Time"

The Central Atlantic Regional theme is "Mentoring – The Key To Leadership". During my term we will be holding Leadership Workshops in each state to encourage and enable members to move up into leadership positions through mentoring.

Our first workshop was held in the National Capital Area on June 20, 2015 at the National Arboretum. Fifty-five garden club members attended and received excellent information from experienced garden club leaders who generously gave their time to share and inspire the members to become involved in their clubs, councils and state offices. I am looking forward to seeing this project go forward during the next two years.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

<http://www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org>

Sarah Ann F. Parker, Director

The theme for the South Atlantic Region (SAR) this term is "Inspire Conservation through Education." To promote the theme, a special SAR Project, "AWE-some Possibilities" is outlined below. We, as SAR gardeners, stand in AWE of what we have inherited and must pass on to future generations.

One challenge for the 2015-2017 administration is participation in this SAR special project. This project is doable by clubs and councils of any size in the diversified locations of our five-state region. Please accept responsibility to develop and implement educational projects which will focus on the conservation and preservation of our Air, Water and Earth (soil) resources. Each club and council is asked to

choose an area of interest or combined interests of two or perhaps all three resources. Does that not put you in AWE of project possibilities? Awards for our SAR Special Project will honor clubs, councils and a state whose project focus is on Air, Water and Earth (soil). The entry should be submitted using the National Garden Club application form and is limited to three pages, including narrative presentation and photographic documentation. Awards will be given both years with the first application deadline of January 11, 2016 sent to Mary Rivers, SAR Special Projects Chairman. Please look at the SAR website www.southatlanticregiongarden-clubs.org for further information.

DEEP SOUTH

Carol M. Bullard, Director

<http://dsregion.org>

It was thrilling to share the stage with Region Directors and NGC Officers at the 2015 NGC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, as Lois Schuster and Deen Day Sanders performed the inspiring installation ceremony. What an honor it is to serve as Director of the Deep South Region (DSR) which is composed of the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. These states have embraced the DSR theme of "Service Through Action" and the DSR Project "Community Action." Each state has already had a busy summer. Highlights include:

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. is planning an active summer with educational workshops for club officers in July and an awards workshop in August. Also in the planning stage is a program to launch the Deep South Unified Regional Project and the NGC President's Special Projects for 2015-2017. Such programs will be held at one of their many state parks. GCG member clubs are planning several Blue Star Markers dedications in the state this summer.

The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. started off the summer with the 46th Annual Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Summer Camp, cosponsored by GCM on the campus of Mississippi State University. High school students toured various horticulture and agriculture related schools on the campus and completed several horticulture and landscape projects. GCM sponsored Lanoux Youth Nature Camp for children, ages 9 to 12 at Camp Hopewell. Campers had an award winning workshop pertaining to all aspects of Monarch butterflies including skits, butterfly cookies, maMing origami monarchs and each received a native butterfly plant (*AesclepiMs tuberosa*) to take home and plant.

The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. has been busy distributing saved and purchased milkweed seed throughout the state to member clubs as a host plant for Monarch butterflies. Many clubs have already reached TF-

GC's goal of 100% club member participation in this project. Plans are in the works for a floral design program this fall in each of TFGC's four districts. This will be a fund raising event for both the districts and the state organization and will feature designers demonstrating holiday table designs. Four County Fairs in Tennessee will include flower shows this summer hosted by TFGC member clubs. TFGC's "infamous" conservation camp will be held at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, TN on October 8th-9th.

Everyone in the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. is settling in to their new duties and responsibilities. Since their Convention in April in Lake Charles, LA, they have all been working hard and having a good time doing it. The 2014 Cleanest City winners were announced at the Convention and plaques were presented to the winners in each category by Chairman Jean Gilstrap and 2013-2015 LGCF President Yvette Hebert. Jean announced she had been invited to present a workshop at the next Mayor's convention. Forty-one trees have been registered in the Live Oak Society since April, which brings the total to 7,687 members.

