

KEEPING IN TOUCH



**National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110 314-776-7574 gardenclub.org**

President's Postcard

GAY AUSTIN

As I look back at the accomplishments of 2019, I once again am in awe of the dedication and service of our garden club members. Throughout America, we have promoted NGC's mission by engaging and educating our members through conferences, workshops and public projects. Not only our individual communities have benefited from our efforts, but also so has our world. Thank you for your service to NGC.

2020 – Yes, it has arrived! This simple four-digit number is interpreted in different ways. For some, it is just another “even numbered year,” for others it suggests perfect eyesight, but in the eyes of NGC members, we think of **“Perfect Vision 2020”**, the theme and emphasis for the 2020 NGC Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

This upcoming year has a tremendous amount of activities and learning experiences to educate and energize us, not only as individual garden club members, but also as leaders in our communities. Take the opportunity to search for activities on our website. Exciting news to share is that soon, NGC will launch our new website! We anticipate its design to provide a user-friendly digital environment for all to enjoy.

Make sure to read and share this issue of *Keeping in Touch*. It is full of valuable information to prepare you for opportunities to grow! As your NGC President, I am ready for the adventures and accomplishments to begin! I am excited about experiencing garden club activities and look forward to seeing many of you in the future months. I wish you all the best in 2020 and for years to come.



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New Website

PHYLLIS WHITE

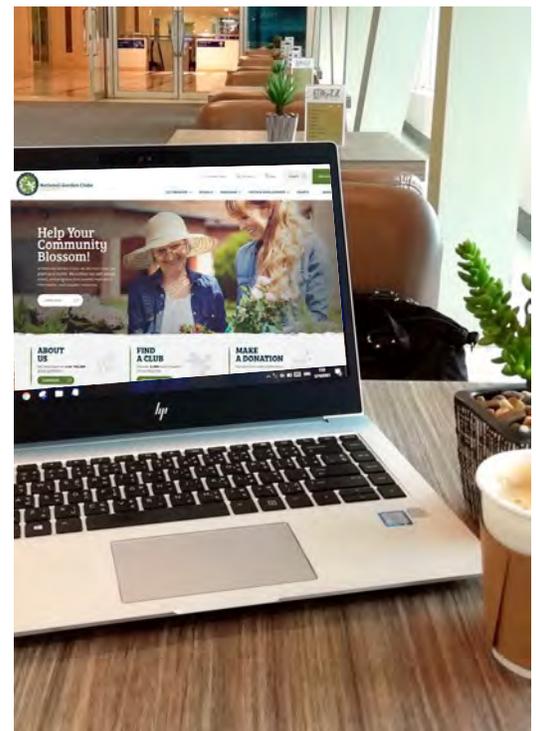
At the last NGC convention, President Gay Austin created a website development committee tasked to work with Blue Fountain Media, the company developing the new NGC website.

The web development process includes web design, web content development, client-side/server-side scripting, and network security configuration, among other tasks. The committee members and NGC officers have learned a great deal about the digital world, and we've gained insights to use for membership building. This site will entice the public to read about our community and to join a local club. At the same time, our members will have easy access to all the organization's information and club support.

Our target date for the new site is late February, although we'll be adding and updating material throughout 2020. Website chair Poss Tarpley will continue to gather information to be posted on the site, which will be managed by NGC Headquarters staff and website committee members. Everything will be formatted for any device you use to access the Internet.

You will notice bright images, a map with contact information for all our clubs, a new secure digital shopping experience and easy access to awards, grants and school information along with calendars. We'll also start a blog - articles, discussion or news written by our members in informal diary-style text entries (posts) where anyone can comment and share their experiences, too. We'll provide up-to-date information on Plant America grants and projects, such as Plant America with Trees with the motto Each ONE – Plant ONE (native tree). There will be a robust youth area to help you find information about NGC programs and resources, contests, awards, and college scholarships.

Plan on pouring a favorite beverage, curling up with your computer, tablet or smartphone and opening gardenclub.org to surf the wondrous, NGC world-wide website.





