



# THE NATIONAL GARDENER

Fall 2024  
[gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)



# The National Gardener

Fall 2024, Volume 94, Number 3  
**GO GREEN - PLANT AMERICA**



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## ABOUT US

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility. We help coordinate the interests and activities of state and local garden clubs in the U.S. and abroad.

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Harvest • Melitas

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Cover Photo - *Autumn Hearts* • Linsey Duffy

Page 2 • *Philip Steury*,

Page 4 *Columbine* • *Klickblich, Leaves* • Winyuu

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We welcome ALL NGC members, garden writers, designers and outdoor enthusiasts to share their club, community or personal story. You do NOT have to be a professional author to submit an article. See [The National Gardener page](#) for submission information.

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9. Involve commercial activities or sales, such as contests, sweepstakes and other sales promotions, barter or advertising.
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# BRENDA'S JOURNAL

*Autumn teaches us the beauty of letting go.  
Growth requires release – it's what the trees do.*  
Ka'ala

As mentioned in last year's column, autumn is my favorite season. The weather starts to cool down, leaves change color, and eventually drop. All this is a signal to us that change is coming.

I am also in the autumn of serving as the President of National Garden Clubs. Donna Donnelly, President-Elect, will oversee and plan the 2025 convention with her installation in South Carolina. Even before the convention planning, we were in a time of transition from my administration to hers.

I have spent several weeks this summer visiting state and region garden clubs. It started in June, visiting Riverton, WY, home of treasurer Lynette Jeffres. The Wyoming Federation of Garden Club members are a fun and hospitable group. We learned about gardening, and we learned about cattle branding. I designed my brand:



We left Riverton and drove up to Glacier National Park. The Road to the Sun opened two days before we arrived. It is a beautiful national park, and visiting it has been on my bucket list. We traveled to Malta, MT, to the

Montana Federation of Garden Club's convention. At the convention, we dedicated a Gold Star Memorial Marker in a city park. Phyllis White was crowned Montana's Garden Club member of the year and wore her crown and sash with pride. The land was beautiful, and garden club members were even more so.

In August, we took our grandson on a cruise as he has always wanted to visit Alaska. We attended the Alaska Garden Club's Convention and the Pacific Region Convention. I loved the laid-back and comfortable feeling of Pacific Region members. Their region has several states increasing in membership and many young members! I am thankful that Robin Pokorski, from this region, has agreed to serve as our membership chair.

I share all of this to let you know that every state and region has its own personalities and strengths. Embrace them. Many of you are in the autumn of your positions as club presidents, state presidents, and BOD members. Take time to enjoy fall - all the season entails, and the remaining days of your position. Finish Strong.

Happy Gardening! *Brenda*



*Clockwise from Top: President Brenda Moore Cuts the Ribbon to the Path of Success, The Path Near the Missouri Botanical Gardens, Looking for a Paver, The Path of Success • Gerianne Holzman*

## Welcome to NGC - HQ! Mary Warshauer

National Garden Clubs Inc. headquarters sits on six lush acres in beautiful St. Louis, Missouri. It is the home of a Butterfly Garden, 911 Memorial, Atrium, and the Presidential Tree Collection. NGC headquarters staff hosted the 2024 Fall Board meeting, where NGC Executive Director Bill Trapp welcomed state presidents and board members to our special property on Magnolia Avenue. While there are many highlights from the board meeting, the ribbon cutting and dedication of NGC's *Path of Success* was exceptional and met with enthusiasm by all. Attendees enjoying walking the Path looking for pavers from their states. The *Path of Success* is an ongoing project to build a public walking path. It serves as a beautiful walking trail for visitors and highlights the history and mission of NGC. How exciting!

Mary Warshauer, of New Jersey is the Permanent Home and Endowment Director with the responsibility of overseeing NGC Headquarters. She served as NGC President from 2021 - 2023.



### NGC PATH OF SUCCESS UPDATE

**AUGUST 2024**

*We thank all donors for their generosity.*



**\$87,383**  
in raised funds



**166**  
pavers



**44%**  
of goal reached

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO BUY A PAVER!



# NGC Never Forgets

## Candace Wells

Members of National Garden Clubs across our beautiful country have reached out to their national leaders, legislators, governors, transportation departments, and local politicians placing Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers on capital grounds, designating Blue Star or Gold Star Families Highways, and Blue Star counties to honor our veterans. Our garden club members are tireless advocates in their communities, often collaborating with local groups such as historical societies, veterans, and civic groups to establish Memorial Markers in cemeteries, state history centers, military and veterans' parks, botanical gardens, American Legion Posts, colleges, and universities. At each entrance to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, there are Blue Star or Gold Star Families Memorial Markers.

Sewah Studios is the only company that produces Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers. They carefully create each marker to the garden club's specifications. This is a detailed process. Production of the markers requires **20 – 24 weeks from the time the check and order form are delivered** by certified mail to Sewah. They guarantee markers for five years.

Members may download the Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker brochure from the [NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families](#) webpage. Moving forward, state Memorial Marker chairs will have printable Certificates of Appreciation to distribute for their Memorial Marker Dedications. These are all cost-saving measures. We updated the *Blue Star and Gold Star Marker by State* list on the [Blue/Gold Star page](#) with all of the new Memorial Markers. Check the page to visit a marker during your travels across the country. (Search each state tabs on the spreadsheet.) American patriotism strengthens across our nation as garden clubs continue to establish Markers. These powerful emblems stand boldly, honoring the courageous people who defend our freedoms. Let us never forget.

[Candace Wells](#), of Tennessee, is the NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chair.



## NGC REMEMBERS

**2023 - 2024 Total = 151 Markers**

Blue Star Memorial Markers = 87

Gold Star Families Memorial Markers = 55

Replacement Markers = 9

**Total Memorial Markers across the USA**

May 31, 2024 = 3818

Blue Star Memorial Markers = 3582

Gold Star Families Memorial Markers = 236

*Above: Blue Star Marker with Custom Frame  
Created by a Veteran • Linda McCafferty  
Background • Bagotaj*

**Blue Star and Gold Star  
Families Memorial  
Marker Pricing  
1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024**

Marker w/7' Post \$2350

Marker w/10' Post \$2460

By-Way \$750

Replacement 7' Post \$375

Replacement 10' Post \$475

Refurbishment \$1200

Refurbishment/Cap Repair \$1450

Shipping Western States \$300



Down the Garden Path  
Landscape Design  
School News  
Carol Yee  
Marilyn McDonnell

Gibbs Garden • Carol Hudson

Many states have questions regarding the virtual implementation of the NGC Landscape Design School curriculum. Following is an example of the development of courses three and four for recent successful Athens, GA-based classes. Marilyn McDonnell, local LDS chair and current NGC Awards committee co-chair, contributed to this article. Hopefully, this encourages more states to organize Zoom, Hybrid, or in-person Landscape Design School courses.

Marilyn states, "I was very fortunate to enlist the expertise of Dan Nadenicek, Dean Emeritus of the College of Environment and Design at the University of Georgia (UGA), to plan and carry out the courses recently held virtually from Georgia. He presented lectures for each course, helped secure other professors for lectures, and made terrific suggestions for accomplishing the NGC goals under the constraints of virtual schooling.

For course three, we started before the first day of class by asking students to make a rough sketch of the area they planned to design. The students used circles representing plant diameters to lay out their plants. We began the first day with *The Landscape Design Process*, which a landscape architect taught. This session was followed by *Demonstration of Landscape Plan Development* by another landscape architect and *Graphics Interpretation* taught by a UGA professor. These topics provided the background for the students' individual landscape designs. Students were allowed one hour, on their own, to work on their designs. The students sent their designs, and answers to the following questions were emailed to me that same night. What are you trying to achieve? What is adjacent to the proposed area? Were labels added to the plan using graphics as taught? As I received the designs, I forwarded them to Dan for evaluation.

On the second day of course three, we covered all the other topics outlined by NGC and finished the day with a virtual review of the students' landscape plans. Dan conducted this session by sharing his screen and showing the landscape designs the students had submitted. He had the student briefly introduce their design, offered suggestions, and allowed other students to make observations and give ideas. We spent about five minutes on each design. The students showed much knowledge gained from the courses as they added their suggestions and comments. Twenty-two students participated in this course, which was a manageable number for the time allowed for the evaluations. If there had been a larger number, we could have split them into groups via chat rooms with different instructors guiding each room through the assessments for that group.

(Continued on page 8)

We were happy to find solutions to the garden tour requirements and the accompanying garden evaluations for course four. On the first day, a landscape architect reviewed the *Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs*. She showed many examples as she systematically worked through the evaluation form, allowing the students to suggest scoring and giving her opinion and score for each. Dan came through once again by creating a virtual tour of the *Founders' Memorial Garden* on the campus of the University of Georgia. He guided the students through the evaluation form while presenting the tour.

We used a YouTube video from the series *Around the World in 80 Gardens--US Gardens* for one hour of the garden tours for the second day of course four. This video virtually visited six different gardens from New York to California and easily illustrated garden designs for various settings and climates. We also took a video tour of *Gibbs Gardens - The Manor House* in North Georgia. This video is one of a series of garden tours of different sections of *Gibbs Gardens*. Dan then led the students through an evaluation of what they had seen. It was fascinating that some of the students had visited *Gibbs Gardens* and shared some of their insights, which sometimes varied from what the video had shown. (The 2012 video may have been outdated, so the in-person visitors'

information was more current.) Students received instructions for their individual projects.

The individual projects consisted of a visit to a garden of their choosing in their locale. They each had one week to complete their visit, take photos, complete the Landscape Design Evaluation Form, and forward a minimum of four pictures and the completed evaluation form to me, adding a short statement to explain how each photo illustrated a point of the evaluation. I went through each one and provided general feedback on their work.

Refreshing consultants had to meet all the requirements except taking the exam to receive credit for a course. I placed the exams in Google Forms and sent the participants the link the night before each course. During the 15-minute breaks between topics, students needing to take the tests were told to do that at that specific time. They received immediate feedback from Google Forms, and I received a spreadsheet with the results. Yes, the students could view the questions during the presentations, but several noted that this really helped them stay focused during the lectures."

Marilyn McDonnell is the Georgia local LDS chair and current NGC Awards committee co-chair. [Carol Yee](#), of Illinois, is the NGC Landscape Design School Chair, contact Carol with your questions or to start a School in your state or visit the [LDS webpage](#)

## You'll find Neal Sanders at the intersection of horticulture and humor.

Whether it's a speaker for your special meeting (offering, in the words of one club, "a horticultural lecture unlike anything we've ever heard") or a book that will keep you turning pages well past your bedtime, Neal Sanders needs to be on your contact list.

He is one of the most entertaining speakers you'll ever hear. 'Gardening Is Murder' is equal parts humor, psychology, and gardening wisdom; a husband's point of view of what goes on in the garden. State federations from Maine to South Carolina and Michigan to Kentucky have enjoyed his talks. In 2025, he'll be at the Washington State federation meeting and, in 2026, Pennsylvania. To book him for your club, state, or regional event in 2025 and 2026, write [Neal02052@Gmail.com](mailto:Neal02052@Gmail.com).



His 15 fast-paced, intricately plotted mysteries draw rave reviews from readers. They all feature strong, independent women – some of whom solve crimes, and some who commit them. Many of his books use garden club settings and 'women of a certain age'.

But don't mistake these for 'cozies': his plots involve everything from romance scams to 'protect your assets' schemes and fraudulent reverse mortgages. There's frequently a strong horticultural element.



You can order his books in print and Kindle formats on Amazon. Or, you can go to [www.TheHardingtonPress.com](http://www.TheHardingtonPress.com) to explore his titles and read first chapters.





## Worthy Plants to Remember Worthy Friends Bruce Crawford

How often have you looked at a plant and remembered a friend? You most likely think of the person who gifted you the plant or first mentioned its virtues. Similarly, many plants have botanical or common names that pay tribute to a good friend or a “botanical dignitary.” Such is the tale of *Amsonia tabernaemontana*, commonly known as Eastern Bluestar. Known for its blue flowers and glowing fall color, how the genus honors a colonial friendship remains unknown to most.

*Amsonia* is a member of the Apocynaceae or Dogbane Family and has roughly 20 species, with all but two native to North America. Pictured on the next page in mid-May, Eastern Bluestar is native from Maryland south to Florida and west to Illinois and Texas.

Although the genus was not officially named and described until 1788, the name first appeared in correspondence from the American botanist John Clayton in the early 1750s. Clayton was a court clerk in Gloucester County, Virginia, and spent much of his spare time botanizing throughout the region. He initially thought this plant was a species of Oleander. However, during subsequent correspondence, often with the English gardener Peter Collinson, he altered the name to *Amsonia*, although he failed to mention the inspiration. Collinson was friends with numerous horticulturists, including the Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus.

