



Keeping In Touch

February - April 2016



Sandra H. Robinson

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

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The Frightened Frog is on the move. The response is inspiring, with 6,000 copies already in use and orders flying off Member Services shelves, the message is being delivered. The Hobart Garden Club, a member of The Garden Club of Indiana and Central Region, has taken "Mr. Freddy Frog" (alias Jim Pavelka) on the road promoting environmental education with the reading of **The Frightened Frog**. Central Region received a grant through the Hobart Community Foundation for environmental education. They have designed ½ to 2-hour programs, depending on the activities after the reading, to emphasize the importance of amphibians and being good stewards of planet earth.

Other clubs are reading at local libraries, schools, and events. The disconnect of people from the natural world is recognized and addressed. Thank you for adopting this important tool to reach the general public. Please attend the workshop, The Frightened Frog, presented by the Youth Committee and Chairman Lynn Ehnert, Wednesday, May 4, 4:00-5:00, at the National Convention, Grand Rapids MI for ideas your club may use in promoting environmental education.

Pollinator Power, an educational publication of the NGC Environmental Concerns and Conservation Committee, will be available for free download on the NGC website in May. **Pollinator Power** and **Ecology Warriors** are excellent resources when working with youth or presenting programs for clubs.

National Garden Clubs members are planting for pollinators across North and South America. Gardens, both public and private, are designed to provide nesting sites and flowers for nectar and pollen. Providing patches of flowers is one thing we can do to improve the environment for pollinators while enhancing our landscapes.

Thank you for all the photographs showing the extent of your dedication and commitment to providing for the pollinators in your area. For more information on the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge sponsored by National Garden Clubs and other organizations, please visit our website www.gardenclub.org and www.millionpollinatorgardens.org. Don't forget to register your gardens on pollinator.org.

Hunger is real. Hunger knows no age. Who is hungry? Your neighbor, the person next to you in the check-out line, the greeter at the store, the person bagging your purchases, the home health provider or any number of people you encounter on a daily basis may be facing food insecurity. Food insecurity exists in every county in America. 48.1 million Americans struggle to provide adequate diets for their families. Hunger doesn't exist just among the homeless or unemployed. Food banks serve many who are employed but unable to make ends meet.

About 20% of American children experience food insecurity at some point each month. Recently I heard one teacher talking about the effects of hunger on some of her students. Children have a harder time reaching their potential when battling hunger. With 1 in 5 living in households that are food insecure, every classroom may have someone whose main or only meal is served at school. This teacher had turned her supply closet into a food closet where students were allowed to take what they wanted to eat. She started giving them a snack before class but soon realized how hungry some of her students were. They needed more than a simple snack to start the day. Soon others

(Cont'd from page 1)

who could afford to supply food began bringing supplies for her food closet.

She also allowed them to take a snack home. Over time, she has found those who are truly hungry visit the food closet often and those who have adequate food may take one snack per day. In my county alone 1,100 students are served by the "backpack" club each week. On Fridays, a bag is sent home with students who are members with food items for the weekend. Cost? Approximately \$6,000 per month.

In 2013 5.4 million seniors, those over 60, or 9% of all seniors were food insecure. Hunger isn't a respecter of age, race, geography, or gender.

In recognition of the staggering number of hungry families, this president made a donation to the Christian Appalachian Project's food bank in the name of the National Garden Club's Board of Directors at Christmas. Five to six families received adequate food supplies for a week. CAP, a non-denominational organization, organized before President Johnson's War on Poverty, serves 13 states within the Appalachian region.

Surprisingly, hunger is often greater in rural areas than urban areas. Please consider planting a row for your local food bank or volunteering as an individual or club. School gardens are another great project that may provide extra food for students and their families. Explore the possibility of container gardens for decks and smaller spaces as sources for food production.

Thank you for your dedication to gardening, the environment, and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Together we are a **force for good.**

Leap into Action!

Sandra H. Robinson



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

PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Jan. 25-27, 2016	NGC Winter Executive Committee Meeting Charleston, SC
Mar. 4, 2016	Philadelphia Flower Show Philadelphia, PA
Mar. 21-22, 2016	Fed. Garden Clubs of Maryland Baltimore, MD
Apr. 3-5, 2016	Garden Club of Alabama Montgomery, AL
Apr. 6-7, 2016 Apr. 8-9, 2016	Arkansas Fed. of Garden Clubs South Central Region Bentonville, AR
Apr. 17-19, 2016	Florida Fed. of Garden Clubs Orlando, FL
Apr. 29-30, 2016	Oklahoma Garden Clubs Tulsa, OK
May 2-6, 2016	NGC National Convention Grand Rapids, MI

NGC SCHOOLS NEWS

**GREG POKORSKI, ES, GS AND LD SCHOOLS
COORDINATOR**

NGC's Schools Committees thank all those who conducted, attended or promoted school courses or refreshers in 2015. We hope your experience was rewarding and informative. We welcome your feedback. Congratulations to those who became Consultants in 2015. We hope that those students who have begun schools will complete them. We hope that Consultants will participate in Consultants Councils, use information from the schools to the benefit of your clubs and communities, and continue to expand your knowledge base by attending refresher courses and events.

All Consultants in good standing may refresh their credentials once each calendar year (and must refresh by the end of the fifth calendar year after the last course or refresher taken). Since we are at the beginning of a new year, virtually all NGC Consultants are now eligible to refresh. Those who attend the NGC Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan can refresh at the **Tri-Refresher on May 2 at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**, one of the nation's premier horticultural display gardens and sculpture parks. Register by March 18 by using the form on the NGC website. Consult your records and those of your State Schools Chairman to make sure you provide accurate information about your Consultant status and the last refresher you attended for credit in each school. Remember that simultaneous

multiple refresher credit is only available to those who have Master Consultant status in multiple schools.