The National Gardener

PATRICIA BINDER

Stories have the power to connect us. The stories and news featured in *The National Gardener* (TNG), the venerable flagship magazine of National Garden Clubs Inc., offer a vital link to the nearly 165,000 national members, as well as international affiliates.

The National Gardener is all-inclusive. It is about you. It is your voice. Published quarterly, the journal-format magazine reflects the common interests and goals of NGC members and features content that provides inspiration, information and access to valuable resources. First established in 1930 as *The Bulletin*, TNG has changed from a black/white format to single color covers to the full four-color publication throughout that you see today.

In fall 2016, TNG launched a fresh, new look. The all-color format, uniform content and streamlined design showcase the far-reaching impact and diversity of NGC programs. A conduit for ideas and inspiration, *The National Gardener* regularly features articles on horticulture, floral design, landscape design and flower shows. It also offers insights into community projects spearheaded by NGC members to improve their neighborhoods, communities and the environment.

Members of National Garden Clubs Inc., have a deep, personal connection to gardening and the world around us, and know firsthand the many benefits of belonging to a garden club. *The National Gardener* cultivates this connected community with the sharing of tips, ideas and hands-on projects in articles contributed by members who share a wealth of knowledge and information on all things gardening.

Please share your club's story by submitting a brief description of how a unique project fostered success. High-resolution photos of the project are welcome. I look forward to connecting with you and hearing your stories.

The National Gardener cover page 1930's - 1960's



The National Gardener 2020

Keeping In Touch

SHIRLEY NICOLAI

From President Shirley Nicolai, published in the first issue of *Keeping in Touch*, 2011: *In addition to filling a gap between issues of The National Gardener (TNG), Keeping in Touch (KIT) was created to educate our grass roots members about the bigger picture they are part of because of their membership in a local NGC club. We actually do have members who don't realize that they are also members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. This publication is sent to every club president and can be found on our website, gardenclub.org. Club presidents are urged to email KIT to all club members.*

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION Aug-Sept-Oct 2011

GREETINGS from Shirley Nicolai, NGC President
2011-2013 Theme - NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities

During my travels: from coast to coast and places in between great pleasure and pride has come from meeting with local members of our garden clubs. These dedicated people happily work serving others and accomplish impressive feats while enjoying those special, caring bonds that make our organization so special.

In addition to filling a gap between issues of *The National Gardener* (TNG), *Keeping in Touch* (KIT)

ball to help determine who's in office in almost 6,000 clubs. Please make sure that your state promptly submits its roster of club presidents when asked.

if you attended the DC Convention or have visited our website recently, you are aware of a professionally designed video created to help recruit new members.

should offer something for every club, regardless of size. Community vegetable gardens qualify under *Gardens with Edibles*. "Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems" could even lie in if trees and/or shrubs were planted in a buffer zone. The ten Blue Star Markers ordered during June offer more possibilities.

As your 42nd National President, I am honored to serve you and welcome your suggestions for making garden club more enjoyable and productive. An initiative is already underway to streamline award applications and forms.



Social Media

SUSAN O'DONNELL

NGC continues in the Social Media frontier offering an ever-growing Facebook presence that has expanded to nearly 15,000 followers.

Should your local club have a Facebook Page? Absolutely! Your club benefits with free public exposure to your meetings and events that your individual members can then share on their own Facebook page. This leads to followers in other clubs around the country and the world. You follow us, we follow you and we all learn from each other. Your members will gain knowledge in all NGC programs and be inspired. Has your club won a Plant America Grant or one of your students received a state, regional or national scholarship? Tell the story, we all love reading it. NGC Facebook shares your story, tells the world and we all grow!

Keys to success in Facebook postings

- ☺ Use lots of photos.
- ☺ Keep the subject focused and the words few.
- ☺ Engage the readers with a question that encourages comments.
- ☺ Diversify relevant topics.
- ☺ Have permission slips signed for youth photos.
- ☺ Post only once a day.

Key pitfalls to avoid

- ☹ Do not use copyrighted materials without permission.
- ☹ Refrain from political and religious topics – save these for your personal page, if so inclined.
- ☹ Review and delete inappropriate comments.