The question remains: who was Amson? For many years, people thought the genus referred to a mysterious drifter and possible physician named Charles Amson. James S. Pringle (*History and Eponymy of the Genus Name Amsonia*, 2004) finally resolved that Amson was a well-recognized physician in Williamsburg, Virginia, and a good friend of Clayton. His fame as an exemplary physician even reached Colonel George Washington, who had been ailing for some time. Washington traveled from Mt. Vernon to Williamsburg to seek Amson’s medical counsel on March 15, 1758. Evidently, he received sound advice as Washington was back to work by April 5. Just imagine how history could have been rewritten if Amson had misdiagnosed Washington’s ailments!

(Continued on page 10)



Thanks to Clayton's correspondence and exchange of seeds with Collinson, Linnaeus could see sketches of plants growing in Collinson's Garden, inspiring him to name it *Tabernaemontana amsonia* in 1762. The genus *Tabernaemontana* honors Jacobus Theodorus, considered the father of German botany. Theodorus lived in the town of Bergzabern, which centuries earlier had the name of Tabernae Montanae, meaning "Taverns in the Mountains." Theodorus merged the two words and changed his name to Jacobus Theodorus Tabernaemontanus. In 1788, the American botanist Thomas Walter realized this plant was improperly classified and renamed it *Amsonia tabernaemontana*. Thus, a plant with absolutely no connection with Europe or Jacobus Theodorus Tabernaemontanus ended up with his moniker as a specific epithet. In addition, Dr. Amson and his friendship with Clayton were finally honored with a group of stunning plants.

The beauty of Eastern Bluestar begins in late March or early April as stems elongate into a uniform, shrub-like plant reaching 24-30" tall and wide by mid-May. The alternately arranged leaves expand to lengths of 4" by 1" wide, and by mid-April, clusters of medium to light blue flower buds appear at the tips of the stems. As the flowers open, each flower expands to roughly ¾" across as seen in the insert above. However, the size of the floral cluster or cyme collectively reaches upwards of 6" in diameter by 4" tall! The five petals are light blue to nearly white, fading to light yellow or white at the base. The flowers are star-like, with each petal coming to a sharp point, which inspires the common name of Blue Star.

Following bloom, the plant produces a secondary flush of growth, allowing the plants to stretch to a mature size of 3-4' tall and equal width. The plants yield an attractive, rounded shape in the sun; little care is needed. The growth is weaker in light shade, and the heaviness of the seed pods weighs down the stems. This necessitates a light shearing to improve the plant's appearance.

Come fall, the second show begins as the foliage assumes an attractive aspen yellow color (pictured on previous page) that lasts up to two months. Fall color is at its best when plants are grown in full sun. They look great with *Itea virginica*, whose dark red autumn foliage provides a great backdrop to the *Amsonia* and lasts equally as long. Come the hard frosts of December, the show finally concludes.

Another highly ornamental species is *Amsonia hubrichtii*, commonly called Narrow Leaf Blue Star. Native to the Ouachita Mountains of central Arkansas and Oklahoma, the species honors Leslie Hubricht, an American naturalist who found the plant in 1942 growing on a dry bank in Arkansas. The most significant difference between the two species is the foliage. As the common name implies, the foliage is very slender, varying from 2-4" long and less than ½" wide. The plant produces light green stems stretching 3-4' tall and 8' wide. The floral cymes of light blue flowers appear about a week later than its cousin and persist for two to three weeks. Come fall, the foliage ranges from bright yellow to orange as shown on the previous page. This stunning show persists for upwards of two months.

Both species adapt to various soil conditions, although fare best in full sun. *Amsonia tabernaemontana* does best in humus-rich soils in zones 3-9. *Amsonia hubrichtii* prefers drier locations in zones 5-8. In addition, the stems and leaf veins exude a sticky white sap when cut, providing resistance to deer browse.

I honestly cannot remember when I first stumbled upon *Amsonia*. Regardless, these plants are now replete with fond memories of friends, students, and professional associates. Honoring several dignified individuals in history, these are worthy plants for adding color and fond memories of your friends to your garden.

---

Bruce Crawford, of New Jersey, is the Manager of Horticulture, Morris County Parks Commission, Morris Township, NJ.

# FLOWER SHOW Q&A

## Judy Binns

As members host NGC Flower Shows nationwide, the Flower Show Schools Committee receives questions from exhibitors and judges concerning the *Handbook for Flower Shows*. Here are a few of the questions and answers to note:

### ***Can you please explain the judging and exhibiting credits from 2022 related to COVID?***

In 2022, everyone could refresh following COVID-19 without worrying about having enough judging and exhibiting credits. Whatever the date of the Symposium refresher, any exhibiting, judging credits, or both obtained after that date would count towards the next refresher. For example, if a judge refreshed at a Symposium in April 2022 and received a design credit in May 2022, then judged an NGC Standard Flower Show in December 2022 - both would count towards their next refresher. No credits prior to the refresher date would carry over, but anything after the date would count.

If a judge chose not to take advantage of the “free” refresher in 2022, then any exhibiting, judging credits, or both, as described in the Handbook (HB), earned since the last Symposium, taken for refresher credit, would count as long as they are within the three-year time frame.

### ***Please clarify the exhibiting and judging credits allowed at Co-sponsored Shows with Plant Societies, Fair Associations, Municipal Organizations, Museums, etc., and Major Flower Shows.***

Co-sponsored Shows with Plant Societies and Fair Associations are a successful cooperative venture to promote horticulture and floral design. They further introduce garden clubs to a broader audience. To ensure that these shows are appropriate to obtain exhibiting and judging credits that meet the standards for NGC Accredited Judges, there are some basic requirements that these shows must meet. The following clarification is based on a consensus of the Flower Show School Committee’s discussion regarding exhibiting and judging credits in Co-sponsored Shows and Major Flower Shows.



- ❖ **Exhibiting Credits** To meet the basic requirements for an NGC Standard and Small-Standard Flower Show, co-sponsored shows with a plant society, fair associations, municipal organizations, museums, etc., must include the following information in the schedule.
  - ◆ The name of the NGC member club(s) co-sponsoring the show if the organization is not an NGC affiliate member. This information may be stated anywhere in the schedule. It does not necessarily have to be on the cover page. Look for the NGC National Affiliates on the [Member Resources page](#). The American Daffodil Society is the only plant society currently listed.
  - ◆ The Design Division (and any other divisions judged by NGC judges) must follow the current *Handbook for Flower Shows* for Exhibiting and Judging Policies and Rules.
- ❖ **Judging Credits** At the NGC Board of Directors Meeting on September 22, 2022 (and effective immediately), the Board passed the following motion regarding judging credits for these shows: A Plant Society Show or a Major Flower Show, as described in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, will determine which divisions NGC Accredited Judges may judge in their shows and qualifies as a Judging Credit for all NGC Accredited Judges.

(Continued on page 12)



Artistic Craft Mortarboard • Petmal



Accessory Mortarboard • Zeynep Uyanik

**Can only one person receive an Alternate Exhibiting Credit as the General Chair of a Small Standard, Standard, or Specialty Flower Show?**

Yes. There is only one general chair of a flower show (HB p 11) – general chair is singular, and co-chairs are plural. For an Alternate Exhibiting Credit, the schedule must list one general chair. Only the general chair is eligible to receive the Alternate Exhibiting Credit.

**Please explain the difference between accessories and featured objects in the design division.**

The following statement (HB p 80, #7) has caused some confusion. “Landscapes, scenes or anything **representing** an actual item of clothing, person, animal, etc. are not considered acceptable in Design Division.” (Refer to *Botanical Arts to exhibit these items*).

Landscapes or scenes are considered container-grown miniature gardens, and exhibitors enter them in Botanical Horticulture. (HB p 92) However, the confusion appears to be the second part of the statement, “...anything representing an actual item of clothing, person, animal, etc.” Some judges and exhibitors interpret that statement as saying no accessories or featured objects are permitted.

The Handbook clearly states that accessories (a subordinate object, e.g., figurine, rock, etc.), featured objects (an object that is dominant in a design), and manufactured or crafted simulations of birds, animals, etc. are permitted. (HB p 81, Non-Plant Material Permitted in the Design Division)

The key word in this statement is “representing.” Here is an example.

- ❖ Class title: *Hats Off to Graduates*
- ◆ **Not Permitted** in the Design Division – the design consists solely of a *representation* of a mortarboard cap made of plant material. This exhibit is an artistic craft, not a design. (See above image on the left.)
- ◆ **Permitted** in the Design Division – the exhibitor creates a design consisting of school colors with an *actual* mortarboard cap as an accessory or featured object. (See above image on the right.)

Check the NGC [Flower Shows](#) page for templates for flower show schedules, tips, and more Flower Show Q&As. We look forward to receiving questions regarding your great shows.

[Judy Binns](#), of Virginia, is the NGC Flower Show Schools Chair. Contact Judy with any Flower Show questions.

# WE ARE NGC!

Join the Future  
Make a Difference  
Click to **Apply** for the Board

Volunteers • Marija Veklenko

# Care For Plants and Wildlife During a Drought

Christie Lawrence, Lynne Strickland, Dawn Herring

Starkville Town and Country Garden Club of Mississippi members Dawn Herring and Lynn Strickland prepared several tips to help gardeners, homeowners, and community members care for plants and wildlife during a drought. Most gardeners do not look forward to drought-type weather; however, there are some steps you can take to minimize the damage an ongoing drought can have on your plants and garden. Water early in the morning and deeply rather than just going out and sprinkling will make the most impact. Droughts cause shallow water sources to dry up, natural food sources to become scarce, and plants susceptible to insects and disease. Other tips for combatting drought include the following.

- **Water deeply, but infrequently** – a deep soaking, 10 –15 minutes, is better than a daily sprinkling and encourages plants to grow deep roots.
- **Use a soaker hose** - a soaker hose allows water to seep into the soil rather than run off slowly.
- **Shallow bowls of water** - set out water for birds, bees, butterflies, and wildlife. If you have a fountain, add a rock or a cork, something animals can sit on.
- **Refill and clean out fountains** - clean and refill your fountain often, maybe even daily.
- **Put out extra food** - bananas, fruit, and birdseed- in multiple places in your garden- welcome wildlife. Fill hummingbird feeders often, especially since they start their fall migration back to Mexico and Central America in late August into September.
- **Apply mulch** - now is an excellent time to add several inches of mulch to flower beds. Mulch helps the soil maintain moisture; you can add it to flower pots.
- **Use a water hose timer** - purchase a water hose timer and attach it to your water faucet. You can set the timer to water on certain days and for a set time automatically, and you can purchase timers that have multiple hose attachments. Timers are an excellent way to water plants while you are away.
- **Repurpose plastic bottles or old hoses** - repurpose a plastic milk jug, plastic bottle, or an old water hose as a soaker hose by puncturing one or multiple small holes in the bottom of a container or several holes in an old water hose. Set the plastic container beside a tree or shrub, fill it with water, or hook up the old water hose, now made into a soaker hose. Both options allow water to seep out over an extended period.



Water Feature • Christie Lawrence

- **Use rain barrels** - purchase one if you do not own a rain barrel. They catch water runoff from a roof; you can attach a hose and water directly from them. They are also an excellent water source when water pumps are not working.

“Do not assume a business or city worker has responsibility for watering plants on city streets or near businesses,” said Herring. “People often think someone else will take care of it, but then the plants die. The key is to help where possible. For instance, one of our garden club members takes six gallons of water weekly to the Starkville Café pergola and waters the plants in the planters. She also waters plants outside banks or stores with her water bottle, which I think is great.”

The Starkville Town and Country Garden Club strives to improve the knowledge of its members through monthly educational programs, regional workshops, and the sharing of information and resources among club members and the community. “As a garden club, we have focused on providing more food, water, and shelter for birds, bees, and butterflies,” said Strickland. “We applied for and won a PLANT AMERICA community grant to enlarge and enhance the pollinator garden at the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum. To become an NGC certified pollinator garden, we added a water feature, which is extremely important in supporting wildlife during drought.”

---

Christie Lawrence is the publicity chair for the Starkville Town and Country Garden Club in Starkville, Mississippi. She collaborated with fellow club members Lynne Strickland and Dawn Herring.