Mid-June brought the opening of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Wekiva Youth Camp's environmental youth camp. Campers in grades 3 - 8 joined volunteers and staff each of the 6 weeks for a time of nature, crafts and swimming. The Critters, in 1st and 2nd grades, came for a 3 day mini-camp and began learning the responsibility of caring for our fragile environment. High School students in 10th-12th grades attended the SEEK Conference (Save the Earth's Environment Through Knowledge) in July. In June, FFGC partnered with the University of Florida for its 79th Annual Short Course, an approved NGC Tri-Refresher in Gainesville. This Short Course will be held in Molino in August. This event is looked forward to and attended by garden club members and Master Gardeners.

CENTRAL

Judy Newman, Director

<http://www.ngccentralregion.org>

The Central Region (CR) theme for 2015-2017 is "Cultivating Connections." The goal is to increase visibility of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), state garden clubs, and local garden clubs. It is important for all garden club members to realize that they are valued members of the largest volunteer garden club in the world. The general public has an awareness of garden clubs within their community, but they do not know about the state or National organization. We can increase our visibility by using the state and NGC logo on all signage, publicity, brochures, displays, etc. Create business cards for your members with the NGC, state logo and possibly the club logo. Please contact your state presidents or me for a copy of the CR and NGC logos.

To provide more opportunities for our members to attend the schools, symposiums, and refreshers held within our region, the Local/State Schools Chairman will be sending notices to the CR and state webmasters and magazine editors. These communications will list the Environmental Studies Schools, Flower Show Schools, Gardening Study Schools, Landscape Design Schools and symposiums being offered within the Central Region. We want to encourage larger attendance at these schools and symposiums.

There will be opportunities for the state chairmen to meet and connect with region chairmen at the CR Convention to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, October 2-3, 2015. More information and registration is in the CR Newsletter and on the CR Website www.ngccentralregion.org.

Only the Summer and Winter Issues of the CR Newsletter will be printed and mailed. All CR Newsletter issues -- Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring -- will be posted on the CR Website for all of our members. Be sure to save the Summer Issue of the CR Newsletter as it has a listing of the CR Officers, Chairmen, State Newsletter Editors, State Webmasters, CR Awards and much more.

The CR Unified Project for 2015-2017 will be a collection of brochures, signage, articles, pictures, etc. displaying the NGC and State logos from the seven states within Central Region. Please send articles and postings from state's newsletters and websites to Liz Murken, Alternate Region Director.

Listing of Awards, Scholarships and other NGC projects including the Monarch Butterfly, Mason Bees and Frogs can be found at gardenclub.org

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Darlene Skari, Director

<https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/home>

With a new National administration and many changes in RMR and state leadership, this is a good time to look carefully at goals and methods of developing great garden clubs. Strong, hard-working, and innovative garden clubs create wonderful projects that are the result of volunteer efforts in towns and cities, big and small. Through the sharing of ideas between clubs in the region, we can learn what works in other states and use or adapt these plans to help our clubs grow.

Rocky Mountain Region states have some isolated, small, rural clubs that must be welcomed and supported for the projects they do. When these members feel they get good value for their dues, they are likely to remain part of the state organization.

Colorado and Montana are having Flower Show Schools this year. While having an adequate number of flower shows for judging can be challenging, clubs that have judges are stronger and more involved with the larger organization. Also, the schools are great venues for education for members and current judges as well as for students.

The RMR fall board meeting is September 11 and 12 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This well-planned meeting provides a great time to share ideas and challenges, meet new friends and connect with old ones, and learn about an interesting small city!

SOUTH CENTRAL Barbara S. Baker, Director

<http://ngcscr.com>

As Director, I chose the theme **LEAP** – Leadership, Education, Achievement and Promotion. We will make more use of our website and increase our newsletter, *The Communicator*, to 6 issues annually to Promote our states' projects and events and include Leadership ideas. Each of our four states offer NGC sponsored schools. And, we will make a great effort to recognize Achievement of our members and utilize the lovely certificates from NGC Member Services to recognize our fellow citizens.

Our Regional Project is "Protecting the Migratory Path of the Monarch Butterfly." I have had a butterfly garden for more than a decade and recently had it certified as a Monarch Waystation through Monarch Watch and also a National Federation Wildlife Habitat. We will certainly promote these great NGC partnerships!