Here is a link to get you started with setting up a Facebook page:

<https://socialgood.fb.com/learning-support/getting-started/create-a-page-for-your-nonprofit/>

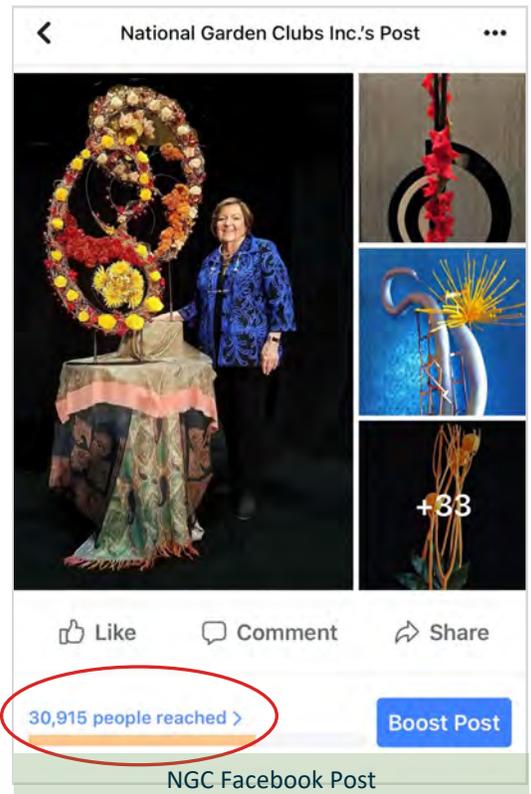
NGC has Instagram, Pinterest and, soon, instructional videos on YouTube, available when the new NGC website goes live. Grow with us!

www.facebook.com/NGCSOCIALMEDIA/

www.pinterest.com/natl gardenclubs/

www.instagram.com/nationalgarden/?hl=en

www.youtube.com/user/NationalGardenClub?feature=watch



National Garden Clubs' horticulture committee coordinator Bud Qualk is on YouTube!

Check out this video on February gardening tips from his home in Kentucky:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqQek_VH-S0

Search YouTube for more great tips from Bud.



ecology

WARRIORS

An Educational Publication of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Print Committee

GERRY ST. PETERS

The responsibility of the NGC Communications Print Committee is to review all material prior to publication to ensure they meet NGC's standards of high quality. The committee assists the editors of *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch* in proofing each issue. Additionally, NGC committee chairmen are to submit to the committee any materials they are preparing for publication, whether new or updated. Punctuation, capitalization, spelling, etc. are checked for accuracy and consistency throughout. We strive to maintain excellence in NGC's printed materials.

Website

POSS TARPLEY

The [Ecology Warriors Workbook](#) is a free downloadable publication on the NGC website. I recently received the following email from Australia. This shows the broad scope and outreach of our National Garden Clubs, Inc.

*Dear Poss,
I wanted to let you know that the [Garden Clubs of Australia](#) has now distributed the Ecology Warriors package to 9,500 school and 720 Garden Clubs across Australia. We have timed the distribution to coincide with National Gardening Week in Australia which is focusing on children's participation in gardening.*

I am attaching a copy of one of many unsolicited responses from a teacher in Western Australia to the package, which I am sure comes as no surprise to you. I am also attaching the letter of approval from the Minister for Education in my home state which I thought was an excellent recommendation.

*With many thanks and hopes that we can again collaborate across the Pacific.
John Kitt*

This is just another reason why garden clubs matter and what we can do to help change the world for future generations.

Deputy Premier
Minister for Education and Training
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Sport and Recreation

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Tasmanian Government

22 AUG 2019

Mr George Hoad
President
The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc.
president@gardenclubs.org.au

Dear Mr Hoad

Thank you for your letter regarding the resource 'Ecology Warriors' and your additional promotion of gardening with young Tasmanians through your planned focus on children during National Gardening Week in October. Our Government and the Department of Education Tasmania, recognise the value of gardening in promoting the development of understanding in areas such as science and geography as well as the role it can play in the social, physical and mental wellbeing of our young people.