Youth Recycle • Wavebreakmedia  
Environment Background • Sv\_Sunny

## Climate Change Education

### Adriana Oviedo

Youth have a crucial role to play in protecting the environment. Younger generations are the ones who will be most affected by climate change and environmental degradation. It is essential to ensure they take an active role in promoting sustainable practices and finding ways to fight against climate change. Some ways youth can contribute to environmental stewardship include:

- ⇒ Educating oneself and others about environmental issues
- ⇒ Reduce, reuse, and recycle waste
- ⇒ Participating in activities for the conservation and restoration of natural spaces
- ⇒ Supporting sustainable policies and practices in the community
- ⇒ Developing skills and careers in sustainability-related fields

In Argentina, young people are increasingly committed to protecting the environment. There are several youth organizations and movements that work on different aspects relating to climate change. These are:

1. **Fighting climate change:** *Youth for Climate* and *Fridays for Future* organize rallies and campaigns to raise awareness of the need for action.
2. **Biodiversity conservation:** *Young Conservationists* work on conservation projects for species and natural habitats.
3. **Environmental education:** *Ecoschools* and *Environmental Education for Sustainable Development* seek to educate young people about the importance of environmental care.
4. **Anti-pollution activism:** *No to Pollution* and *River without Garbage* fight against water and soil pollution.

In Argentina, several initiatives are being implemented to address climate change in the classroom. These include:

- ⇒ Courses and training are provided for teachers of all educational levels to generate teaching proposals on climate change.
- ⇒ Workshops and programs are held in schools to raise awareness and contribute to climate change mitigation, such as the *Environment*, *Climate Change*, and *Water* workshop in high schools.
- ⇒ Research and publications on climate change are distributed as teaching tools in high schools.

These initiatives seek to educate students and teachers in public and private schools about climate change. They are meant to encourage awareness and action to mitigate its effects.

This article is adapted from a presentation made by Adriana Oviedo in the framework of the Virtual Exhibition "Garden of the Americas" of the Education Division of COMAAI, which received a blue ribbon. Adriana Oviedo is Argentine, a member of Las Margaritas Garden Club, Argentina, active member of CONJueces, NGC, Inc./COMAAI Horticulture instructor, designer and TNG international feature writer. See [more information on Climate Change Education](#).



Youth Clean Up • Corndy/Retriever  
Environment Background • Sv\_sunny

# Educación Sobre Cambio Climático

Adriana Oviedo

La juventud tiene un papel crucial en la protección del medio ambiente. Las generaciones más jóvenes son las que más se verán afectadas por los cambios climáticos y la degradación ambiental, por lo que es fundamental que tomen un rol activo en la promoción de prácticas sostenibles y en la lucha contra el cambio climático. Algunas formas en que la juventud puede contribuir al cuidado del medio ambiente incluyen:

- ⇒ Educarse y concienciar a otros sobre temas ambientales
- ⇒ Reducir, reutilizar y reciclar residuos
- ⇒ Participar en actividades de conservación y restauración de espacios naturales
- ⇒ Apoyar políticas y prácticas sostenibles en sus comunidades
- ⇒ Desarrollar habilidades y carreras en campos relacionados con la sostenibilidad

En Argentina, la juventud está cada vez más comprometida con la protección del medio ambiente. Hay varias organizaciones y movimientos juveniles que trabajan en diferentes aspectos, como ser:

1. **Lucha contra el cambio climático:** Grupos como "*Jóvenes por el Clima*" y "*Fridays for Future*" organizan manifestaciones y campañas para concienciar sobre la necesidad de la acción climática.
2. **Conservación de la biodiversidad:** Organizaciones como "*Jóvenes Conservacionistas*" trabajan en proyectos de conservación de especies y hábitats naturales.
3. **Educación ambiental:** Iniciativas como "*Ecoescuelas*" y "*Educación Ambiental para el Desarrollo Sostenible*" buscan educar a los jóvenes sobre la importancia del cuidado del medio ambiente.
4. **Activismo contra la contaminación:** Grupos como "*No a la Contaminación*" y "*Río sin Basura*" luchan contra la contaminación del agua y el suelo.

En Argentina, se están implementando diversas iniciativas para abordar el cambio climático en las aulas, esto incluye:

- ⇒ Cursos y capacitaciones para docentes de todos los niveles educativos para generar propuestas de enseñanza sobre el cambio climático.
- ⇒ Talleres y programas en escuelas para concientizar y contribuir a la mitigación del cambio climático, como el taller "*Ambiente, Cambio Climático y Agua*" en escuelas de educación secundaria.
- ⇒ Investigaciones y publicaciones sobre el cambio climático que se distribuyen para la enseñanza en la escuela secundaria.

Estas iniciativas buscan educar a los estudiantes y docentes, de escuelas públicas y privadas, sobre el cambio climático y fomentar la conciencia y la acción para mitigar sus efectos.

Este artículo es una adaptación de una presentación realizada por Adriana Oviedo en el marco de la Exposición Virtual "Jardín de las Américas" de la División Educación de COMAAI donde recibió un primer premio. Adriana Oviedo es Argentina, socia de Las Margaritas Garden Club, miembro activo de CONJueces, instructora de Horticultura de NGC, Inc./COMAAI, diseñadora y escritora internacional de artículos especiales. [Ver más información sobre Educación sobre Cambio Climático.](#)



Columbine Sculpture NGC HQ • Gerianne Holzman

## NGC Life Members Rock! Gail Manna

National Garden Club Members: Do not miss being part of an exceptional group of people who strive to maintain and encourage NGC Projects and Goals. Become an NGC Life Member; join today! Your donation of \$200 aids two outstanding programs that benefit your local clubs, your state, and our youth: the PLANT AMERICA Community Grants Fund and the Permanent Home and Endowment (PHE) Fund. The PHE fund includes maintenance of the NGC Headquarters such as the sculpture pictured above.

Since the beginning of the current fiscal year, starting June 1, we have welcomed 15 new NGC Life Members into our Life Members Family. They come from ten states and five regions. We are off to a great start for the year; keep them coming! Do not miss the opportunity - join today, or better yet, give a gift membership to any individual or group deserving an honor. Do it to remember or honor someone in your community who shares your passion for the garden club and its goals. Remember, one does not need to belong to a garden club to be honored as a Life Member.

Look for Life Member applications on the NGC website on the [Life Members](#) page. NEW LIFE MEMBERS ARE OUT THERE. LET'S FIND THEM! Remember, life members ultimately make a difference!

[Gail Manna](#), of Florida, is the NGC Life Membership Chair, 2021-2025.

## Get Excited about Awards Diane Harbin

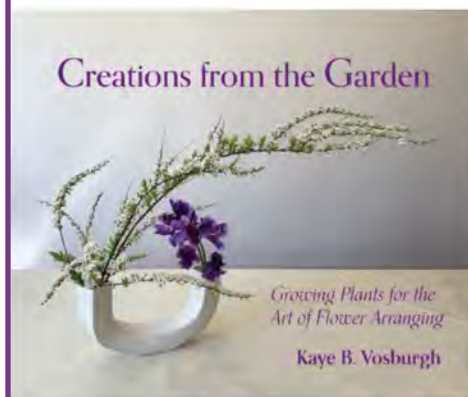
Awards create pride through recognition. They encourage members to do more. In the words of one state president, "I wanted to tell you how much joy these awards bring to our members. [Award presentations are] also good because members hear and know more about NGC!"

Awards bring awareness of a club as an asset to the community and inspire others to pursue worthwhile projects. An active, award-winning club attracts new members. Garden club projects are vital parts of our communities. Our visible work secures the future of garden clubs. Highlight that work by applying for awards to recognize the significance of our projects.

Please remember: **NO** individual, member club, group of member clubs, council, or district may directly apply to National Garden Clubs. All applications must come through your state awards chair and must include the appropriate *NGC Application Cover Sheet*. All *Application Cover Sheets* are posted in fillable format on the NGC website in the [Forms Library](#).

Diane Harbin, of Georgia, is the NGC Awards Chair. Contact Diane with your awards questions or visit the [NGC Awards](#) page.

*A book to inspire you to play with nature's offerings...*



Trees, shrubs, vines and grasses from this master arranger's garden are pictured alongside flower designs created with these plants.

*Kaye Vosburgh is a NGC Master Judge, a former Design Instructor for Flower Show School, and a Teacher and Demonstrator of Ikebana*



Hardcover 11"x8.5" • 102 pages • \$35.00 • Amazon  
[www.createwithflowers.com](http://www.createwithflowers.com)



# Celebrate Youth Activities

Tricia Mitchell

Youth awards offered by the National Garden Club incorporate many areas of interest to our youth. Applying for awards celebrates their hard work and encourages students to feel good about their achievements working as a team and in their community. NGC Youth Awards allow younger people the opportunity to work with horticulture activities, outdoor planting, environmental education, high school service projects, and many others.

All applications must be submitted through your state awards chair and include the appropriate NGC Application Cover Sheet. All Application Cover Sheets are posted in fillable

format on the NGC website in the [Forms Library](#). More information and application requirements are on the [Youth Awards](#) page. The awards committee looks forward to the successes of youth in your community.

[Tricia Mitchell](#), of Alabama, is the NGC Youth Awards Chair. Contact Tricia with your questions.



Celebrate • Synthika

## Convención Regional Comaaí CRC 2024

Auspiciada por el National Garden Clubs, Inc.



COMAAI



*"Jardín de las Américas"*

*Tres regiones unidas por un Continente mejor*

**Inauguración**

Plataforma ZOOM

ID: 952 774 9924

Contraseña: CONVENCION

Lunes 18 de Marzo. Hora: 4:00 pm Perú

## What is the International Affiliate's CRC?

María Regina Viau

Regional COMAAI Convention (CRC) is a biannual online event organized by the NGC International Affiliates (IA) via Zoom. This innovative initiative began during the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person gatherings and opportunities to study were severely limited.

In early 2021, the International Affiliates (IA) presented a proposal to then NGC President Gay Austin seeking approval to sponsor NGC Schools online. Our challenge was meeting all the NGC requirements, yet the opportunity was too valuable to pass up. The proposal was met with enthusiastic approval. This paved the way for the IA to host online schools and flower shows (complete with exhibiting credits and judging), which were awarded the IA Golden Monarch Virtual Awards.

This year, Region III, South America, will host the CRC. Throughout the year, participants engage in various online academic events, each meticulously designed to fulfill the required hours of study of symposiums and refresher events. Below is a glimpse of the events planned for this year's CRC:

- ✦ Three Virtual FSS Symposiums were hosted by Region II and organized by committees from Argentina, Colombia, and Honduras.
- ✦ Three Tri-Refreshers presented on Uruguay's Garden Clubs Zoom platform, coordinating with a Peru committee.
- ✦ A virtual NGC Design Specialized Flower Show hosted by Region I,

Mexico, themed *Arte y Sabores de Nuestra Tierra (Our Land's Art and Tastes)*. This event featured exhibits from the three Regions. The IA judges offered the IA Golden Monarch Awards, which they presented via Zoom on Monday, September 30.

- ✦ Tutorials were online Zoom sessions featuring specialized speakers on horticulture, conservation, and design topics.
- ✦ Convention virtual tours of Machu Picchu and Iguazu Falls were the two incredible virtual destinations.

Congratulations to the IA for their dedication and efforts in providing these enriching online experiences that cultivate knowledge and creativity! Your support is invaluable, and we look forward to your continued participation.

María Regina Viau, of Guatemala, is the COMAAI General Director and Chair. (Note: the poster image, above left, includes all of the COMAAI countries' national flowers.)



Back by Popular Demand

## Membership Mondays Zoom Meetings

October 7 at 1:00 PM EDT  
and continue on the

**First Monday of each Month**  
(except December)

Watch for more information and a Zoom link on the NGC Website, via an NGC Blast, or add your name to the [NGC Communications List](#), be the first to know.

Scrabble® Board • Area Poser Design S22

## Tri-Schools News

Pat Rupiper

Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools continue to be offered. Please check your consultant's expiration date. **Those who attended in 2019 must refresh this year.** So, hopefully, you have jumped into a course. You can attend the classes offered this fall in person, via hybrid, or Zoom. See the scheduled courses on the NGC website: [Environmental](#), [Gardening](#), and [Landscape Design](#). These offer you the opportunity to extend your Good Standing date. Continue to check the [Schools' webpage](#) for additional information.

State Chairs, there are now three ways to complete Form 5 – the *Course Roster*.

1. You may obtain an approved spreadsheet from your regional accrediting chair.
2. You may create one from Google Docs, where your registrants fill in all the required information using the link you send them. The sum of the responders may then be turned into a spreadsheet.
3. You may continue to use Form 5 as is.

Training help is always available; contact me or your regional chair. It may take a while to become comfortable and have everything correct with precisely the required information. A cover sheet along with the spreadsheet will help us all. Keep learning, share your knowledge, and thank you for continuing to support schools.

[Pat Rupiper](#) of Ohio is the NGC Schools Policy Coordinator.