Leap into Action! We hope you are planning schools and refreshers in 2016. Coordinating such educational opportunities with your Arbor Day and National Garden Week observances and with state and regional meetings is an excellent way to share local, state, regional and national levels of garden club with the public, and to offer education about good environmental, gardening and landscape design practices. Incorporate elements of the President's Special Project for 2015-2017, **Service in Action**, into your school plans. Where possible, include instruction and information about the role and conservation of bio-indicator amphibians and pollinators (including bees and butterflies). And nurture each other as you seek to develop and encourage garden club members who are leading and who will lead our NGC school programs throughout all of NGC.

NGC Schools provide the infrastructure to help carry out the educational mission of NGC and of your state garden clubs. Schools are an opportunity to promote your clubs (and should be promoted to the public, not just to garden club members), attract new members, and perhaps raise some funds for your organization. General information, curricula and forms are posted on the NGC website under Schools. Following instructions in School Handbooks and working with your state and national schools chairmen expedite the process.

Schools chairmen, students and Consultants are reminded to read **The National Gardener** for official NGC Schools information.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

BARBARA HADSELL, CHAIRMAN

In keeping with our GSS theme of Reconciliation Ecology, I hope you enjoyed reading in **TNG**, Tracey Williams' article on Urban Greening. Tracey presented a program at our 2015 NGC Convention in Louisville and has shared many of her ideas in this article. "Nature does not stop at the city edge but must be both encouraged to infiltrate through designed and managed greening projects and PRESERVED where it has already been established."

On another note, we have received some interesting comments from Master Gardeners who just completed Course I of GSS. "I have really enjoyed and benefitted from the Master Gardener program. It might seem redundant, but I also have gleaned a lot from the Gardening Study Course. To have the opportunity to experience continuing education in

an area of interest that you can choose is a gift. For me, it is also quite incredible to have a relatively short learning session from instructors who have spent a large portion of their lives becoming experts in their fields." Rebecca S. "I finished the master gardening class last spring but felt that the Gardening Study School would be a good review. Course I had up to date information especially for South Florida and I have learned beneficial information for my zone and others. Thank you for this great class. I have a passion for gardening and am looking forward to the next Course." Nancy C.

And a repeat from the last **KIT**--In the spirit of conformance and co-operation, a change in procedure has been implemented to simplify the school registration process. Upon state approval, a GS School can be registered directly with Katie Roth at headquarters by sending in \$5 with Registration form 05-1 without listing the instructors. This allows that information to be immediately posted on the NGC website. However, ASAP afterward, all instructor information needs to be completed and sent.

Bring Gardening Study School to your state!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

JANE BERSCH, CHAIRMAN

Congratulations and my sincere appreciation to those state presidents who have chosen to **Leap Into Action** by scheduling a Landscape Design Schools Course/s both this past fall and into 2016. They are providing their members with a world of proper landscaping knowledge from which they and their communities will benefit.

State Presidents and state LDS Chairmen are urged to plan well in advance to hold Landscape Design Schools. Early submission of Event Registrations, along with the \$5 fee to Katie Roth, Schools Secretary at NGC Headquarters, and to all required NGC LDS Chairmen will ensure publicity both in **TNG** and on the NGC website. New instructors must be approved by NGC Instructor's Chairman Victoria Bergesen, victoriabergesen@gmail.com, along with their detailed outline and exams. Should previously approved Instructors be invited to cover a different topic(s) in a different Course, their new outline and exam questions must be approved by the Instructor's Chairman as well. Please do this early to allow for enough time should corrections be needed to the outline(s) and exams. LDS Forms are available on the NGC website.

Please note a change in the site for a Course IV required reading, "The History of Community Gardens..." by Laura Lawson. It is now available at <http://agriurban.rutgers.edu/WhatisUrbanAg.html>. A Brief History of Urban Gar-

den Programs in the United States is found at the bottom of the page. Click on the title, click "open" and the article will slowly appear. The LDS web page on the NGC website reflects this change under "Forms."

The LDS Committee applauds the presidents-- and their LDS Chairman--of South Carolina, Florida, Texas, Ohio, West Virginia, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, Maryland, California, Michigan, and Massachusetts, who have already chosen to **Leap into Action** in 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY SCHOOLS

PAT RUPIPER, CHAIRMAN

Hopefully, anticipating spring's arrival has you gearing up for new educational experiences. I want you to search out new experiences within your state or region. Have you tried nearby zoos, metro or state parks, National Audubon, environmental groups, or other societies that have a nature/ecology focus? Many companies also have a branch that deals with one of the three foci in our schools (Air, Land, Water).

Think about holding a refresher instead of only classes. Those who have completed the four classes will love coming to a new experience. Refreshers will not provide credit for those who have not completed all courses, but it is a wonderful way to pique interest in others who have not taken the school. No testing, just a mighty fine learning experience for all.

Please note that 8 hours of **approved** education must be provided. This is separate from lunch and breaks. However, completing in one day is possible. Don't forget a field trip. People really enjoy walking and learning. For ideas, look on page 24 of the handbook under supplemental subjects; there are many subjects provided. Ask me if your idea is not listed. I am open to new things.

Send the top part of the registration form #1-14 with the \$5 registration fee directly to Katie Roth. The list of instructors can come later, but the **Accreditation Chairman** needs **three working months** prior to having received the paperwork.

For right now, those of you anticipating schools and refreshers, just send me an email so I can be helpful, patrupiper@gmail.com. Let's work together stimulating interest in our educational offerings, joining garden clubs, and offering others an active experience from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

TRI-COUNCIL OF FLORIDA FED. OF GARDEN CLUBS

INGER JONES, PRESIDENT

It all started at our state convention, in April 2015, where we held a workshop on NGC schools for the first time. This was the start of my term as President of Tri-Council which consists of Environmental, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Consultants. We explained all about each school by having our Environmental, Flower Show, Gardening and Landscape Design State School Chairmen and Tri-Council officers present to answer any/all questions.