Having examined 'Ecology Warriors', I commend The Garden Clubs of Australia for providing such a comprehensive resource which can be linked to the *Australian Curriculum* by Tasmanian teachers. In particular, the focus on scientific concepts related to air, atmosphere, energy and water as well as the protection of ecosystems aligns closely to the *Australian Curriculum: Science*. The sections on land conservation, invasive plants, forests and recycling support teaching and learning in *Geography* within the *Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences*. The resource also addresses the important cross-curriculum priority of Sustainability.

In Tasmania, schools are supported to implement the *Australian Curriculum* in ways that best suit their local needs and contexts. As such, they make decisions on the learning resources they use and the Department of Education is not in a position to endorse or promote specific resources. I would encourage you to make schools aware of 'Ecology Warriors' and National Gardening Week via the InfoStream publication which is circulated to all Tasmanian schools. Details for submitting to InfoStream can be found at <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/community-and-engagement/infostream/>

Once again, thank you for your letter.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education and Training

PLANT AMERICA

CINDY MARTIN

The OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA of Indianapolis is the first YMCA focusing on veterans. In 2017, at the beginning of the YMCA’s building project, Sages Garden Club president approached the YMCA Executive Director about the possibility of their club donating a beautiful pollinator garden near the front entrance. The garden objective and location are for the enjoyment of members, visitors and veterans, while benefiting the environment. Positioning the garden near the front entrance was strategic for visitors approaching the building. They also pass the garden on their way to view the “Salute Statue” where veterans’ names are etched in memory. This is a place of peace and beauty for veterans and their families.

After receiving approval to plant the garden, Sages submitted two grant applications for funding. Approval was given for the 2017-2019 TGCI Pollinator Garden grant (\$250) and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Plant America grant (\$1,000). The club also held several fundraisers to help with any additional, unforeseen expenses. After the OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA opened on December 3, 2018, Sages officers met with leaders from the YMCA to discuss their next steps to complete the Pollinator Garden in 2019.

The 900 square foot space was initially heavy, clay soil. In April, the garden was tilled and the larger rocks were removed (at the YMCA’s expense) before compost was added—wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow—by Sages members and YMCA staff. In mid-May, Sages members planted nearly 90 native, perennial plants. Mulch was added and a weekly watering schedule was set up for Sages members to maintain and care for the garden. Spring-flowering bulbs (daffodils and tulips) were planted in November and the garden was cleaned up and prepared for winter. This garden is an ongoing project for Sages with additional plants and bulbs to be added in 2020.

The mission of Sages Garden Club is to promote an interest in gardening and design, promote landscape improvements in the home and community and provide therapy through gardening. This project is an example of how an idea can become a reality to bring beauty to the landscape and create a welcoming space to greet visitors to the new OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA. It also enhances the property for our community, helps improve our environment, and provides a food source and habitat for many pollinators.

Sages GC Pollinator Garden





PLANT AMERICA

BARBARA HADSELL

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District X, is off to an early start with the NGC project Plant America with Trees: Each One (member) Plant One (native tree).

FFGC District X heartily endorses the Plant America with Trees statement that *planting 165,000 trees in one year, and the example this sets in our communities, can be empowering. Even planting a single tree in a small garden provides an opportunity to talk with neighbors about choosing a tree, planting a tree and nurturing that tree. However large or small your tree-planting project may be, it is important to look for ways to incorporate community education into your plans.*

Native tree plantings in the District will begin with a dedication on the Florida Arbor Day weekend of Jan. 17-18, 2020 with at least two community partnering events: City of Greenacres Parks, Oleander GC of the Palm Beaches, Greenacres Jr. GC creating a teaching garden of native trees. Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Dept., District X G.C. members, Boy Scouts of America and other community volunteers are planting native tree saplings in a special nursery in John Prince Park in Lake Worth.



L-R: Florida District X Leaders: Reina Snyder-Vice Chair PAT, Barbara Hadsell-Chair PAT, Carol Coleman-District Director and Diane Rice-District Environmental Chair



Out and About

INFORMATION FROM AROUND NGC, INC.