The National Gardener/Fall 2024

# Texture In Design/La Textura En Diseño

Pilar Medellín

*Texture* is the external appearance of an object and the treatment given to a surface utilizing other materials. It is important to analyze the concept of texture and learn its expressive and creative values according to its origin and perception. Among the types of textures, we have natural textures found in everything in nature. Herewith, we look at the quality, hardness, tightness, softness, or smoothness of the plant material that we invariably use in floral design. We often talk about two types of textures: tactile or real and visual or virtual. In tactile, the sense of touch transmits certain specific information about the surface layer. In visual texture, the eye goes to our tactile memory for reference.

As in all visual arts, the chosen materials (wood, marble, clay, stone, glass, metal, fabric) and their handling transmit different tactile sensations, e.g., hardness, softness, roughness, stiffness, shine. In floral design, we can achieve many effects that evoke different tactile textures depending on the use of the chosen materials. These include creating a visual language, enriching expression, or being an element that configures a composition. Furthermore, when texture relates to other elements such as color, line, light, and shape; it will project to the viewer (observers and judges) different emotions and sensations, contrasts, or harmonies. These will define expressions and ideas supporting the imagination or what the designer wishes to convey.

Texture is an element with multiple qualities of expression. Imagination allows the designer to choose and the viewer to appreciate, among various options, determining the sensation and appearance to interpret a given idea. It is important to remember that, as designers, we use touch to express ourselves. The viewer uses visual memory to perceive without touching.

Pilar Medellin de Miñarro, is a TNG international feature writer and NGC Instructor. She lives in Mexico. [Click to view more images and information on the Design Element of Texture.](#)

Texture Background • Gadost

The National Gardener/Fall 2024

apariciencia externa de un objeto sino al tratamiento que puede darse a una superficie a través de otros materiales. Es importante analizar el concepto de textura, y conocer sus valores expresivos y creativos de acuerdo a su origen y a su percepción. Entre las clases de textura, tenemos la textura natural ya que todas las formas que se encuentran en la naturaleza la tienen. Mediante ésta, se obtiene la información de calidad, dureza y tersura, suavidad o tersura del material vegetal que utilizamos invariablemente en diseño floral. Se

suele hablar de dos tipos de textura: la táctil o real y la visual o virtual. En la táctil es el sentido del tacto, evidentemente, el que nos transmite una determinada información sobre la capa superficial; mientras que en la textura visual la vista recurre a la memoria táctil de que disponemos sobre el referente.

Así como en todas las artes visuales, tanto el material escogido (madera, mármol, arcilla, piedra, vidrio, metal, tela, etc.) y su tratamiento nos transmiten diferentes sensaciones táctiles (dureza, suavidad, aspereza, rugosidad, brillo, etc.). En el diseño podemos conseguir muchos efectos que evoquen distintas texturas táctiles en función del uso de los materiales elegidos, como un lenguaje visual, enriqueciendo la expresividad; o siendo un elemento configurador de una composición. Además, la textura al relacionarse con otros elementos como el color, la línea, luz, formas, etc., proyectará ante el espectador

(observadores y jueces) diferentes emociones y sensaciones, contrastes o armonías. Estas definen expresiones e ideas que le dan soporte a la imaginación o representación de lo que el diseñador concibe.

Es entonces la textura un elemento con múltiples cualidades para la expresión. La imaginación permitirá al diseñador elegir, y al espectador apreciar, entre diversas opciones la que determine la sensación y apariencia para interpretar una idea. Importante comprobar que, como diseñadores, usamos el tacto para expresar y el espectador la memoria visual para percibir sin tocar.

Pilar Medellín de Miñarro, es escritora internacional de artículos especiales para TNG e Instructora NGC. Ella vive en México. [Haga clic para ver más imágenes e información sobre el Elemento de Diseño de Textura.](#)



Contrasts • Sabina Arrieta



Wheatfield With Crows • Van Gogh

## The Aesthetic Dimension of Landscape (Part Two: Van Gogh) Ana Maria Gastaldi

Vincent Van Gogh (1853 -1890) was only 37 years old when he died. He devoted himself to art for only a decade, creating 900 paintings, 148 watercolors, and 1600 drawings. What was van Gogh's contribution to the Impressionist movement? Was he really an Impressionist? His relationship to it was directly related to its meaning, the slogan of this movement: *painting in the open air*. However, at the time Van Gogh began to paint in the 1880s, the Impressionist period was starting its decline. It was rescued and dignified by someone least expected: a newcomer, an autodidact who introduced both his calm and his drama to exalt, with these feelings, the painting in the open air.

In January of 1887, before he even thought of becoming a painter, he wrote to his brother Theo, "If anyone finds true love for nature, he will find beauty wherever he wants." In their well-known long epistolary relationship, this is one of the first quotes that relate beauty with nature: the capture of the landscape. It invokes one of the activities he favored the most: **walking**, not as a simple exercise or stroll, but a more vital walk, going from one place to another.

His life was just that, a constant journey from one place to another, from his native Brabant to The Hague to learn painting, to London as an apprentice to Marchant, and the lowlands of Belgium where he was a shepherd. Eventually, he traveled to Paris to learn about the new expressions of art, the south of France in search of the sun and light, or the northern area of Paris in search of tranquility, "...I feel like I'm a traveler going somewhere to a destination" as he practiced painting, walking and the outdoors.

For Van Gogh, the relationship of painting with nature and the painter's relationship with the painting itself was not only one of observation or contemplation but also a physical and bodily relationship involving the artist entirely. This concept shows in his still lifes of his shoes, made in Paris, which are the symbol of his passion as a walker. It is a metaphor for the man who walks on foot and who turns footwear into a modern still life. Revolutionary and surprising, these works are a hymn to the harsh and challenging daily reality that accompanied him throughout

his life. They are also the genuine expression of the real, only pure sensitivity of the artist to capture that mere everyday reality: its rough and dark landscape.

When he arrived in Arles in 1888, he was enthused by the light and colors revealed under the southern sun, and the color yellow would revolutionize his palette. He literally revered the yellow of the sun of Provence and the gold of the light. This allowed him to paint with the pure and powerful colors so loved. In the south, painting outdoors is possible all year round and all day. In some months, when the "mistral" blows that hot wind from the south, it becomes an arduous struggle..." It hits you on the head, and I don't doubt it makes you crazy..." he complained in some letters. But, in many others, that desire to grasp the energy of the mistral emerges, and there is a certain affinity of his stroke, the movement of the brushstroke with the strength and restlessness of the mistral.

His stay at the Saint Paul Asylum, on the outskirts of Saint Remy, was a very creative period when he painted the flowers in the garden or views from the window as in *Starry Night*. When he could venture outside the asylum's walls, he painted the wheat fields, the olive groves, or the cypresses. He considered these characteristics of the Provence where the brushstrokes are tense, the material and colors express both the season of the year and the spiritual situation.

In the last two months of his life, Van Gogh entered one of his most energetic and productive periods, completing one painting a day. One of the key factors for his productivity was his move to the picturesque and restored village of Auvers-sur-Oise in northern France. But nothing is left of the drawing; everything is color, thick brushstrokes that entrap. There are contrasts between the desired calm and the drama within; lurking under the silhouettes of the crows, we sense the announcement of the end, which is the end of a long walk. Van Gogh anticipates all the poetics and the search of the avant-garde of the early twentieth century that will follow: the Fauvists, Expressionists, Futurists, and Abstracts who will redefine the limits of the use of color, both in its constructive aspect as well as in the expressive element.

**Color** is an impression produced on the retina by the rays of light reflected by an object. The colors appear different depending on the quality of the light. Where there is no light, there is no color. **The constructive aspect of color** is how colors function with each other in a composition, according to their properties and their relationship in harmonies or contrasts. **The expressive aspect of color** is the potential of color to represent the external or internal world and the emotions or symbolism assigned to it by culture. Symbolism helps represent or interpret the titles of the floral exhibitions.

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In the next issue of *The National Gardener*, we explore the works of Cezanne. Ana María Gastaldi is an architect, NGC Master Judge, and NGC Design Instructor.



Tree Roots • Van Gogh

## La Dimensión Estética del Paisaje (Parte Dos: Van Gogh) Ana Maria Gastaldi

Vincent Van Gogh (1853 -1890) muere contando apenas 37 años. Se dedicó al arte solamente una década, realizando 900 pinturas, 148 acuarelas y 1600 dibujos. ¿Cuál fue la aportación de van Gogh al movimiento impresionista? ¿Es realmente un impresionista? Su relación es a través de lo que fue la insignia, el slogan de este movimiento: *la pintura al aire libre*. Pero, que en el momento que Van Gogh comienza a pintar en la década del 1880, ya estaba en declive y fue rescatado y dignificado a través de quien menos se podía esperar, de un recién llegado, de un autodidacta que le imprime tanto su calma como su drama y encumbra con estos sentimientos la pintura al aire libre.

En enero de 1887 antes de que pensara ser pintor le escribía a su hermano Theo *“si alguien encuentra el verdadero amor a la naturaleza podrá encontrar belleza donde quiera”*. En su larga relación epistolar, esta es una de las primeras citas que relaciona la belleza con la naturaleza; la captación del paisaje y una de las actividades que más realizó en su vida: **el caminar**, no como simple ejercicio o el pasear, sino un caminar más vital, un tránsito de un lugar a otro.

Su vida fue eso, un constante viaje de un lugar a otro desde su Brabante natal, a La Haya para aprender pintura, a Londres como aprendiz de Marchant, a las tierras bajas de Bélgica donde fue pastor, a París a conocer las nuevas expresiones del arte, al sur de Francia en busca del sol y la luz o a la zona norte de París en reclamo de sosiego *“...siento que soy un viajero yendo a algún lugar y algún destino.”* Y practicó la pintura, caminando y al aire libre.

Para van Gogh la relación de la pintura con la naturaleza y la relación del pintor con la pintura no era solo de observación o contemplación, sino era una relación física y corporal que involucraba de una manera total al artista. Así lo demuestran las naturalezas muertas sobre calzados, realizadas en París, que son el símbolo de su pasión de caminante, metáfora del hombre que camina a pie y que convierte al calzado en la naturaleza muerta moderna. Revolucionarias y sorprendentes, estas obras son un canto para la dura y difícil realidad cotidiana que lo acompañó toda la vida. También son la expresión genuina de lo real, solo pura sensibilidad del

artista para captar esa mera realidad cotidiana: su paisaje áspero y oscuro.

Cuando llegó a Arles en 1888 quedó entusiasmado por la luz y los colores revelados bajo el sol del sur, entonces el color amarillo revolucionará su paleta. Literalmente veneró el amarillo del sol de la Provenza y el dorado de la luz, esto le permitió pintar con los colores puros y poderosos que tanto amó. Pintar al aire libre, en el sur, es posible todo el año y todo el día, pero en algunos meses cuando sopla el “mistral” ese viento caliente del sur, se transforma en una lucha ardua... *Te golpea en la cabeza y no dudo que te vuelve chiflado...* se queja en algunas cartas. Pero, en muchas otras aflora ese deseo de apropiarse de la energía del mistral, y hay cierta afinidad de su trazo, el movimiento de la pincelada con la fuerza y el desosiego del mistral.

Su estancia en el Asilo de Saint Paul, en las afueras de Saint Remy fue un período muy creativo pintando las flores del jardín o desde la ventana la “Noche estrellada”. Cuando pudo aventurarse fuera de los muros del asilo, pinta los campos de trigo, los olivares o los cipreses que consideraba característicos de la Provenza donde la pincelada se crispa, la materia y los colores expresan tanto la estación del año como situación espiritual.

En los últimos dos meses de su vida, Van Gogh entró en uno de sus períodos más enérgicos y productivos, completando una pintura al día. Algunos de los factores clave para su productividad fue su traslado al pintoresco y restaurado pueblo de Auvers-sur-Oise, en el norte de Francia. Pero aquí no queda nada de dibujo todo es color, pinceladas gruesas que atrapan, de contrastes entre la calma buscada y el drama vivido y que bajo la silueta de los cuervos encontramos el anuncio de un final que es el final de un largo caminar. Van Gogh anticipa toda la poética y la búsqueda de las vanguardias de principio del siglo XX, que le seguirán, los fovistas, los expresionistas, los futuristas, los abstractos; que van a recalibrar los límites del uso del color, tanto en su aspecto constructivo como en el aspecto expresivo.

**Color.** Impresión que produce en la retina los rayos de luz reflejados por un objeto. Los colores parecen diferentes, dependiendo de la calidad de la luz. Donde no hay luz, no hay color. **Aspecto constructivo del color** cómo funcionan en relación unos de otros en una composición, de acuerdo a las propiedades de los mismos y su relación en armonías o contrastes. **Aspecto expresivo del color** la potencialidad del color para la representación del mundo exterior o interior, de las emociones o del simbolismo que le asignó la cultura. Simbolismos que ayudan a la representación o interpretaciones de los títulos de las Exposiciones Florales.

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En el próximo número de The National Gardener, exploramos las obras de Cézanne. Ana María Gastaldi es Jueza Master e Instructora de Diseño de NGC.