I used my Tri-Council theme of "EDUCATION IS THE KEY AS WE **LEAP INTO ACTION**" as my springboard to articulate my goal of having 12 schools (one for each of our districts). I knew and felt that there was a thirst to know the why and what we talk about in garden clubs, especially the assault on our environment in our state, and one of the keys is EDUCATION.

Now comes the best part. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Board Meeting in September 2015. At the end of my report, I am exuberant to say that we will be hosting SEVEN NGC SCHOOLS. Add NGC Flower Show School and that makes eight!

It certainly proves that if you offer it, they will come.

MULTIPLE REFRESHER "THE WAY LIFE SHOULD BE"

**SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2016 INCLUDING AND
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE NGC FALL BOARD
MEETING IN PORTLAND, MAINE**

**MARY ERICSON, GCFM MULTIPLE REFRESHER CHAIRMAN
AND REBECCA L. LINNEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Garden Club Federation of Maine will be sponsoring a Multiple Refresher September 25-27th, including and immediately following the NGC FBM being held in Portland, Maine. The Multiple Refresher has been designed to showcase our beautiful State of Maine while fulfilling all requirements of a successful Refresher. Lodging will be at a Historic Inn in Bar Harbor and refresher space is limited. Due to the variety of terrain, all tours would be challenging to the mobile impaired.

Credits will begin with three occasions during the National Garden Club Fall Board Meeting to be followed by the events scheduled for Boothbay Harbor, Bar Harbor, Mount Desert and Camden, Maine. Highlights include: Acadia National Park Lecture, Portland Historic Landmarks – Frederick Law Olmsted Landscapes and Parks Tours, Gulf of Maine Institute, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Lecture & Tour,

College of the Atlantic Lecture & Tour, Acadia National Park - Mount Desert Island: Horse Drawn ride on The Acadia Carriage Roads, Friends of Acadia: Sieur de Monts and the Wild Gardens of Acadia, Beatrix Jones Farrand Gardens, Fletcher Steele Amphitheater in Camden, and additional points of interest to be announced later. Professionals presenting the various tours and lectures are ASLA, MLA, Historians, Conservationists, Environmentalists, Horticulturists, Arborists, Authors, State of Maine and National Board members within their respective fields.

If you are returning or visiting Maine for the first time, it will be an honor to welcome all of the qualified National Garden Club School Consultants to Maine... "The Way Life Should Be."

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS / CONSERVATION AND PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECTS

MARIAN M. McNABB, MONARCH WATCH CHAIRMAN

In July of 2015, the group Monarchs in Eastern Iowa handed out seed balls with Milkweed seed (*Asclepias*) in them to 2,000 bicyclists that were participating in RAGBRAI, the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa. The seed balls were tossed in the ditches along the bicycle route around the Mt. Vernon, Iowa area. This spring we should see an increase in the Monarch population with the increase of the Monarch's host plant. Thank you, Monarchs of Eastern Iowa, for your support.

Spring is just around the corner, time to think of spring planting for our pollinators. Make plans for a butterfly garden that includes plants native to your area, such as the specific Milkweed that grows in your region. Your butterfly garden can be a container garden or a large garden. Plants should include annuals, perennials, host plants and nectar plants. An educational publication titled **Inviting Butterflies Into Your Garden** is available to download from the National Garden Club website www.gardenclub.org, President's Special Projects, Monarch Watch, and then click on **Inviting Butterflies Into Your Garden**. You'll be able to print all of the booklet or just the pages you need. If you don't have access to a computer or printer, you can order it from Headquarters/Member Services for \$3 each booklet.

When planning and planting your butterfly garden, keep records, take pictures and apply for Awards. We'll enjoy hearing all of your success stories in helping to save our pollinators.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS / CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MARY SUE COLVIN, COORDINATOR




THE PLIGHT OF THE BUMBLE BEE (THE HONEY BEE, THE NATIVE BEE AND THE BUTTERFLY)

In the last decade, the flight of the bumble bee and its pollinator friends has changed dramatically from a happy, carefree tune to a very worrisome note of the plight of the pollinators. Habitat loss, invasive species, diseases, and pesticides have contributed in large measure to the decline in the health and numbers of our pollinators.

The World Conservation Union estimates that at least 185 species of pollinators worldwide are considered threatened or extinct! At least 2 bat species and 13 bird species in the United States on the endangered list are pollinators.

In the last decade, there has been a noted decline in bumble bee and honey bee populations. Bees are environmental indicators – if there is something wrong with our bees, something is wrong with the environment! Butterflies are experiencing the same sad song of decline. Imagine a world with a minute number of bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Very little food would be produced, flowers would be a rarity, and spring and summer would be dreary, unproductive seasons, with no bees buzzing about or butterflies floating gracefully in the garden.

As gardeners, we can work to change the PLIGHT of the Bumble Bee (and assorted pollinators) to the FLIGHT of the Bumble Bee  by creating a pollinator-friendly habitat on our property.

- Use pollinator-friendly plants in your landscape.
- Choose a mixture of plants for spring, summer, and fall with different flower colors, shapes and scents.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use.
- Accept some plant damage on plants providing habitat for butterfly and moth larvae.
- Provide clean water.
- Leave dead tree trunks in your landscape for wood-nesting bees and beetles.
- Support land conservation in your community to ensure that pollinators have appropriate habitat.

Sources: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and **Pollinator Power** publication by NGC

PLEASE SHARE THIS ISSUE WITH A CLUB MEMBER



“SERVICE IN ACTION” AWARD DEADLINE IS APPROACHING!
GREAT MONETARY AWARDS AS WELL AS SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR YOUR CLUB!

THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR AWARD APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2015-2017 NGC PRESIDENT’S SPECIAL PROJECTS IS MARCH 15TH, 2016. MOST OF YOUR PROJECTS WILL QUALIFY FOR THE AWARDS THAT ARE AVAILABLE. ALL OF THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE NGC WEBSITE. DON’T MISS OUT! IT’S EASY TO APPLY!