FRANCES HUNLEY: 65 YEARS IN GARDEN CLUB

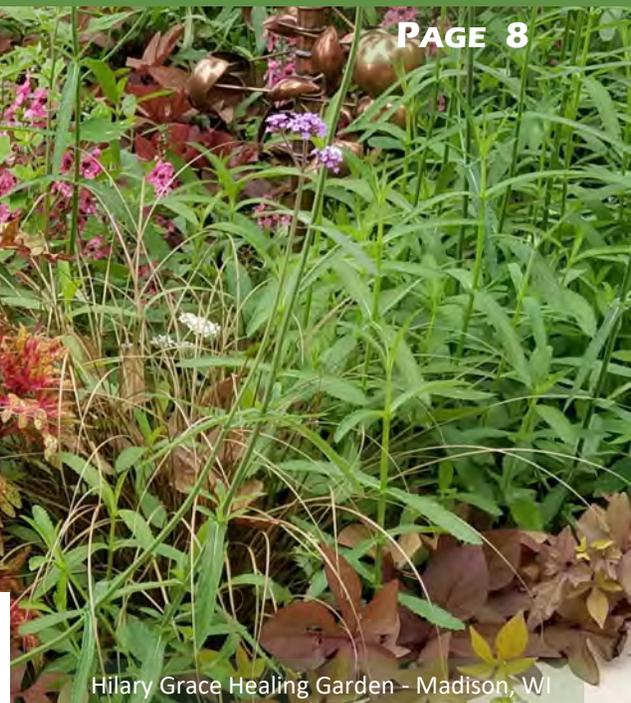
DIANE FRITZ

Can you imagine serving and being connected to an organization for 65 years! During our recent club meeting, we celebrated Frances Hunley's 65 years of service. Frances is a driving force in the Monroe Garden Club (MGC) of North Carolina and just turned 96. A surprise reception was planned and attended by family and friends from across the state. Frances was presented with a Certificate of Service from the North Carolina State Garden Club. A photo memory board was made by Sharon Eichler, Vice President and historian, with help from Barbara Dunn. Sharon reviewed many of Frances' accomplishments and contributions she made over years.

Let me introduce this very special woman to you and perhaps you may be lucky enough to cross her path. Currently she is our parliamentarian and on the program and awards committee. She gives bird and environment reports plus works on the state calendar and judges Horticulture Exhibits. Frances was president of our club (1984-1986), won an award for planting 572 plants in 2015 (yes at age 92) and has been on the State and District Boards. In 1982, Jerry Moncrief was NC Garden Club State President, and Frances accompanied her around the state visiting garden clubs. This led to the birth of MGC Moncrief Award. Frances donates a subscription to *The National Gardener* each year to the winner of the Gordon Award. If you were to ask Frances her greatest accomplishment, she would say working on the State Scholarship Committee for 11 years and especially handing them out. This only touches a few of the wonderful things that Frances has done over the past 65 years. Frances' knowledge of birds and plants is beyond us all. I heard one person say, "When I grow up I want to be just like Frances." I think we can all agree to that!

HILARY GRACE HEALING GARDEN MADISON DISTRICT GC'S - WISCONSIN

Started as a Wisconsin Garden Club Federation's president project, members of the Madison District continue to enhance the Hilary Grace Healing Garden at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics with bright colored containers of annual plants through the growing season. A place of contemplation and healing, the garden is visited by caregivers and patients. While closed for the winter, someone walked through the garden to create a whimsical valentine's heart, in the snow, to share with patients whose rooms overlook the garden.



Hilary Grace Healing Garden - Madison, WI



Thank You Frances Hunley!



"Snow Heart" Hilary Grace Healing Garden



Out and About

INFORMATION FROM AROUND NGC, INC.

HAPPY 90 YEARS

RONNA PRECURE

The Garden Club of Rogers, Arkansas celebrated its 90th birthday at its November meeting with guests, a club history program, table arrangements and members' clothing depicting different decades in its history! Miss Vera Key, born 1893 and a mover and shaker in Rogers, formed the Garden Club of Rogers on November 4, 1929 with 10 charter members. These women would share a love of gardening and a common goal: to make Rogers the most beautiful city in Arkansas. It is an aim that club members still strive for today. The club was involved in the founding of the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs and is the second oldest federated club in the state.