# Plant for Pollinators

## Virginia Schmidt

NGC has certified 412 Pollinator Gardens - WOW! Thank you to those who applied. Florida has the most applications, with 59, followed by Texas = 40, Pennsylvania = 28, Virginia = 26, and Georgia = 20. Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio round out the top ten. It has been an educational process, learning what plants grow well in Oregon, Louisiana, Connecticut, and everywhere in between. The program is instructive for all NGC members as we search for plants best suited to pollinators in our backyards.

Have you heard of the phrase *plant this, not that*? Many organizations provide resources to help select native plants that are more beneficial than non-natives for pollinators. You could think of it like this - homemade vegetable soup for lunch vs. fast food. You can eat fast food occasionally, but we all know what happens when you overeat. Ugh!

Removing all your non-natives is unnecessary. When selecting new plants, seek something beautiful that provides better nutrition for the birds, bees, and other insects. Studies suggest aiming for 50-70% of native plants and highly recommend reducing lawn areas. You may find that one of your favorite plants is not native to the United States, has little nutritional value, and is invasive. (*Butterfly Bush, Buddleia davidii, I am looking at you!*) However, many alternatives are just as attractive and have a more positive impact on pollinators. The following websites can help you find native plants for pollinators in your area.

- **Homegrown National Parks:** *Homegrown National Park® (HNP) raises awareness and urgently inspires everyone to address the biodiversity crisis by adding native plants and removing invasive ones where we live, work, learn, pray, and play.*
- **LBJ Wildflower Center:** *The University of Texas at Austin Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is the Botanic Garden of Texas. The Center promotes its mission to inspire the conservation of native plants through its internationally recognized sustainable gardens, education and outreach programs, and research projects.*
- **National Wildlife Federation:** *Standing seven million people strong, Garden for Wildlife™ is America's largest, longest-running movement dedicated to helping local wildlife and wild spaces.*

NGC members can learn, share, and influence friends and neighbors to affect habitats that help our pollinators positively and, in turn, our whole environment. Think about what small changes you can make to your landscape. The sights and sounds of happy visitors to your garden oasis will reward you.

Virginia Schmidt, of Ohio, is the PLANT AMERICA: Plant for Pollinators Chair. Apply to [Certify your Garden for Pollinators](#).





*Once upon a time, there was an old tree. . .*

*Erase una vez un árbol viejo.*

## Jenifer Herz Wells

It was the year 1603 when the first archbishop of Lima, Fray Jerónimo de Loaiza, founded the Monastery of the Barefoot Conceptionists of Saint Joseph. In its orchard, they planted olive trees brought from Spain. The years went by, and the monastery was still there. Four hundred years later, an old forgotten olive tree is in that same orchard. Flor Perú, Federation of Garden Clubs, joined ventures with ProLima of Lima Metropolitan Management, an organization for the recovery of the historical center. Both affiliations committed to saving this ancient olive tree, the oldest to have arrived in Peru 415 years ago.

The tree is 12 feet tall and has a crown of approximately 16 feet. It showed signs of damage caused by poor pruning, leaving the tree split at the trunk with almost no branches. We found traces of fungal attack and severe root exposure. To accurately determine the damage and to aid the olive tree, specialists were called in with equipment that included a CT scanner. The results revealed rot at the center of the trunk and lesions in different areas of the bark, some of which had already healed.

Experts carefully pruned the tree to reduce the size of the trunks in the hopes of achieving new basal shoots. We covered the exposed roots to avoid harsh exposure. The old olive tree has responded very well to its treatment. At Flor Perú, we are not only happy but satisfied. Not every day can one save a 400-year-old tree. How can we know how long this old olive tree will live?

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Jenifer Herz Wells is a Casuarinas and Marigold Garden Club member from Perú. She is a graphic designer and is in charge of social media and international Facebook for COMAAI. [Click for more Images of the Tree and its Restoration.](#)

*Olive Tree (Before & After) • Jenifer Herz Wells  
Background • Alena Puhachova*

Corría el año de 1603 cuando el primer arzobispo de Lima, Fray Jerónimo de Loaiza, fundó el Monasterio de las Concepcionistas Descalzas de Nuestro Señor de San José, donde en su huerta, sembraron olivos traídos de España.

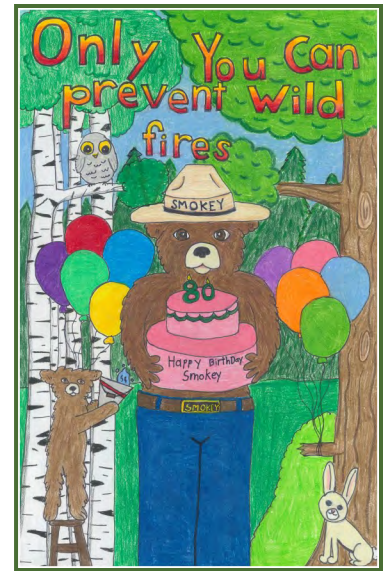
Los años transcurrieron, el monasterio sigue allí, 400 años pasaron y, en su huerto, sigue un viejo olivo olvidado. Flor Perú, Federación de Clubes de Jardines, realizó un convenio con ProLima, Gerencia de Lima Metropolitana, una organización de recuperación del centro histórico. Ambos organismos se comprometieron a salvar a este anciano olivo, que se destaca por ser el más antiguo que llegó a Perú hace 415 años.

El árbol tiene una altura de 3,70 metros y una copa de aproximadamente 5 metros. Presentaba daños por malas podas, que han dejado al árbol con el tronco trifurcado y sin ramas. Había rastros de ataque de hongos y las raíces se encontraban expuestas. Para poder saber el daño exacto se le tomaron tomografías al olivo. Los resultados descubrieron podredumbre en el centro del tallo y lesiones en la corteza, algunas ya cicatrizadas.

Los expertos realizaron varias podas para reducir el tamaño de los troncos y tratar de lograr la producción de nuevos brotes basales. También se taparon las raíces expuestas. El árbol ha respondido bien a su tratamiento. En Flor Perú estamos felices y satisfechas porque no todos los días uno puede salvar un árbol de 400 años. ¿Además, quien sabe cuantos años más tiene este viejo olivo para vivir?

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Jenifer Herz Wells es socia de las Casuarinas Club de Jardines y Marigold Club de Jardines de Perú. Es diseñadora gráfica y responsable de redes sociales y Facebook internacional para COMAAI. [Haga clic para ver más imágenes del árbol y su restauración.](#)



# Happy Birthday, Smokey Bear Terry Critchlow

For the 2024 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl youth poster contest, students (grades 1 – 5) created posters featuring Smokey Bear to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Smokey’s theme, *Only You Can Prevent Wildfires*, is recognized nationwide. The Forest Service honored the national winner, 4th grader Aiden Finklestein, from Mississippi, during a ceremony in our nation’s capital. Smokey/Woodsy Co-Chair Terry Critchlow represented NGC.

This year, 2024-2025, Woodsy Owl has again joined Smokey in spreading the word for environmental awareness: *Lend a Hand Care for the Land*. The 2025 poster contest may feature Woodsy Owl or Smokey Bear and their message. Information is available on the [Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest](#) webpage. Teaching aids are available from the [Forest Service](#). It begins with garden clubs. Watch for your state’s contest deadline.

Terry Critchlow, of Washington, is Co-Chair of the Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl poster contest.

**The National Gardener/Fall 2024**

Posters (clockwise from top): Grade 4: Aiden Finklestein, Grand Prize Winner, Spring Lake GC, MS, Grade 3: Ellie Barua, Neighborhood GC, UT, Grade 5 : Alexis Aceredo, Spring Lake GC, MS, Grade 2: Lilly Hutchinson, Briarcliff GC, GA, Grade 1: Bennett Vaeth, Hill & Dale GC, MO



2024 Award Ceremony • USFS



# Late Season Harvest - Donate Today

## Suzanne Bushnell

As we head into fall and the second year of NGC President Brenda Moore's PLANT AMERICA, Feed America project, many late-season vegetables are coming into their own. Whether pumpkins, butternut squash, or tomatoes - all are welcome at local food banks, soup kitchens, and other places that help feed those who are hungry. Report donations of any size through the NGC online donation form on the PA-Feed America webpage.



I have been amazed at some of the donation forms received during August, two of which need special acknowledgment. In Fairbanks, AK, the Zion's Garden Club at Zion Lutheran Church donated 1,106 pounds of fresh produce from a community garden to the Fairbanks Food Bank. And this was just the produce donated for two months! The O'Fallon Garden Club from O'Fallon, IL, reported 5,360 pounds as a donation to the O'Fallon Food Pantry. Notably, the O'Fallon Garden Club won the 2024 NGC Award for Food Bank Donations (Award #CE 3.) Clubs nationwide contributed 38,645.6 pounds of food through the third week of August. The largest donation reported was 8,500 pounds donated by one of our South Carolina clubs, Gardening on the Cay.

While donations this large are not the norm, we appreciate any and all donations made in support of our project. Whether large or small, your food bank embraces all contributions. For those who work with youth, consider helping the children maintain their gardens. It is a great way to recruit future gardeners and garden club members!

[Suzanne Bushnell](#) is the PLANT AMERICA, Feed America President's Project Chairman, and the NGC Community Garden Chairman. She gardens on the coast of Maine.



*Inset: Gorman, ME Middle School Garden • Suzanne Bushnell  
Harvest • DGM007*

# A Change of Habits

Melinda Myers

Until recently, fall has been a time when many gardeners have been busy cutting back perennials, raking leaves, and tidying up their gardens for winter. Now, more and more gardeners are discovering the many benefits and beauty of leaving healthy perennials stand for winter. This idea may be old news for you, but it is new information for many gardeners. Please help spread the word as we work together to support pollinators and songbirds with our gardening practices.

Many perennials provide motion, form, and texture to the winter garden. Those that are evergreen or semi-evergreen add welcome foliage to the landscape. Perennials left in place for the winter may not be as colorful as your summer garden, but their subtle beauty adds interest to what may be an otherwise drab winter landscape in many parts of the country.

Allowing perennials to overwinter without cutting increases visits from seed-eating songbirds. Watch for finches, sparrows, chickadees, juncos, jays, and other seed-eaters to stop by your landscape to enjoy a winter meal of *Echinacea*, *Rudbeckia*, *Liatris*, *Monarda*, and other seeds. These plants welcome visitors, add color and motion to the landscape, and entertain us throughout the winter. If not for the birds, winter would be much longer and drearier in my northern part of the country. Various pollinators and other beneficial insects overwinter in or near the stems of perennials. Your decision to leave these perennials standing for winter directly contributes to the health and diversity of your garden ecosystem. Marginally hardy perennials will also benefit when left standing in the garden for winter. Their stems help collect leaves and snow for insulation and moisture, thus increasing their chance of survival in winter.

There are some perennials you should cut back in the fall. Remove any diseased and pest-infested perennials to reduce the risk of these problems recurring in next year's garden. Cut these perennials back to several inches above the ground. Discard, do not compost, the affected plant material since most of our compost piles do not heat up sufficiently to kill the insect pests and diseases. Contact your local municipality for disposal options for this type of plant debris. Consider removing *Hosta* leaves once the fall color fades and leaves die. This practice reduces the risk of leaf nematodes overwintering in the crown of the plants. It also removes the winter homes for slug eggs.

(Continued on page 27)



Echinacea Seed Heads • Melinda Myers

Do leave the seed heads of late-blooming *Hostas* intact if possible. Juncos enjoy dining on the seeds, and you will enjoy these visitors to the garden. Some perennials like *Achillea* and *Leucanthemum* form a rosette of leaves at their base in the fall. Avoid disturbing this new growth if you decide to cut back the bare stems of these plants. Wait for several hard frosts when cutting perennials back in the fall. Delaying ensures the plant has stored all the energy produced into the roots for healthy growth next spring. Cut 2 to 3 inches above the ground to avoid damaging the plant's crown. Wait until spring temperatures hover in the 50s for several days before cutting back perennials left for winter. This practice gives overwintering insects a chance to leave their winter homes. If you cannot wait that long, stack the trimmings in an out-of-the-way location to allow any remaining insects time to exit. Then, mulch or compost the debris later in summer. In spring, cut stems back to varying heights, between 8 and 24 inches. These dead stems provide nesting cavities for many of our native bees. The new growth will mask these old stems that naturally decompose by spring.

It can take time to help others see the subtle beauty and understand the benefits of leaving healthy perennials stand for winter. Sharing the winter beauty, watching for visiting songbirds, and enjoying the increase in beneficial insects residing in your garden can help them embrace the change.