BEE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO!
COMMIT TO GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

BECKY HASSEBROEK, HABITAT CHAIRMAN

“NEVER SAY NEVER”

My sister-in-law, June Ann, has been in garden club most of her life. I knew that she was heavily involved in design – she had a title of Master Judge, which impressed me, and she was always winning awards! I loved the outdoors, and I was learning to love to garden, but I was absolutely sure that I would never be interested in any kind of floral design – **NEVER – NOT ME!**

But, wait! June Ann could go out into her garden, at all times of the year, gather whatever was available, and make the most stunning designs of all sizes to adorn her home and to share with her friends. She had acquired the knowledge from the garden club that enabled her to bring her garden inside for our enjoyment, and I was mesmerized!

Never? Well, I DID want to learn to present my garden in such a manner! Eventually, I joined a garden club and now I not only look forward to entering our shows every year, but I co-chair a show, as well. I still only use the flowers and other plant material from my own garden and try to inspire others to do the same – it’s my way of sharing what I love and what I learned from my friend and mentor.

You know that I love critters of all kinds – and I practice sustainable gardening – I don’t use any pesticides or herbicides. I greatly enjoy being surrounded by the insects

as well as my flowers. I plant so that I have enough for the wildlife as well as my designs -- and if some form of wildlife happens to get to my prized specimen just before a show – **OH WELL!** I know what could have been, and I am glad to share with them, as well!

My garden pleases me! It’s a place I enjoy spending my time. The Wildlife around me pleases me greatly! It is such a joy to share my world! And, when I can share it with others through my designs, what can be better?

NEVER? I was so sure! Garden Club changes our lives – aren’t we lucky to be who we are?



THE MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE

BECKY HASSEBROEK, HABITAT CHAIRMAN

“A Million Pollinator Gardens will be a million beacons of hope for the future.”¹

- Plan now to include nectar and host plants for our pollinators in your Spring gardens.
- Download our new **Pollinator Power** educational publication, available in May 2016, from gardenclub.org.
- Register your gardens at millionpollinatorgardens.org.
- And SHARE what you’re doing with the rest of us! We want you to be recognized!

1 Bruce Rodan, U. S. Assistant Director for Environmental Health

NGC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

POSS TARPLEY, WEBMASTER

Looking for information on schools, projects, etc.? Visit the NGC Website at www.gardenclub.org and find the information, guidelines and forms that you need!

One particular area is the Schools listings; all accredited courses for the four different schools are listed plus symposia and multiple refreshers. This list is maintained by NGC Headquarters. After a school has been reviewed and approved by the Accrediting Chairman for the Region in which the school is to be held, the Accrediting Chairman must send the information to [Katie Roth](#). Sending it to me as the NGC webmaster slows down the listing and also runs the

risk of the information being mislaid. So please send your school listings to Katie.

Many do not know of the Natural Disaster USA Relief Fund that is offered by NGC. Our website states "A garden club or clubs may apply for funds to help replant, restore and beautify a public area that has been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, floods, fires, etc." Donations may be made to the fund as well. For more information and the guidelines and application for applying, visit <http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/outreach-projects/disaster-relief.aspx>

Visit, "like" and comment on our Facebook page by clicking on the Facebook icon to the right, on the NGC home page, or search for "National Garden Clubs" when you're on your Facebook account. There are stories and pictures from around the nation and our Affiliates. Send articles and pictures from your club to post by the Facebook administrators, [Yvonne McCormick](#) or [Phyllis White](#). Spread the word that National Garden Clubs, Inc. is out there working for our communities!



We invite you to explore the NGC information available on the Internet and promote your club, state and NGC on social media.

MORE NGC SOCIAL MEDIA



Pinterest is a wonderful way to view colorful pictures and learn gardening information. Click on the round "P" Pinterest access icon pictured above or on the NGC home page near the Facebook icon. The information is classified on "Boards" such as Floral Design – Table Designs, Underwater, Petite, etc., Pollinators, American Gardens, Succulents, NGC Member Services, Blue Star installations and many others. Pictures are added daily. Click on the pictures for more information, and to save it to your own Pinterest account. Follow the Pinterest Boards and be notified of additions. Surf the Boards and then send [Phyllis White](#) appropriate pictures with descriptions to be added. We appreciate your interest!

MEMBERSHIP -- "COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT"

DIANE B. HERMAN, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

"Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas." ~ Elizabeth Murray

When it comes to membership, you need to "think outside of the box" for new projects. Get away from "that's the way

we always do it" mode. Reaching out and being an active club with worthwhile projects to benefit the community is the key to attracting new members, keeping the club busy, and accomplishing the goals of the club and of NGC. Visibility is crucial! Read on for creative methods to attract members and gain publicity.

The Garden Club of Johnstown, Pennsylvania and the Allied Artists of Johnstown combined their artistic vision in floral design and art when they held a Flower Show titled "A Masterpiece in Bloom." The Flower Show schedule was written based on 23 pieces of art submitted by the members. Photos of the artwork were provided to the designers so they could create their designs based on their interpretation of the art. The BOTTLE WORKS, a local art center, provided space for the show free of charge to the garden club. Some of the classes in the show were open to the public. Pieces of art were also used in the staging of the show, including the Horticulture and Youth Divisions.

The BOTTLE WORKS conducted a summer art camp for children to create the projects outlined in the Youth Division of the Flower Show schedule where recycled plastic containers played a major role. Fifty-two of our members participated in the show and 31 youth exhibited, with over 460 entries. The show attracted the public and hundreds of family members of all three organizations. Touring the adjacent gardens created by the Conservation Committee and other area activities were an added attraction.