The depression economy of the 1930's made the club's mission of civic beautification difficult but with determination and resourcefulness, they persevered. The years 1930-31 were very busy years for this fledgling club; they held their first flower show, established their first yard contest with 19 entries, designated the Petunia as the city flower, raised funds for the planting and upkeep for Campus Park, established a Christmas Tour of Homes that would last for many years and established a one mile walking trail. They identified and tagged the most interesting plants along this trail with common and botanical names, which had 300 visitors the first year.

This busy civic schedule planted "seeds" for our work through the years. Hold on to your hat for a much-abbreviated list of our community involvement:

- ⚙ Teaching artistic design and holding flower shows intermittently.
- ⚙ Sharing the love of nature and gardening with residents at nursing homes, at-risk children and handicapped children.
- ⚙ Sending seeds, fertilizer and garden tools to Europe after WWII to help rebuilding efforts.
- ⚙ Planting a forest of trees at city parks and cemeteries and leading citywide tree planting campaigns.
- ⚙ Educating people on litter and recycling while leading by example.
- ⚙ Introducing a conservation curriculum to the Rogers' schools, supported by the donation of 110 environmental guidebooks
- ⚙ Working toward legislative action for the environment by protesting the damming of the Buffalo River and educating the community about preservation efforts, ultimately leading to its becoming the first National Scenic River in America.

A long-time member notes a few things that have clearly marked the passing of time during her membership years: "I remember wearing a dress, nylons and low heels to plant trees at the park." As recently as the 1970's the meetings began with members standing and reciting a Club Collect. In 1995, there was still a member whom would not think of attending the meeting without her hat, matching gloves and purse. Around 2000, it was decided to eliminate a full silver service with linen cloths on all the tables for functions and special events. In 2009, we enrolled our first male member. We've come a long way, baby! We are proud of our many community accomplishments through our 90 years. We have made a difference!

L-R: Carol McCutcheon, Judy Simpson, Alice Mote, Ronna Precure, Marcia Kroupa, Judy Long



Flapper Neoyla "Lee" Corral

Out and About

INFORMATION FROM AROUND NGC, INC.

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS

KIM HALYAK

The Cooper-Young Garden Club in Memphis, TN just celebrated our Fifth anniversary. In this short time, the 25-member club has initiated numerous beautification projects in their historic neighborhood. Monthly, the club awards "Yard + Business of the Month" signs. Because we wanted to recognize more homeowners, we added "Beauty Grows Here" signs.

Our 117 labeled trees in front yards, earned our club a TN Level-3 arboretum certification. Recently we earned Level 1 International certification at ArbNet.org. We weed and mulch our business district ginkgo trees, decorate the gazebo for the holidays, publish a blog, refresh gateway planters and participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Our most impactful beautification project is the annual Cooper-Young Garden Walk, held the 3rd weekend in May. We began with 23 gardens and grew to 77 gardens. Our self-guided tour highlights imaginative, eclectic urban gardens, educational booths and speakers, demo gardens, art vendors and artist studios, a guided bike tour and a shuttle. This year's theme, "Beauty, Health and Sustainability" focuses on the value of gardening to improve all aspects of our lives. Visitors will see chickens, bees, composting, edibles, water features, an outdoor theatre, she + he sheds, and stylish designs. For more information, go to cooperyounggardenwalk.org. The monies raised help fund beautification projects throughout the neighborhood.

A TEXAS TRIBUTE TO DAFFODILS

MARY ANN MORELAND

The Dallas Council of Garden Clubs and Texas Daffodil Society are joining to celebrate "A Texas Tribute to Daffodils" in March 2020. Dallas Council of Garden Clubs will sponsor a NGC Standard Flower Show at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, 8525 Garland Rd, Dallas, TX, on March 13-14, 2020, which corresponds with Dallas Blooms at the Arboretum. Their Design and Botanical Arts Design Divisions will use some daffodils, and there will be a display of daffodils from Northern Ireland for viewing. The Texas Daffodil Society will host the American Daffodil National Convention in Dallas on March 12-15, 2020 on March 13 - 14. Anyone who grows daffodils is encouraged to enter the ADS show. Attendees from the USA, England, Ireland and Australia will be visiting the Dallas Council Show as part of their tour of the Arboretum. Contact [Karen Murrell](#) or [Carol Coughran](#) for information regarding the Dallas Council of Garden Clubs' Standard Flower Show and [Mary Ann Moreland](#) for the ADS Show. Both events are posted at texasdaffodilsociety.org.