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Melinda Myers authored more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. Her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## Free Money! David Robson

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. offers up to \$2,000 for a PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grant. Projects need to benefit the community. Consider creating a new landscape around a public or historic building, raised beds to provide food for the local community, school classroom projects, or planting a grove of trees. Since the beginning of the program, the grants committee awarded more than \$200,000. Application forms are in the [NGC Forms Library](#) under grants.

Read and follow the guidelines on the front end and the instructions after the two-page application. If you have any questions, email them to [PLANT AMERICA Grants](#). The deadline to apply is October 15.

The Penn-Cumberland Garden Club of Mechanicsburg, PA, received a \$1,000 grant in 2022 to renovate a vacant city lot near the downtown square. The club members worked with a college landscape student, who had won an NGC and PA scholarship, to design the perimeter flower beds. Local scouts helped by rototilling the soil. Club members planted and watered the flowers through the summer of 2023. They purchased containers and planted them with flowers under the lone tree on the property.

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David Robson, of Illinois, is the NGC PLANT AMERICA Community Grants Chair. He also serves as a member of the Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees.



Planting a Vacant Lot • Penn-Cumberland Garden Club



# Holiday Tradition In Colonial Williamsburg

## Pat Wilson

A mere three years into its existence, the Green Spring Garden Club of Virginia agreed to do its first home tour, the 1959 Annual Christmas Home Tour. They held the tour in conjunction with Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination, the spectacular fireworks celebration of the holidays that recalls the colonies' tradition of commemorating significant events with light - candlelight, lanterns, and fireworks!

The Annual Christmas Home Tour is a celebrated introduction to this historic town brought to life by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's landscaping department and enhanced by local floral design artisans. Decorations invite all guests to experience the holidays of founding fathers and genuine Williamsburg hospitality.

The 2024 Annual Christmas Home Tour, Saturday, December 7, is the 63<sup>rd</sup> Tour. It features three seldom-viewed homes within the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area and the Colonial Williamsburg Coach and Livestock Stable. Each location is decorated with exquisite fresh and dried floral designs prepared by club members and select guest designers. The designs embrace the Colonial Williamsburg style and complement the features and quirks of each historic venue using only materials available in Williamsburg during its colonial time. As guests proceed through parlors, kitchens,

offices, and dining areas, club member hosts tell the tales of the property owners, who are some of the nation's founders and earliest real estate developers. 2024 properties:

### ✦ William Lightfoot House

William Lightfoot was a planter, merchant, and attorney who built this house between 1733 and 1740. It was known as townhouse. Lightfoot, a member of the House of Burgesses, occupied the home when called into session in Williamsburg. A team restored the home in 1931. The floral designers will interpret the lifestyle of gentleman legislator, Mr. Lightfoot and his in-town "pied-a-terre."

### ✦ Taliaferro-Cole House and Kitchen

The earliest evidence in Williamsburg of Charles Taliaferro, a coachmaker, is from an advertisement in the *Virginia Gazette* on March 24, 1768, in which he acquaints the public with his chairmaking business and promotes his "riding chairs." The western section of the house dates back to his ownership, but the restoration reflects its appearance in the early 1800s. When businessman Jesse Cole purchased the home in 1815-1825, he added the eastern half of the house. The house and shop were restored in 1940-1941. The designers will extend a Williamsburg welcome to all using pineapple, the traditional symbol of hospitality.

### ✦ Travis House

Colonel Edward Champion Travis, a member of the House of Burgesses, erected the western portion of the property consisting of a side passage and a room to the west between 1762 and 1765. However, owners built the current 70-foot-long, gambrel-roofed house in three distinct periods. Sometime later, someone built a room to the east of the passage, and in 1794-1795, a small room and shed were added, probably by his son, Champion Travis. At the beginning of the restoration, workers moved the house to the south side of Duke of Gloucester Street, where it became a restaurant. The house was moved back to Francis Street to its original foundation in the 1950s and served as the home for the superintendents of the Public Hospital. The designers will tell the stories of how proprietors may have conducted their business as they receive visitors in the foyer. Guests tour the dining room, parlor, and Travis' fiancée's private office.

*(Continued on bottom of page 29)*



Kids Making "Fireflies" • Kathy Pearson

# Mustard Seed Camp

## Kathy Pearson

The Mustard Seed Camp in Tennessee has no fee; the children just need to bring their sack lunch and drink. After lunch, the instructors show the children how much garbage they produce that day. The camp has been held for over 30 years. Mustard Seed Camp 2024 was all about pollinators, one in particular - the amazing lightning bugs or fireflies. Campers used recycled, clear plastic bottles to make their fireflies. A glow stick in the bottom of the bottle illustrated the light that fireflies make. Campers learned that cold air mixing with the chemicals in a firefly's body causes its body to light, but the light is cold, not hot.

Tennessee District IV Director Jane Bitner read campers a story about fireflies. She told how fireflies in the Great

Smoky Mountains light up in harmony with each other and gave essential details about the firefly's life. After hearing about many other insects, campers set about making edible ones. They made ants, butterflies, ladybugs, and flies using fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, cream cheese, olives, pretzels, and dried cherries.

A variety of activities kept campers busy. They planted *Anemone*, *Iris*, and *Triteleia* bulbs. They heard how plastic bottles can endanger fish, wildlife, dogs, and other creatures by choking. One solution is to cut up the bottles after use. A surprise guest at the camp was "Andy the Armadillo" from Texas Roadhouse. Campers could make either a soccer game board or a birdhouse on their final day. Through a week of fun activities, campers learned to be kind to pollinator friends and good stewards of the earth and its creatures. The camp is possible because many volunteers make it happen.

Kathy Pearson has been working with children for over 50 years. Her membership in Norwood Garden Club allows her to work with the Mustard Seed Camp for young gardeners from kindergarten to 13 years.

### ★ Colonial Williamsburg Coach and Livestock Stable

The Colonial Williamsburg Coach and Livestock Department presents programs and interpretations of stable operations and animal care. Through the *Rare Breeds* program, begun in 1986, the team acquires threatened or endangered species, including Cleveland Bay horses, Leicester Longwool sheep, Red Devon cows, and Dominique chickens. The Stable is also home to Colonial Williamsburg's fleet of carriages, a part of the historic area's daily street scene. The designers are delighted to show how the *Rare Breeds* and the beautifully preserved carriages contribute to holiday celebrations.

The Green Spring Garden Club, Inc. members invite NGC members to celebrate this grand tradition and the holidays in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Ticket information and additional photos are available on the [Club's website](#). Come, and see if one of the *Rare Breeds* has found a way to munch on a design component!

Pat Wilson is a proud member of the Green Spring Garden Club of Virginia. Pat noted, "It's a bit intimidating to work with the design style and material restrictions the first time you work on the tour, but you get over it and think of it as more of a fun challenge."



2023 Red Lion Tavern • Pat Wilson



2021 Noah's Ark Veggies • Pat Wilson

# Happy Gardener

## Close the Season on a Happy Note Charlotte Swanson

With autumn comes the closing-down phase of gardening. There are leaves to gather for composting, vegetable foliage to chop down, and floral remains to deal with. Gardeners jot down notes of cultivar performance. Last, but not least, there is the opportunity to dig in spring-blooming bulbs. Planting those bulbs brings a peaceful, easy feeling that tides the gardener over for the upcoming winter. Knowing that the bulbs are growing underground while the earth above is chilling out and turning brown comforts the gardener's mind and tilts it toward anticipation of spring's colorful return.

There are so many possibilities to consider with bulbs. Snowdrops are early birds and do not require much digging. Daffodils come in bright yellow, subdued yellow, pristine white, white and yellow, yellow and orange, and dozens of permutations of those colors... plus there is pink! If one does not want to dig more than a four-inch hole, the cute 'Tete a tete' miniature daffodil accommodates nicely. As an early riser in the season, with short foliage, gardeners can mow it over when that task becomes necessary.

Tulips are another option. Just about any color one can imagine can be found in a tulip. They are a little more work since a six-inch hole is usually required. If the foliage is allowed 4-6 weeks to die back after blooming, another year or two of bloom may be granted, depending on your growing zone. However, the best-returning tulips are Darwin cultivars. The year my daughter graduated from high school, I had a row of red and yellow Darwin tulips blooming in the backyard. For over twenty years, those pops of color have shown up every spring, bringing back graduation memories. That story, however, is overshadowed by my mother-in-law's success with tulips. Her flowers continue to dazzle us after more than 50 springs!

Another tulip to consider is the species tulips, the wildflowers of the tulip family. They tend to be shorter and have a limited color palette. Like wildflowers, they tend to naturalize and return year after year. Many early bloomers finish by the time other bulbs begin to shine. One of my long-time favorites is 'Scarlet Baby.' It is a bold red holding a dollop of deep yellow in the interior. Not much taller than a crocus, it is sassy and quick to rise. Unlike the crocus that squirrels like to dine upon, this bright little gem is not considered "lunchable."

One of my favorite fall planting quirks is to hide some tulips like Easter eggs, one or two, here and there. Usually, I forget exactly where I put them and am pleasantly surprised in the spring when they reveal themselves in odd places - a pause and a smile will follow. Some year, I might just give in to mischief and practice my quirk elsewhere. Consider yourself warned!

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Charlotte Swanson is a NGC Gardening Consultant and a long time writer for *The National Gardener*.



# NGC Certified Wildlife Habitat Barbara Campbell

Exciting news: we have 156 gardens from 32 states certified by NGC as a Wildlife Habitat. It is often asked what one person can do to change the plight of endangered animals. If we start with our property and get many garden club members to join us, we will impact wildlife habitats everywhere. Florida still has the most certified gardens. The Redstone Garden Club in Alabama promoted this project, and many members of that club have now certified their gardens. The application comments show fantastic enthusiasm. Diane Quinn shared the accompanying image of a Monarch butterfly visiting her Wildlife sign.

When members fill out the application form, they share the practices they incorporate on their property. Examples include providing clean water, leaving dead trees and branches for habitat, and growing seeds and berries for animals to consume. In addition, most have embraced the protocol of not cleaning up in the fall, leaving dead flower heads, spent perennials, and annuals. Animals benefit from these materials during the winter. Additionally, most compost and primarily plant native plants. If possible, they leave part of their land undisturbed. Most applicants do not use pesticides or use them sparingly and cautiously when needed. NGC members proudly protect the environment and PLANT AMERICA

one garden at a time. It is an honor to serve as this chair. If you have not certified your garden, please do so today: [Garden for Wildlife](#). Our wildlife thanks you!

[Barbara Campbell](#), of New York, is the NGC PLANT AMERICA - Landscape for Wildlife Chair

# Encouraging Youth To Keep Our Planet Green Linda Jean Brown

The purpose of the Youth Sculpture contest is to encourage our youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment. All children in grades 4 - 8 are eligible to enter with a local garden club sponsor. Sculptures must consist of recycled, reused, and reduced materials. For the complete rules, see the [Youth Sculpture](#) contest webpage.

[Linda Jean Brown](#), of Texas, is the Youth Sculpture Chair. Contact Linda Jean to answer all of your questions.



2023 Sculpture Contest Winners •  
Photos by Linda Jean Brown  
Page Background • LoBoCo





Let's  
**COOK!**

## Spiced Beet Salad

Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich

Fall beets are maturing in our gardens and are widely available at farmers' markets. Try this simple and delicious recipe from the late British food writer Elizabeth David.

### Ingredients

- Beet, skinned, boiled, or baked
- Olive oil
- Allspice, ground, OR Jamaican pepper
- White wine vinegar
- Parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper

Cut the freshly boiled or baked skinned beet into cubes, seasoned with salt and ground allspice, and dress it with olive oil, a little white wine vinegar, and chopped parsley. This makes an excellent little salad. Allspice or Jamaican pepper is a delicious seasoning for beets.

I highly recommend exploring *Spices, Salts, and Aromatics in the English Kitchen* by Elizabeth David or any of her other books. While out of print, you may find this as a used cookbook online, such as this link to Amazon. Ms. David had a colorful, adventurous life and many great cooking ideas.

[Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich](#) is the NGC Food to Table Chair. She cooks and gardens in Ohio. [Click here for printable Spiced Beet Salad Recipe.](#)



# Garden Kids - San Diego

## Rosa Mercedes Longo Prieto



Seed Ball Fun • Rosa Mercedes Longo Prieto



Members founded the San Diego Group of the Garden Club Argentino in the West District of Buenos Aires in 2000. The club currently has twelve members, most of them with several grandchildren and a marked interest in gardening. In 2019, the goal was to share this passion for horticulture, hoping to leave a legacy for the future by creating *Garden Kids*: a space to interact with children, share our knowledge, and continue to sow our seed.