The show was a resounding success. We received numerous articles in the town newspaper before the show and following, announcing the winners. The visibility created an awareness and appreciation for the love of gardening and floral designing, and the event was a learning experience for the youth. This event provided the perfect opportunity for town people to become familiar with the Garden Club of Johnstown and meet our members and the artists.

Each year in November, we hold a "Welcome the Holidays" luncheon, program and style show. Boutique items are made by the members during the summer. Workshops are held where the members can help with the project and share their talents. This year was our 25th Anniversary of this event, and over 270 people attended. The speaker created designs based on his topic, "The Elegant Simplicity of Mixed Holiday Greens." The \$5,000 profit raised through this effort supports the community planting projects the club performs during the year.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. The WOW Convention - May 2-6, 2016 Grand Rapids

Exciting, challenging, rewarding and fulfilling are a few adjectives describing one great opportunity. It is **the 2016 National Garden Clubs Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan**, in just a few short months. How do we know it's exciting? Well, we've been listening to garden club members.

Shortly after our team made presentations on the convention plans at local, state, regional and the national meetings, we began receiving phone calls for more information. Of course, they were asking about the schedule and the registration information, and they wanted to know a lot more about Michigan itself. When we asked why they were so interested, they said, "We are planning to extend the trip to include vacation destinations." Yes, they plan to attend the WOW Convention, and then stay a little longer in Michigan to visit other attractions.

Convention Registration forms and the complete schedule of events are published in the winter 2016 issue of **The National Gardener**. Yes, it is exciting to have the groundwork for the Convention in place.

Please note that the Registration forms are on the [NGC website](http://ngcweb.org), the Central Region's website www.ngccentralregion.org/, and the Michigan Garden Club's website www.michigan-gardenclubs.org. Also, plan to visit the Convention's micro website at www.experienceGR.com/NGC where you will find more information on Grand Rapids, Convention news and information, biographical notes on speakers, seminars, workshops, tours and more.

Great speakers and entertainment will be highlights of the **WOW Convention**. Dr. Douglas Tallamy, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, will address the Opening Luncheon on Thursday of Convention week. He will help us understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.

The next day, in conjunction with annual Award of Excellence Luncheon, the Convention will be observing the 100th anniversary (1916-2016) of the National Parks Service. Joining us then will be Theresa Pierno, President and CEO of the National Parks Conservation Association. She will share her vision on how we can best ensure the valuable sustainable resources of our National Parks for future generations.

Turning to a lighter side of the schedule, let's reward ourselves with some dynamic entertainment at the Life Members Banquet on May 4. Together we will enjoy the award-



winning vocal quartet - Three Men and a Tenor. With more than 2,500 concerts under their belts, this group features great pop music along with quick-witted interludes. The group has been twice voted "The Best Entertainment in Michigan" by the Michigan Meetings and Events Planners.

If that's not enough, the convention offers tours ranging from a two-day trip to northern Michigan, including Mackinaw Island, an excursion to the world famous Tulip Time in Holland (Michigan that is), a day trip to Michigan State University's Botanical Gardens, a day at Grand Rapids own Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, and tour the famous Amway World Headquarters. The guests and spouses will be enlightened on two tours. The first is to the Gilmore Car Museum showcasing more than 400 vintage cars and other motor vehicles. The second tour will be focused on two noted beverages, coffee blending and roasting and the fast growing micro-brewery industry.

Are you excited yet? Remember, feel free to call us if you need more information about the Convention or how you can further enjoy the many other venues. May we suggest a visit to www.michigan.org to learn how to maximize your **WOW** experience? Plus, the **WOW** Committee - Marge McGoff, Sharon Yantis and Carol Brodbeck pictured here - deeply desire to see you May 2-6 at "Bloomin' On The Grand."



MY FROG

BY MICHELLE MENSINGER

I had a little jumping frog,
I trained to come and go,
We enjoyed each other's company,
and I often told her so.

She lived out in my garden,
in a clump of weeds you see,
and she ate the bugs and insects,
that often bothered me.

She was busy in the early morn,
a hopping everywhere,
helping to keep my garden clean,
of pests unwanted there.

When the sun rose high,
she hopped for home,
This frog had done her best,
and stayed till the cool of eve,
when the sun had gone to rest.



Soon evening came and she roamed about,
a hopping here and there,
she croaked a froggy little tune,
that made me be aware of the beauty of God's creation,
in a garden that pleases me,
with flowers and vegetables of every kind,
and this frog for company.

Take time to learn about nature,
and all that God has made.
Enjoy a little bit of heaven on earth
in the outdoors every day.

It will keep you happy and healthy,
and chase the blues away.
A little bit of outside happiness,
is what everybody needs.

Embrace Sandy Robinson's theme,
and protect our native frogs.
Please leap into action,
and don't pull all the weeds!

A NGC Visit to Peru

Fifty Years of Floralties

Last November, NGC President Sandy Robinson and other garden club members visited Lima, Peru as part of a National Garden Club sponsored tour to the Galapagos Islands and areas of Peru. While in Lima, President Robinson was invited to judge the Association of Peruvian Garden Clubs' celebration of "Art, Flowers and Plants -- Fifty Years of Floralties," a Standard Flower Show. The Association is a NGC Affiliate, and it was the first club of its kind in Peru to promote and spread information regarding plants and their cultivation, and the art of floral design, in an association known as "Floralties" Garden Clubs of Peru. According to the group's history, the word "Floralties" does not exist in the dictionary as it is a neologism from the dawn of the romanticism period. "Flora" means vegetation and "lies" is an ancient term which means festivities.

The show was held in the Pedro de Osma Museum located in the traditional old district of Barranco, Lima, Peru. The 1906 mansion was built in the French style for the Osma family, and has been declared a national museum which is operated by the Pedro and Angelica de Osma Gildemeister Foundation. The following photographs were graciously provided by club member Carol Bowdin and NGC Board Member Idalia Aguilar, both interpreters for the visiting NGC members.