Meeting Toolbox

JOAN H. CORBISIERO

In addition to the "Ten Tips for a Great Meeting" featured in the last issue of *Keeping In Touch*, keep the following in mind.

Do not forget the "tool box." It should contain:

1. The gavel
2. Agenda
3. Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Club's bylaws
5. Standing rules with current policies and procedures
6. Copy of the current parliamentary authority, such as Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th edition (By the way, there is a 12th edition planned for release next summer.)

BE A LEADER
NOT A BOSS.

Swans over Lake Mendota, WI

Perfect Vision 2020

KITTY LARKIN

Everyone: Do you want to celebrate the 2020's in Roaring 20's style? You can dress for the occasion at the "Perfect Vision" convention banquet on Friday, May 15, 2020 when we'll do some celebrating of times past. Roaring Twenties attire is not required but is encouraged. Bring out your inner flapper, gangster or Gatsby!

Committee Chairs: Are you a NGC Committee Chair? Are you coming to the NGC 91st Annual Convention in Milwaukee? Do you want to set up a display at the convention? If so, please contact [Kitty Larkin](#) before February 15 to reserve your space.



Media Tips & Tricks

- ★ **Even though we are the National Garden Clubs, our website is gardenclub.org. Do NOT add the "s" at the end of club in the web address, it may take you where you don't want to go.** Shirley Joy Jackson, Florida
- ★ **Complete and Save Interactive (Fillable) PDF Forms** (Information gathered from adobe.com "How to Fill PDF Forms")
 - + **If necessary, right-click the document, and select either the Hand Tool or the Select Tool from the pop-up menu. The pointer changes to a different icon as you move it over a field. For example, the Hand tool changes to an I-beam  when you can type text into the form field. Some text fields are dynamic, meaning that they automatically resize to accommodate the amount of data you enter.**
 - + **Click to select options, such as check boxes. Click inside a text field to type.**
 - + **Press Tab to move forward or Shift+Tab to move backward.**
 - + **To save the completed form to your device, choose File > Save As and rename the file**

Calendar of Events

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PRESIDENT GAY?

Jan 27 - 29	NGC Winter Executive Mtg.	St. Louis, MO
Feb 6 - 8	Judges' Council 75 th Anniv.	Dallas, TX
Feb 17 - 19	Flower Show School 3	Pensacola, FL
Feb 21 - Mar 2	World Assoc. of Floral Artists	Jaipur, India
Mar 19 - 20	South Atlantic Region Mtg.	Greenville, SC

SMOKEY BEAR



Pat Smith

Penny J. Atkinson, Salt Lake City, was the Grand Prize Winner of the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl National Poster Contest. The National Forest Service held a reception for Penny in Washington, D.C. on August 9 where the Presentation of Colors was presented by the

USDA Forest Service Honor Guard. A Special Recognition was presented by the Chief of the USDA Vicki Christiansen and Gay Austin, NGC President, gave the Salutation. The award presentation was made by James Hubbard, Under Secretary, USDA Natural Resources and Environment.

Smokey Bear, who originated as a fictional symbol for Wildfire Prevention in 1944, was first created on a poster in 1945 by artist Albert Staehle. In 1950, in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico, this fictional symbol became a reality. A young bear cub climbed a charred tree to escape a wildfire. The cub survived, but his front and back paws were badly burned. A New Mexico game warden, Ray Bell, helped to get the cub on a plane to Santa Fe where Dr. Edwin J. Smith treated the cub's burned paws. News of the cub spread across the United States and the New Mexico Game Warden offered to transfer the cub to the National Zoo in Washington, as long as the bear would be dedicated to the Conservation and Wildfire Prevention Education Program. Smokey remained at the National Zoo until his death in 1976. At that time, he was returned to Capitan, New Mexico, where he was buried at the Smokey Bear Historical Park.