From Rosa, "After defining these objectives, we decided to hold four annual meetings with specific themes: Fall, Spring, Sowing, and Christmas. They were created to strengthen ties and awaken enthusiasm for the activities. With great expectations, the first meeting included 28 children. They made collages with fall leaves and finished the day with an afternoon snack. Like most grandmothers, everyone was happy with what was achieved. The intention was to motivate the children's spirit towards nature. Since then, and despite the pandemic, this program continues.

The most recent meeting was dedicated to making seed bombs. We found this activity very appropriate for the children. It made them aware of the natural meadows and forests and the ability to spread these hand-made seed bombs throughout the countryside. We chose to use seeds of *Tecomas*, *Asclepias*, *Salvias*, *Bahuinias*, *tasi*, and others.

Members look forward to the meetings because we see how enthusiastic the children become when dealing with gardening and nature. It fills the club with pride to know we are sowing a seed of love and respect for the environment in future generations. *Garden Kids* is not only a project but a shared passion this group hopes will continue to flourish for many years to come."

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Rosa Mercedes Longo Prieto is a San Diego Group member and an active COMAAI member as Director of the Digital Administrative Committee. (COMAAI, International Affiliates Committee of NGC, Inc., is a committee that serves as international outreach for the affiliated (IA) members of NGC, Inc.) See [Garden Kids in action](#).

El Grupo San Diego, del Garden Club Argentino, del Distrito Oeste de Buenos Aires, fue fundado en el año 2000. Está compuesto por doce socias, la mayoría de ellas con varios nietos y una marcada inclinación por la jardinería. En 2019, con el objetivo de compartir nuestra pasión por la horticultura y dejar un legado para el futuro, sentimos la necesidad de crear *Garden Kids*, un espacio donde pudiéramos interactuar con los niños, transmitir conocimientos y seguir sembrando nuestra semilla.

Después de definir nuestros objetivos, decidimos realizar cuatro reuniones anuales con temáticas específicas: Otoño, Primavera, Siembra y Navidad, para fortalecer los lazos y despertar el entusiasmo por la actividad. Con mucha expectativa, realizamos la primera reunión con un total de 28 niños, donde hicimos collages con hojas de otoño, finalizando con una merienda. Como buenas abuelitas, estábamos felices de lo logrado. Nuestra intención era motivar el espíritu de los niños hacia la naturaleza. Desde entonces, y a pesar de la pandemia, hemos continuado.

En nuestro último encuentro, dedicado a la realización de *seed bombs*, encontramos esta actividad apropiada para los niños, con una temática centrada en el cuidado de las praderas naturales y los bosques, y para poder diseminar por el campo. Utilizamos semillas de *Tecoma*, *Asclepias*, *Salvia*, *Bahuinia*, *tasi* y otras.

Con cada reunión, vemos cómo los niños se entusiasman más con la jardinería y la naturaleza. Nos llena de orgullo saber que estamos sembrando una semilla de amor y respeto por el medio ambiente en las futuras generaciones. *Garden Kids* no solo es un proyecto, sino una pasión compartida que esperamos continúe floreciendo por muchos años más.

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Rosa Mercedes Longo Prieto es socia del Grupo San Diego e integrante activa de COMAAI como Directora del Comité Administrativo Digital. (COMAAI, Comité de Actividades de Afiliadas Internacionales, un comité que sirve de enlace para las socias internacionales (IA) afiliadas a NGC, Inc.) Vea [Garden Kids en acción](#).



Green Hills • Anna Garfulina

## Espoma Grants Recipient Debi Harrington

National Garden Clubs and The Espoma Grant Committee received 75 Espoma Grant applications from NGC clubs from October 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024. Since 2017, Espoma donated organic products to National Garden Clubs' member clubs for outstanding community projects. The following clubs received the 2023-2024 Espoma Grants. Espoma provided each club \$250 worth of Espoma Organic products. Congratulations to these garden clubs for their dedication to NGC's PLANT AMERICA initiative!

- ❖ CA - Roseville Better GC - Orangeville, CA
- ❖ CT - The GC of Newtown - Newtown, CT
- ❖ GA - Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent GC - Savannah, GA
- ❖ IN - Arbutus GC - Fishers, IN
- ❖ IL - Tri-Village GC - Bartlett, Hanover, Streamwood, IL
- ❖ MA - Norwood Evening GC - Norwood, MA
  - ◆ Springfield GC - Springfield, MA
  - ◆ Village GC of West Dennis - West Dennis, MA
- ❖ MD - The Garden Party - Bethesda, MD
  - ◆ Non-Traditional Program South-School Youth Club sponsored by Clay Breakers GC - Cheltenham, MD
- ❖ ME - Camden GC - Camden, ME
- ❖ MT - Glendive GC - Glendive, MT
- ❖ NJ - Snufftown GC - Hamburg, NJ
- ❖ NY - The Gates GC - Rochester, NY
- ❖ PA - Norristown GC - Norristown, PA
- ❖ SC - Pickens GC - Pickens, SC
- ❖ TN - Tuckaleechee GC - Townsend, TN
  - ◆ Shady Oaks GC - Johnson City, TN
- ❖ TX - Violet Crown GC - Round Rock, TX
- ❖ WI - Fox Point GC - Glendale, WI

At the 2024 NGC Convention in Denver, Bonnie Satterthwaite, from Espoma, announced that Greens Farms Garden Club of Connecticut was the first winner of the "Best of the Best" \$500 cash award from Espoma. They were selected from the 2022-23 Espoma Grant winning clubs for submitting the best final report and photos from their *Growing for Good* project and program that continues to provide fresh, organic food for those in their community who live in a fresh food desert.

Beginning October 1, 2024, NGC Member Clubs may submit new Espoma Grant Applications for club projects in 2024-25. All applying clubs MUST be NGC member clubs. Espoma accepts applications through May 31, 2025. They look forward to receiving your applications for community gardening projects.

Contact [Debi Harrington](#) with questions or for help with the application process. Debi, of New Mexico, is the NGC Sponsors' Grants Chair.



**ORGANIC**  
A natural in the garden since 1929.



ESPOMA ORGANIC AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS  
WANT TO HELP YOUR CLUB

# Plant America!



Your local garden projects and programs provide inspiring opportunities that bring neighbors, cultures and generations together to share the experience and joy of gardening. As recognition of the valuable resource that your club contributes to your community, up to 20 local garden clubs across America will be awarded grants. Recipients will earn up to \$250 of Espoma Organic Plant Foods & Potting Soils. So be inspired America! Join our effort to Plant America Together. Register your garden club today! Sign up at: [www.espoma.com/garden-clubs](http://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs).



Visit us at [www.espoma.com](http://www.espoma.com) and join our gardening community.





## 100 Words from the Regions

*New England Fall Color • Sue Miner*

The NGC Regions span the country from north to south and east to west. They encompass a vast diversity of people, climates, and traditions. Region Directors serve as members of the NGC Executive Committee. They took time from their busy schedules to provide a peek into their part of the country. TNG invited each director to share *100 Words*.

**Central Atlantic Region Director Monica Hansen** states, "I honestly cannot say enough how proud I am to be part of our Central Atlantic Region. As a Region, we are here to work with all our members, share knowledge, and serve as a resource to enhance and grow our membership. And that is what I see and experience when members invite me to meetings and events in our seven states. To see such happy and forward-thinking members collaborating hard with each other and their communities is so exciting and makes our region a wonderful place to live, grow, and garden. Thank you!"

**Central Region Director Lynne Ehnert** mentions, "We look forward to our 2024 Central Region Convention, October 17-19, in O'Fallon, IL, celebrating the Illinois Autumn Harvest. This community preserved its small-town charm in its downtown business district, which we will experience on our visit to the Vine Street Market with its food trucks, live music, and vendors. We look forward to touring the Community Garden, where 5,000 lbs of produce are grown for the local food pantry. The program's featured speakers include Dr. Elizabeth Wahle (Invasive Plants), Mary Vanderford (Heartland Conservatory), and Carrie Bergs (American Rose Society)."

**Deep South Region Director Debby Cooper** explains, "Learning more about our member states and their endeavors has been a pleasure. Please visit the state federation websites to learn more about their outstanding projects. [Alabama](#): "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" started in 1951 to show support to those serving in the Armed Forces. [Florida](#): The Wekiva Youth Camp is an environmental education program that began in 1959. [Georgia](#): The "Community on My Mind" program was established with funds from the Georgia Power Foundation. [Louisiana](#): In 1958, LGCF started the "Cleanest City Contest." LGCF is the only member of the NGC, Inc. to sponsor such a contest. [Mississippi](#): In conjunction with Mississippi State University, the Edward C. Martin Landscape Symposium is hosted annually. [Tennessee](#): The Ivan Racheff House Gardens and Arboretum is a national historical landmark in the Knoxville area."

*(Continued on page 37)*



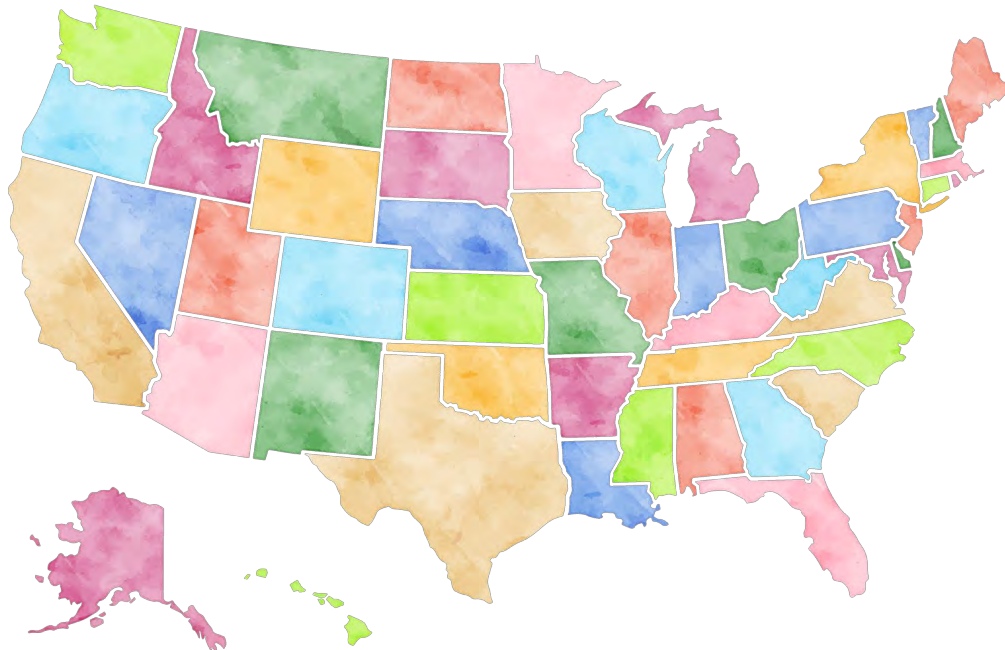
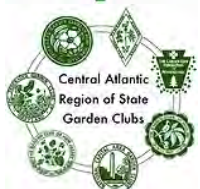
**New England Region Director Susan Miner** observes, "This summer, the hydrangeas in New England put on an amazing display that has been unseen for many years. Large flower heads of colorful flowers bloomed across the region. This spectacular season was attributed to the last few years of failed blooms, leaving plants with a surplus of energy. Last summer's wet weather primed plants, and a mild winter preserved every dormant bud. We are now enjoying the fall colors cascading across New England. Due to the same factors that created the hydrangea extravaganza, we expect a great year for foliage. Come and enjoy this traditional autumn display in New England."

**Pacific Region Director Carol Norquest** shares, "The Pacific Region Garden Clubs just had our 2024 convention in Alaska. We had speakers on biodiversity and bringing nature home (the director's theme). NGC President Brenda Moore was one of the speakers. One-third of the attendees had never been to a regional convention before, and everyone had a lot of fun. They enjoyed a post-convention tour to the Alaska State Fair to see the giant vegetables. We hope these new attendees will attend next year's Arizona convention. The Pacific Region has a new fundraiser selling a "I Love My Garden Club" pin. Order one today on the [Pacific Region](#) website."