NGC President Sandy Robinson



Designer's Choice by Isabel Grieve

Creative Design by Renata Cuneo Traditional Design by Itala Testino





A portion of the Horticulture Division outside the Museum



Herbaceous Section of the Flower Show



Peruvian Club members and dignitaries with President Robinson

A PHOTO ALBUM CONTAINING A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE VISIT TO PERU AND FLOWER SHOW IS ON THE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS' [FACEBOOK PAGE](#).

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Interested in selling new items at your next meeting? NGC's Member Services Department is now offering consignment orders exclusively for State and Region meetings! Any unsold items may be returned, and billing will follow after your meeting. Discounts on quantity orders, and shipping costs may be applied. This is a great opportunity to make some extra money for your state, and will help connect local members with the national organization. For more information, please contact Member Services at headquarters@gardenclub.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Recently, National Garden Club members have experienced the loss of dear gardening friends.

Maureen Morrison Colton of Duluth, GA and Saunderstown, RI died on November 19, 2015. Maureen was a former President of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., a former NGC Region Director and served in many positions on the NGC Board of Directors. She was an Emeritus Flower Show Judge and a member of the Bellmere Garden Club in Georgia. Notes of condolence may be sent to her daughter, Maribeth Colton Nickell, 1102 Brookhavenrun Circle, Duluth, GA 30097-5296.

The mother of our NGC Recording Secretary, Shirley Tetreault passed away on November 20, 2015. **Norma Jean Cilley** was a member of the Uptown Garden Club in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Notes of condolence may be sent to Shirley Tetreault, 12404 Apache Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112-3606.

It is with deepest regret that we must inform you of the death of **Barbara Mullin's daughter, Elise** who died in a motor vehicle accident on December 23, 2015 while driving home from Tennessee to New Jersey for Christmas. Elise is Barbara's only natural born child although Barbara is very close to all her step children. Barbara Mullin served as the 2013-2015 President of The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. Notes of condolence may be sent to Barbara at 227 New Providence Road, Mountainside, NJ 07092-1735.

Diane Bullock's husband, Roger, passed away on December 31, 2015. His funeral was held on January 7, 2016. Diane Bullock is a member of The Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc. and has served on the National Garden Clubs' Board of Directors for many years. Notes of condolence may be sent to Diane Bullock, 456 Shore Road, Cape Neddick, ME 03902-7355.

Margaret Yaw of Bozeman, MT passed away on January 17, 2016. Margaret was a former President of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., a former NGC Region Director (1979-81) and served in many positions on the NGC Board of Directors. She was a NGC Golden Circle member and Emeritus Master Flower Show Judge. Notes of condolence may be sent to her husband, Robert Yaw, 1201 Highland Blvd., Apt. B101, Bozeman, MT 59715.

NEWS FROM THE REGION DIRECTORS

NEW ENGLAND

<http://www.ngcner.org>

The NER State Presidents, as a result of their dedication and leadership, are actively working to make the membership of their respective states better informed in all aspects of garden club life. Our NER annual meeting, held in late October, gave us a wonderful opportunity to meet, share ideas and set goals for the coming year. We look forward to a year of learning, teaching, and friendship between our states.

Vera Bowen, Director



A Region Project is in the works! As we look toward the future and see the effects of stress on our environment, we are asking the states to choose several environmental projects that will benefit their area, the public at large and our earth. More to come on this great project!

Rhode Island and Connecticut are both gearing up for their State Flower Shows. The two shows are always scheduled for the same weekend in February (dates I hear are pre-determined by the show promoters). Both schedules are new, exciting and innovative. We hope for good weather, large crowds and possibly a new crop of club members.

Maine will hold their State Convention in June. The meeting will also include a celebration of Acadia National Parks' 100th Anniversary. They are also hosting our NGC Fall Board Meeting. The plans for this meeting are well underway, and it promises to be an event to remember.

Massachusetts, the state with the second largest membership in NGC, is working hard to keep the focus on education. They offer all of the NGC schools and have a substantial turnout for all. Learning to use social media was a focus for Massachusetts in the hope that this will expand their community profile.

Vermont's President is doing triple duty! Not being able to fill all of the committee spots has her burning the midnight oil, learning new skills that she didn't know before, and passing her knowledge onto the membership.

New Hampshire Federation was invited to have a booth at the Farm and Forest Exposition in Manchester, New Hampshire in January. What a wonderful chance to share their goals and objectives with a large number of people. Great exposure.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC

<http://www.ngccar.org>

Anne M. Bucher, Director



What wonderful fall and early winter weather we have enjoyed here in the Central Atlantic Region. It does not seem like winter but I am sure that eventually the snow will appear, and we will be dealing with reality. Our Region Conference was held on October 26–27, 2015 in Gettysburg, PA at the Wyndham Hotel. We had a total registration of 178 attendees and a wonderful conference sponsored by the State of Pennsylvania and their generous garden club members. A tour of the Civil War Museum incorporated a new cyclorama depicting battles that were fought throughout the area. It was breathtaking to see. We journeyed out to the countryside and had lunch at a winery where we enjoyed a vast color of fall leaves on the hillsides. A trip in the fall always includes a stop at an apple orchard to enjoy cider, cookies and delicious apples. It was a perfect fall day to visit such a picturesque historic area.

Our programs were fun and educational. Don Hyatt from McLean entertained us with a program, "Things I Tried That Died," showing lots of plants and shrubs that he planted over a long period of time that were mistakes in the garden and eventually were taken out or died. Our design program featured Tony Todesco, who created eleven floral designs that the audience just loved. Tuesday evening we enjoyed Thomas J. Hylton's program, "Our Land, Save Our Towns", a powerful plea for comprehensive planning to save our cities, towns and countrysides. Our workshops featured Marcy Cunkelman talking about Monarchs and Pollinators and George Weigel showing us Great Gardens, Less Work.