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. held Flower Show School II in Little Rock. The Designer's Study club will hold a Small Standard Flower Show in which all of the Flower Show School students will be participating. Flower Show School III will be presented in October. President Rose Knight will have a great start at the Mid-Year Board Meeting (August 3-4, Bismarck) when Club Presidents' Packets will be distributed. The fund raising for their Blue Star Memorial Marker includes the sale of a license plate with the AFGC logo (for vehicle, lawnmower, wheelbarrow, or just hanging in your garden) and a AFGC Member's Pin, either sell for only \$5.00. Rose plans to attend each of their five Fall District Meetings and further her theme "Designing for our Future: GROW (Gain Knowledge, Reach Out to Others, Open Your Eyes, Welcome New Ideas)".

Members of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. are planning pollinator and Monarch programs for later in the summer and discussing the "how to" for creating a Monarch Watch or a Butterfly Habitat in their own and public gardens. In June, NMGC participated in the "Butterfly Education and Awareness Day" sponsored by Wings of Enchantment But-

terfly Farm, an Albuquerque company. For National Garden Club Week, members of garden clubs, plant societies and Master Gardeners of District I got up early and made 600+ small flower arrangements to deliver to nursing homes around Albuquerque. In July, District 1 members also participated in the annual week-long Sunflower Youth Summer Camp where the children enjoyed pollinator and Monarch projects and activities. The Blooming Gardeners Youth Club planted veggies in the Ronald McDonald Farm garden at the State Fair Grounds. They have also been working in their Monarch Butterfly workbooks and been busy as bees with their Mason bees. The Ponderosa Pines Youth Club is using the NGC "Ecology Warriors" booklet. NMGC will have Flower Show School IV (July 10-12, Albuquerque) and Environmental School III (August 21-23, Santa Rosa). New Mexico Garden Clubs are "LEAPING" forward and "Planting Seeds for the Future" as we grow our "Monarch Wings."

Mary Ann Holman, President of Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. has chosen the theme "Recruit-Retain-Reward" to increase membership. OGC held its 37th Wildflower Workshop (May, Durant) and will hold Environmental Study School (Oct 9-11, Chandler). OGC further promotes environmental education through district/state poster contests for K-age 17, Specials and Senior Citizens. Besides the usual Smokey and Woodsy, this year's contests include a Butterfly Poster for the Monarch Butterfly and the Milkweed for the Wildflower Poster. The Conservation Poster Contests include "Xeriscaping – Smartscaping-Save our Water" also "Can Public Shame Stop Littering" and urban tree planting is promoted by "Spunky Squirrel Says Trees are Important!"

President of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. Carol Moore has chosen the theme "Take a leap forward....Reuse and Recycle to protect our Earth's precious resources." This spring's flooding rains helped (and hurt) most parts of Texas but with climate change and a fast growing population the state faces monumental water problems. TGC will make use of "FLOW" – (Forging Leadership in our Watersheds) – Create a Ripple with Willie Watershed printed and distributed by The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Each year TGC offers all of the NGC sponsored schools: Flower Show Schools and Symposium (Oct 25-27, San Antonio); Gardening Study (Aug 2-4, Houston); Environmental Study and a very successful Landscape Design School (Sept 21-22, College Station) where more than half of the 100+ attendees are Master Gardeners and landscape company employees who receive accredited hours. In addition, TGC offers Judges an annual 2 day seminar (Mar 17-18, College Station) on the Texas A&M University campus.

In Memory: Cara June Spooner, 1949-2015. A dedicated member of the Boards of Directors of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., South Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc. as Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman for 6 years.

PACIFIC

Kristie Livreri, Director

<http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org>

You might think the Pacific Region is on fire, and you are right. Many of our states have been battling record high heat and ravishing wild fires. Smokey Bear has become very relevant as is the Penny Pines Program.

The Pacific Region is also on fire as we put into effect the theme for the 2015-2017 term: Look to the Garden through the Eyes of a Child – a Kaleidoscope of Possibilities. Clubs across the region have embraced the theme and will be working with children in their communities. Sandra Ford, our Unified Project Chairman for the Pacific Region, has put together a wonderful incentive program, and we hope to report on its success throughout this term.

We recently had the opportunity of visiting Port Angeles, Washington for their state convention. Although an island, they too are experiencing drought and extreme weather changes. Their convention was delightful. When it all boils down, garden clubbers are just nice people and we can learn so much from one another. Their horticulture educational displays were so interesting and I took lots of pictures to share back home in Nevada.