SCHOOLS THROUGH MARCH - START DATES

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Jan 24	CR 1	Sarah McReynolds	TX
Jan 28	CR 3	Sally Flanagan	FL
Feb 6	CR 1	Sarah McReynolds	SC
Mar 9	CR 3	Nancy Fulk	PA
Mar 17	CR 1	Gloria Whyte	MO

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Jan 21	CR 1	Regena Williamson	TX
Feb 18	CR 3	Judy Kelliher	FL
Feb 19	CR 3	Jean Engelmann	NV
Mar 1	CR 2	Carol Ullerich	KY
Mar 8	CR 1	Trish Sumners	NC
Mar 19	CR 3	Carole Whited	TN
Mar 23	CR 3	Poss Tarpley	MD
Mar 24	CR 1	Jo Krallman	AR
Mar 24	CR 3	Joyce Cochran	TX
Mar 31	CR 3	Nancy Harris	TN

GARDENING SCHOOL

Feb 3	CR 2	Jennifer Condo	FL
Feb 14	CR 2	Cecelia Lussen	TX
Feb 15	CR 3	Berni Hendrix	CA
Feb 24	CR 2	Michelle Maguire	FL
Mar 7	CR 1	Berni Hendrix	CA
Mar 11	CR 2	Mary Jo Schlomann	PA
Mar 28	CR 2	Berni Hendrix	CA

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Jan 13	CR 1	Kathy Wade	SC
Jan 25	CR 2	Judy Tolbert	AZ
Feb 3	CR 1	Sheryl Perkins	FL
Feb 5	CR 2	Sheryl Perkins	FL
Feb 10	CR 1	Erica Winston	NC
Feb 12	CR 3	Judy Howerton	GA
Mar 10	CR 2	Terese Blake	NJ

MULTIPLE REFRESHERS

Jan 22	Tri	Barbara Hadsell	FL
April 14	Tri	Barbara Hadsell	FL
May 11	Tri	Vern Lowell	WI

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM

Jan 28	Cyndi Long	MS
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See [NGC website](#) for more information on all schools, refreshers and symposiums.

Acknowledgements

Winter Sunrise

CONTRIBUTORS

Gay Austin, NGC President
 Patricia Binder, Editor *The National Gardener*
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 Cindy Martin, Sages Garden Club
 Mary Ann Moreland, Dallas Council of Garden Clubs
 Shirley Nicolai, NGC Former President
 Susan O'Donnell, Social Media Coordinator
 Ronna Precure, Garden Club of Rogers
 Gerry St. Peters, Print Communications Coordinator
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[Gerianne Holzman](#), Editor
[Ann Fiel](#), Assistant Editor
 Gerry St. Peters, Joyce Bulington & Jan Sillik, Editorial Review
Coming in March/April: Regions - Who, What and Where.
YOUR contributions to KIT are always welcome. Please send interesting articles about your club and activities along with special tips & tricks. Deadline: February 1, 2020.
Please send articles to geriannewgcf@gmail.com

PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pg 1: Klara Mira via pixabay, Susan O'Donnell via Facebook
 Pg 2: Gerd Altmann & Sirinda Ins via pexels
 Pg 3: Patricia Binder
 Pg 4: Gerd Altmann via pixabay, Susan O'Donnell/Facebook
 Pg 5: NGC website
 Pg 6: Cindy Martin
 Pg 7: Nico Wall via pixabay, Robert Proksa via freeimages, Barbara Hadsell
 Pg 8: Gerianne Holzman, Diane Fritz, Michael Rosenblum
 Pg 9: Ronna Precure, public domain pixabay
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 Pg 11: G. Holzman
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Sitting on the Porch

GERIANNE HOLZMAN

A new year, a new decade, out with the old, in with the new...we have all heard these and many more as we ring in a new year. What will 2020 bring for me? Perhaps traveling to a new location, definitely figuring out how to garden with a recently discovered invasion of jumping worms and striving to learn something new. The new thing may be a different perennial, a rain garden to help our drainage issues, a new restaurant or special Wisconsin beer or even a new way of looking at life. Who knows? There is always something out there to experience, enjoy and learn along the way. Wishing all of you a new adventure...what will 2020 bring for you?

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

Neil Gaiman