Lots of awards were given during each meal. Thank you to all the competent awards chairmen who spent many days putting it all together.

A NGC Schools and Council Roundtable Breakfast was held on Tuesday morning to allow the members to share ideas and communicate with each other. This was well received by those attending. We are planning on expanding this breakfast at the next conference in 2016.

It was a very successful conference and I am indebted to the many people who worked very hard to make this all happen, especially Barbara Brand, the Chairman of the Conference. I attended and spoke at a Leadership Workshop in Cambridge, MD this January. This will be the fifth state in holding

a workshop on this subject. It seems to be well received by the membership and hopefully will encourage more of our garden club members to step up into leadership positions in clubs, districts and state boards.

I'm looking forward to representing the Central Atlantic Region at the Winter Board meeting in Charleston, SC this January. See you in the Spring!

SOUTH ATLANTIC Sarah Ann F. Parler, Director
<http://www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org/>

The South Atlantic Region Convention will be held March 13-15, 2016 at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown Hotel in Raleigh, NC. Ginny Parker is the Convention Chairman and Susan Hooper, Co-Chairman and they have selected excellent speakers: Derek Smith, NCDOT Roadside Environmental Unit Management Engineer and Blue Star Memorial Coordinator; Carl V. Curnutte, III, Executive Director of The Elizabethan Gardens; and Bryce Lane, speaking on "The Magic of North Carolina."



During the months of June and July, South Carolina suffered a devastating drought that cost our farmers their spring crops. These losses were intensified by further losses following the 1000-year floods of Hurricane Joaquin that brought 15-20 inches of rain in one weekend. Nearly 500 bridges were destroyed or compromised, and major roads, including Interstate 95, were closed for weeks/months. Thanks to all of you who called or sent cards and emails with prayers for our well-being. Please continue your prayers on behalf of those who continue to suffer. So many families lost their homes and businesses, and several lost their lives during this historic flood. On behalf of all South Carolinians, we thank you for your prayers and concerns.

Representing National Garden Clubs and South Atlantic Region at Emerald Isle, SC on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015, was a memorable and humbling experience for this Region Director. The Emerald Isle Garden Club, in cooperation with the Town of Emerald Isle, honored the Armed Forces of the United States of America, Past-Present-Future, by erecting a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker on Highway 58 as you enter Emerald Isle and is located near the US Camp Lejeune Base. The Presentation of Colors was conducted by the Marine Wing Support Squadron 274, USMC, Cherry Point, NC and the Military Tribute was delivered by

the US Coast Guard from Fort Macon Station, NC, as Emerald Isle Garden Club members unveiled the Marker. Many dignitaries from the city were participants in this program.

To close this moving dedication, "Taps" was rendered by a 2D Marine Aircraft Wing Band Bugler USMC, Cherry Point, NC. The Green Thumb Junior Garden Club, a very special group of young children, sponsored by The Emerald Isle Garden Club, sang "God Bless America" as many of the attendees joined in the singing to close this very moving event.

The SAR Board has received, with regret, the resignation of Garden Clubs of North Carolina President Judy Bond. Gail Hill, former First Vice President, has assumed the duties of GCNC President. We wish Gail the very best as she takes on this new responsibility.

We wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

DEEP SOUTH Carol M. Bullard, Director
<http://dsregion.org>

The Deep South Region is busy making plans for the 2016 Convention "Southern Bouquet" to be held March 6-8 at the Horseshoe Hotel in Tunica, Miss. The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. will be hosting the event, which will feature programs and workshops on pollinators, host plants for pollinators, a design program by Tracey Proctor, and others. We are honored to have NGC President Sandra Robinson as our special guest.



Georgia, Martha Price, President - GCG held its President's Workshop in November. It covered all NGC, DSR, and GCG projects for the next two years, included a Tri-Refresher and promoted Parks and Public Lands. There were outside guests as speakers and GCG members leading the workshop. A follow-up workshop will be in June. We held a Winter Board Meeting in January. GCG dedicated another Blue Star Marker and are planning others. We are sowing seeds of knowledge and reaping its fruits.

Mississippi, Debby Cooper, President - GCM celebrated the 100th anniversary of our State Headquarters with a design program, luncheon, and champagne/birthday cake reception. The event raised over \$5,000. The home, built in 1915 and given to GCM in 1981 to be used as the State Headquarters, is maintained and preserved by a portion of members'

dues, donations, memorials, honorariums, and rentals. The building is on the National Historic Registry and is a certified Mississippi Landmark with a Blue Star Memorial Marker on site.

Tennessee, Pam Dowd, President – TFGC's four districts held well-attended Fall membership meetings with emphasis on trees, bees, nature/science center for youth and adults, and gardening for butterflies and other pollinators. In October, a new garden club and three new youth clubs were accepted into TFGC. Successful and well-attended "Fun with Flowers" holiday design programs/workshops were held in each district as educational and ways and means projects. In March, a Gardening Study School, Course I, will be held in Chattanooga. TFGC will stage a large State Flower Show (first one since 1990) in conjunction with the 89th TFGC Annual Meeting and Convention. Workshops and programs will cover Leadership, Monarch Butterflies, Ecology (frogs), Fairy Gardens, Design Concepts, and Landscape Design.

Louisiana, Jeanette Gatzman, President - Our six Fall District Meetings were all great, and the Christmas season was a whirlwind of parties, meetings, and flower shows. We will hold a Judges Symposium in February in Woodworth and Flower Show School in Lafayette, March 1-3. On March 18, we will host an open house at our Headquarters in Le-compte to raise money to refurbish the landscaping. We are looking forward to the DSR convention, our LGCF Convention in Vidalia, April 12-13, and the NGC Convention in Grand Rapids. Members are also looking forward to an LGCF sponsored tour of the Amish Country Quilt Gardens June 12-18.