Back home in Nevada we welcomed our National President, Sandy Robinson. Of course, she was greeted with frogs croaking. A wonderful program on Backyard Habitats highlighted the one-day convention.

Also, Ketchikan was the site for the Alaska State Convention. We had never been to Alaska before and were amazed at the sight of so many beautiful bald eagles, and since Ketchikan is in a rain forest, the green was breathtaking. Again, the members were so welcoming. The highlight for me was a local garden tour starting at their Blue Star Memorial and continuing to members' homes and ending with a delicious potluck.

As we **Leap Into Action** and visit each state in the region, it is important to express that we are representing the National Garden Clubs, Inc. as Region Directors and emphasize the important programs of NGC. I for one feel so blessed to part of such an important organization.

NGC CONSERVATION PLEDGE

I Pledge to Protect and Conserve the Natural Resources of the Planet Earth and Promise to Promote Education So We May Become Caretakers of Our Air, Water, Forest, Land and Wildlife.

Submissions for KIT are due October 1, 2015

Phyllis White, KIT Editor, gardens@bresnan.net

Jan Sillik, Assistant Editor, gluegunjan@aol.com

PLEASE SHARE THIS ISSUE WITH A CLUB MEMBER

LEAP INTO LEADERSHIP!

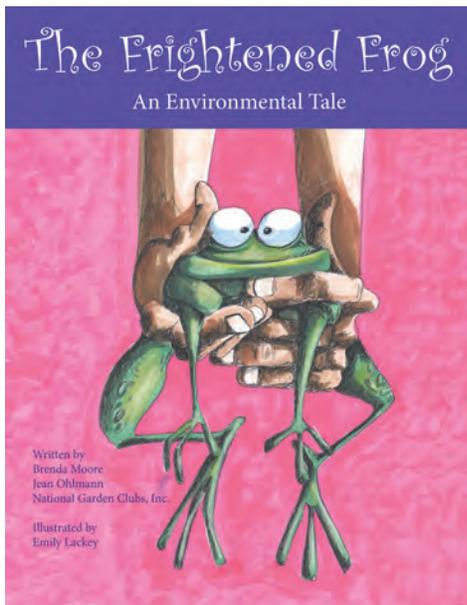
ROBIN POKORSKI, HEAD LEAPER

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

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

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

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



National Garden Clubs, Inc. encourages you to read and discuss *The Frightened Frog* with the children in your life. Even better, take them on a quest to find an egg mass, tadpoles, frogs and other amphibians. Become an environmental hero! Sit and listen while enjoying the mystery and magnificence of the natural world with the most important people anywhere, our children.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, we share the news of the passing of **Bob Nelson**, husband of the newly installed Kentucky President, Edith Nelson. Bob Nelson passed away on May 1, 2015 and services were held on May 4, 2015 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Edith Nelson was also the Treasurer of the 2015 NGC Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Notes of condolence can be sent to Edith Nelson, 1729 Vinewood Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103-1341.

~ ~ ~

It is with a sad heart that we pass along the news of the passing of **Ina Brundrett** of Tyler, Texas on June 3, 2015. She was buried in Beeville, Texas on June 8, and a memorial service was held June 19, 2015.

Ina Brundrett was a active member of the Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., the South Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc. for many years. She was a Life Member in Texas Garden Club, South Central Region and a NGC Life Member. She was a Five Star Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. with her being a Master Flower Show Judge and Master Consultant in Environmental Studies Schools, Gardening Study Schools and Landscape Design Schools. She held many positions on the NGC Board of Directors over the years. She will be truly missed.

Notes of condolence may be sent to her daughter, Lynne Maddox, 2512 Resneck Dr., Round Rock, TX 78681.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Website: www.gardenclub.org

Find Us On Facebook - National Garden Clubs Inc.

4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110-3406
(314) 776-7574 headquarters@gardenclub.org

NGC Member Services

Something for Everyone, Including
"The Frightened Frog"

To place orders call 1-800-550-6007 or
Fax 314-776-5108

A current list of the 2015-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS Roster changes and additions appears in the Board Member Section on the NGC website.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.