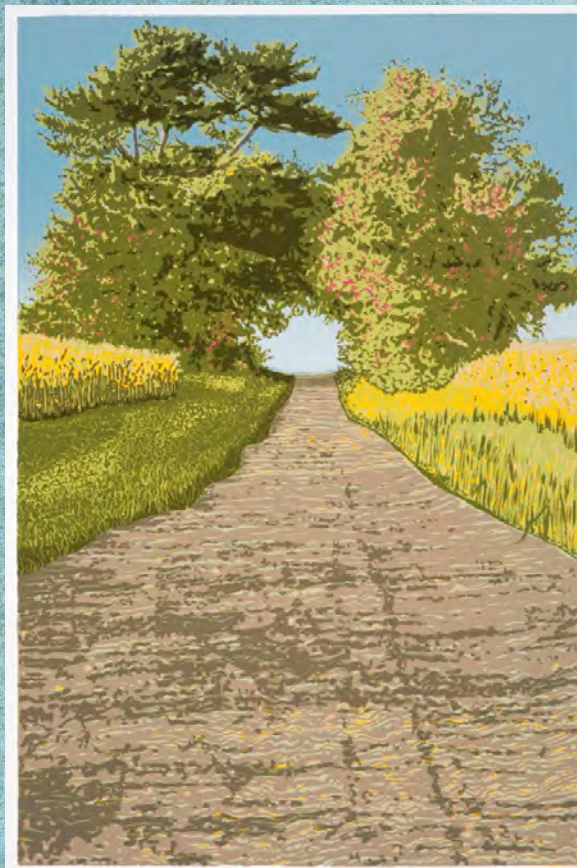
**Rocky Mountain Region Director Robbie Kupper** reminds us that "Growing and Using Herbs in the Rocky Mountain Region" is her theme. The definition of an "herb" is a valuable plant, with the leafy part used in smaller quantities than vegetables. Let us look at the culinary herbs in the garden. All are easy to grow. Some are short-lived perennials, and others survive many winters in our region.

**South Atlantic Region Director Carcille Burchette** comments, "I will always remember the warm, inviting hospitality extended to me as SAR Director. From my first SAR Convention as director in Greenville, SC, enjoying a lovely tea the evening before and speaking at the state conventions in WV, SC, and VA, I have enjoyed making new friends, seeing 'old' ones, and being treated so graciously. I helped co-chair our KY convention, taking place at the same time as NC. Each was similar in many ways and different in others - all special events! I look forward to the SAR Convention in NC with preparations for a great convention!"

**South Central Region Director Sarah McReynolds** tells us, "In Arkansas, they host a Flower Show every month. In April, their state convention ends with a tour of the home of P. Allen Smith. In Texas, they have worked on creating a rental venue for their Headquarters and thank their office manager, trustees, committees, merry maids, landscapers, and all members. In Oklahoma, they installed a Blue Star Marker in Stroud, with a Gold Star Marker to follow. Oklahoma held several educational Zoom schools and a symposium. The New Mexico Garden Clubs host four full flower shows during their State Fair. They dedicated their third Gold Star Marker, with two more coming, and will celebrate their 75th Birthday in April 2025."



USA • Biscuit



### *Taken Up*

*You are not in any of the pictures,  
but you are almost there  
in every one  
and I can find you.  
My eyes always go right to you,  
to where it is as if you'd just slipped out.*

### *Elevada*

*No estás en ninguna de las fotos,  
pero casi estas allí  
en cada una  
y te puedo encontrar.  
Mis ojos siempre van directamente a tí,  
hasta donde estas como si acabaras de escabullirte.*

## Eternalize this moment Eternizar este momento Pampa Risso Patrón

John and Mike are great friends with whom I share a love of art. They have a lovely collection, and I enjoy my first visit to their home every time I return to Singer Island. The reason is that I get to discover what is new on their walls. This summer, I was surprised by a stunning diptych. A beautifully framed print and a lovely framed poem next to it. **Taken** is the delicate work of a couple called Deborah and Joel Cooper. The Coopers met in Minneapolis, married, and moved to a farm in Oulu, Wisconsin. They later lived and worked in Duluth, Minnesota, and ran away regularly to their cottage on Lake Superior in Cornucopia, WI.

They worked together delightfully. It took Joel about 100 hours to create a print. Once completed, he would place it on an easel in the middle of everything, hoping that Deborah would find that little thread to inspire the poem that might express the feelings that print brought out in her, much like a fairy tale. Sadly, Joel passed away in 2021. Deborah donated 85 of their "art children" to the Malden Museum in Massachusetts. September 28 through November 22, The Malden Museum and Public Library will be showing an exhibition of 30 of these works created by the Coopers over the past 40 years.

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Deborah and Joel had three children and four grandchildren. Deborah continues to write. Her daughter Amy manages their website. Pampa is TNG's international editor and a member of the Olivos Garden Club in Argentina and the Gardens of the World Virtual Garden Club in the US. She lives between Hurlingham, a suburb of Buenos Aires, and Singer Island, Florida. **Click to see the [a Window into Deborah and Joel's Work](#).**

Background • Littlelie

John y Mike son buenos amigos con quienes comparto el amor por las artes. Tienen una colección encantadora y disfruto mucho de mi primera visita a su casa cada vez que vuelvo a Singer Island. La razón es, que me toca descubrir las obras nuevas que tienen sobre sus paredes. Este verano me llamó la atención un hermoso díptico. Un grabado bellamente enmarcado y un cautivador poema enmarcado a su lado.

**Elevada** es el delicado trabajo que proviene de una pareja llamada Deborah y Joel Cooper. Los Cooper se conocieron en Minneapolis, se casaron y se mudaron a una granja en Oulu, Wisconsin. Más tarde vivieron y trabajaron en Duluth, Minnesota, y se escapaban seguido a su cabaña sobre el lago Superior en Cornucopia, Wisconsin.

Trabajaron juntos de una manera muy especial. Joel dedicaba unas 100 horas para crear un grabado. Una vez terminada su obra, la colocaba en un caballete en medio de todo con la esperanza de que Deborah encontrara ese finísimo hilo que la inspire a crear el poema que expresara los sentimientos que esa ilustración provocaba en ella. Muy parecido a un cuento de hadas. Lamentablemente, Joel falleció en 2021. Este año, Deborah donó 85 de esas obras al Museo Malden en Massachusetts. Del 28 de septiembre al 22 de noviembre, el Museo y Biblioteca Pública de Malden presentará una exposición de 30 obras creadas por los Cooper durante los últimos 40 años.

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Deborah y Joel tuvieron tres hijos y cuatro nietos. Deborah sigue escribiendo. Su hija Amy administra su sitio web. Pampa es editora internacional de TNG y socia del Garden Club Olivos de Argentina y del Club Virtual Jardines del Mundo de USA. Vive entre Hurlingham, un suburbio de Buenos Aires y Singer Island, Florida. **Haga clic para ver Una puerta mágica a [las obras de Deborah y Joel](#).**



## SCHOOLS' PORTAL

Over the last several months, NGC staff reviewed the record-keeping procedures for the NGC Schools to streamline this process. The finance committee approved exploring opportunities to create a new digital platform for schools' records. This potential new development will extend database access to schools' chairs to update records. It will also allow students to access and review their own records. This project aims to simplify the process of recording courses taken and make student records readily available to view.

Staff sought project proposals from three companies. The initial phase of the new schools' database and portal is the first step to refreshing the recording process and accessibility of school records. However, the ongoing objective will be to deliver a platform that, over time, can be extended to service a broader range of administrative and online learning needs. We look forward to updating you on the project's progress and rolling it out in the coming months.



## KEEP INFORMED

Be the first to know about all NGC News and Events, plus get *The National Gardener* delivered to your inbox. You can also enroll all the members of your club (with their permission) by sending an Excel spreadsheet with their first and last names and email addresses. [Subscribe here.](#)



## [GARDENCLUB.ORG](#)

The NGC website contains a plethora of information for garden club members and others. Use the tabs on the homepage to find the topic of your choice, or use the handy search feature to explore many options. If you get lost, just click on the NGC logo, on the top left of every page, to return directly to the homepage.



## PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

State Presidents, please remember to record the history of your term using the State President & History Form on the [State President's](#) webpage. Our NGC 100th Anniversary is approaching and we want to include YOU!



## [PLANT A TREE](#)

It is official - Penny Pines is now Plant a Tree! Your donations continue to replant our national parks and forests. The minimum donation is now \$50 including a processing fee. You no longer need to make donations in any special increments. Thanks for supporting this project.



## AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Consider nominating someone special or your project for an NGC Award of Excellence. See the [Awards](#) page for more info under "Service and Recognition Awards #1,2, and 3."



## President Brenda's Travels

- ❖ October 17: Central Region, O'Fallon, IL
- ❖ October 23: New England Region, Warwick, RI
- ❖ March 9: South Atlantic Region, Cary, NY
- ❖ March 24: Maryland Garden Clubs, Ellicott City, MD
- ❖ March 28: West Virginia Garden Clubs, Flatwoods, WV
- ❖ April 7: Louisiana Garden Clubs, Alexandria, LA
- ❖ April 8: Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Grenada, MS
- ❖ April 23: Garden Clubs of Missouri, Springfield, MO
- ❖ April 27: Arizona Garden Clubs, Tempe, AZ
- ❖ April 28: Pacific Region, Tempe, AZ
- ❖ April 30: Garden Clubs of Kentucky, Paducah, KY

From President Brenda, "I appreciate all of the beautiful gifts given to me during my visits to states and regions. I really do not expect gifts during my visits. If you feel you need to show your appreciation, I prefer a donation either to the Path of Success or the Plant AMERICA Community Grant Fund to be made in my name in lieu of gifts. Thanks for understanding."

**Looking for Events?** Search the [NGC Calendar](#) for upcoming in-person and virtual events near you or across the globe.

## Coming Soon, In-Person & Online

- ❖ October 2024 - March 2025: [Environmental School](#)\*
- ❖ October 2024 - March 2025: [Flower Show School](#)\*
- ❖ October 2024 - February 2025: [Gardening School](#)\*
- ❖ October 2024 - Aug. 2025: [Landscape Design School](#)\*
- ❖ March 2025: [Multiple Refreshers](#)
- ❖ October 2024 - October 2025: [Symposiums](#)\*
- ❖ [International Events](#)\*

\*Clicking on the above links takes you directly to the most up-to-date course listings and details on the website. Looking for a specific course? **Click on Course 1, 2, 3 or 4 or the month on the course listing chart.**

[Subscribe to TNG](#) to assure email notification of future NGC events including webinars.

**NOTE:** Throughout *TNG* [click on ads](#) to go directly to our advertisers' webpages and [click on blue, underlined links](#) to get more information, contact a committee chair or author.



Keep track of your appointments, events, and more while gaining inspiration for your next flower show or landscape design project. The 2025 Vision of Beauty calendar is on sale and still only \$10! Visit our [NGC Store](#), to order a gift for you or a friend.





Decisions, Decisions • Nikolay Ponomarenko

*Change is not a threat to your life, but an invitation to live.* Adrienne Rich

## Sitting on the Porch

Gerianne Holzman, Editor

During every minute of our waking hours, we make decisions. These can be as simple as, “Should I refill my coffee?” or “What should I wear today?” to more complicated decisions, “Should I have this surgery?” Uncertainty is a fact of life. Several studies report the average adult makes 35,000 decisions every single day! There are only 86,400 seconds in an entire day of 24 hours, then we take out six hours of sleep, and we make a decision every other second that we are awake. Whew! No wonder our brains get tired. If you are like me, you are making multiple plans on different subjects simultaneously as you multi-task.

So, how does this affect us in the garden club and as leaders? We employ a variety of ways to decide on a course of action. The first is impulsiveness – we pass by the ice cream shop on the way to a club meeting and stop to buy treats for all attendees. Impulsive decisions are quick and done but may not help for long-term projects. Compliant decision-makers go along with whatever is popular. These folks may agree to donate money to a cause at a club meeting, even though they prefer something else. Unfortunately, they do not dare to speak up. Delegators see a situation, know who will best complete the project, and assign the task. Think of your flower shows; the chair knows who is best to classify horticulture, give design advice, or provide the judges’ lunch. These leaders delegate and then step out of the way. Avoiding a decision is actually deciding. Perhaps there is a deadline to apply for an award or a job. If one lets the deadline pass while determining whether to apply, the decision has already been made.

Balancing and prioritizing decisions go hand in hand. When weighing the pros and cons, the decision-maker can see both sides of a situation and their ramifications. Prioritizing is addressing what is the most important thing to decide right now. It means “Putting out the fire that is burning the fastest.” The garden club may need to make an essential decision about replacing a long-term leader or someone who needs to resign. The position needs filling, yet this decision requires deliberation and balance. It is not the time to trust one’s impulses.

We go through life making decisions that affect ourselves, loved ones, acquaintances, strangers, organizations, and even the world. Try not to get bogged down in the little things, avoid unnecessary drama, and save your brain power for the big stuff. Take some time to sit on the porch and just watch the world go by, let your mind relax for just a minute.

*Gerianne*

*We appreciate all of the amazing stories, articles and images in this issue of The National Gardener. Send comments and suggestions for future issues to [Gerianne Holzman](#), editor. We encourage all NGC members to submit articles.*



ALL FOUR Children's Books for \$20<sup>+S&H</sup>

Click to visit the [NGC Store](#).



Blue Star Ornament - \$10<sup>+S&H</sup>



Club President Pin - \$25<sup>+S&H</sup>



PLANT AMERICA Flag - \$25<sup>+S&H</sup>