Florida, Arlene Rand, President - Courses in all four NGC schools are taking place throughout the state. A Symposium has been held and clubs are busy preparing for spring flower shows and garden tours. Members attended our Annual Wekiva Leadership Training program as they look forward to the Wekiva Youth Camp's opening in June. FFGC is putting the final touches on the State Flower Show and 90th Convention April 17-19. We are honored and looking forward to NGC President Sandra Robinson being with us. Florida members have fond memories of the DSR Convention and are looking forward to attending the NGC Convention in May.

Alabama, Jan Thomas, President - The Embassy Suites in Montgomery will be the site of the 2016 convention, Southern Charm, on April 3-5. Alabama is honored to have NGC President Sandra Robinson in attendance. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. The Gulf Shores Garden Club will be hosting it 25th Floral Seminar February 3rd at the Erie Meyer Civic Center. Benny Campbell will be presenting the program, Silver Soiree.

CENTRAL

<http://ngccentralregion.org>

Judy Newman, Director

The members of Central Region enjoyed "Cultivating Connections" at our CR meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Those attending had the opportunity to connect with CR Chairmen during two of the meal functions. Many ideas and much information were shared.

In the future, Central Region Newsletters will be emailed to CR State Presidents, Chairmen and CR Life Members. State presidents are encouraged to forward the CR Newsletter to their state chairmen and club presidents. The CR Newsletter will be placed on the Central Region Website. This change was one of the many corrections and additions to Central Region Rules and Procedures which were approved at the 2015 CR Meeting.

Save the date, October 7-9, 2016, for the Central Region meeting to be held in Springfield, Illinois at the President Abraham Lincoln Hilton Hotel – Springfield. This will be another opportunity for CR Chairmen and members to "Cultivate more Connections." There will be reports about how members and clubs are incorporating the NGC, CR, and club logos on signage, brochures, publicity, etc. Please send samples to Liz Murken, the CR Alternate Director.

The Garden Clubs of Illinois is promoting holding Landscape Design, Gardening Study, Environmental Studies and Flower Show Schools throughout the State. The goal is to bring the schools to garden club members encouraging better attendance and growth in membership.

The Garden Club of Indiana members are preparing for their State's Bicentennial in 2016. They're planting blue, gold or yellow flowers. Each club is invited to join in the planting. Included in the plans is the dedication of one or more Blue Star Memorials in 2016.

Loretta Daisy, President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, is promoting using good gardening practices to improve our environment by planting native plants in public and private gardens, as well as creating butterfly gardens.

A "No Excuses Manual" was developed by Marilyn McIntosh, President of Michigan Garden Clubs. It includes testimonials about how to grow clubs, programs from yearbooks, and 100+ ways to retain and recruit new members so that every club can put their best foot forward.

The Monarch Watch Butterfly Program is the program President Betty Beck of Minnesota has selected to promote.



Fundraising, updating state bylaws, and working with disadvantaged youth groups are some other things members of the Federated Garden Club of Minnesota are working on.

Planting 5,000 native trees and shrubs to provide food and habitat for our animal friends and pollinators is the goal of Missouri's State President, Nancy Bahn.

"Gardening for Good" is the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation President Gerianne Holzman's garden therapy endeavor in Wisconsin. WGCF members' donations will be used to create the Hilary Grace Healing Garden at the University of Wisconsin Hospital. The focus will also be on Backyard Habitat, the Monarch Watch, and Million Pollinator Garden Challenge.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Darlene Skari, Director

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

The eight states of the Rocky Mountain Region are all in the middle of cold, snow and real winter. With the rush of the holidays gone, this is a great time to look back over the year and look at what worked and what did not do so well. The states each have activities that reflect the needs and interests of their communities. Kansas is redoing their website which is "under construction." Nebraska held the Gardening Study School Series 1 Course 3. With the distances in our region, successfully holding schools takes lots of planning and can be difficult. Congratulations to Nebraska!



South Dakota is evaluating their record keeping to make certain that all the information about Life Members at all levels is up to date. They are also concentrating on the Blue Star Marker program, to encourage new markers being placed and to look at older ones that may need to be refurbished. Montana members are being asked to keep track of volunteer hours spent on garden club projects. Records will be kept not only about members but about helpers who work alongside them. Communities with garden clubs show the results of those clubs with park plantings, pocket gardens and beautiful spots throughout, and having a record of time spent on those projects will be great for publicity!

The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs has a big annual event in February from the 12th to the 21st, the Colorado Garden and Home Show. They have an area in this Denver show, and the income from a grant for \$5000 from the Colorado Garden Foundation is used to fund their Flower Show Schools. Their Standard Flower Show runs the entire time

of the big event. The title of the show this year is Metamorphosis. With a headquarters building (and grounds) they have owned for 50 years, the need for volunteers goes on throughout the year. Considering many of the members live outside of Denver, those members who live nearby can be kept busy.

North Dakota members are fortunate to have North Dakota State University in Fargo for lots of information about growing plants. The Red River Valley has deep and fertile soil, making it one of the most productive farming areas in the United States. The University research and education information is valuable to all who till the soil for the joy of working in the soil or as a career farmer. Especially for fruit and vegetable gardeners in the north, the university website has great information.

SOUTH CENTRAL

Barbara S. Baker, Director

<http://ngcscr.com>

Mayors and other local government chief executives are taking action to help save the Monarch butterfly through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Cities and municipalities are committing to create habitat and educate citizens about how they can make a difference. In January, I was honored (and thrilled) to be appointed to serve on Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price's Planning Committee. The early planners who met with NWF Outreach Specialist Grace Barnett included representatives from Parks, Zoo, Nature Center, Botanic Garden, public schools, private and home school, Master Gardeners, prairie restoration, commercial nursery, Army Corps of Engineers and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. What a marvelous opportunity to network!



As early as May 2015, the City of Austin passed a city council resolution designed to incorporate more native milkweed into the city's landscape. Garden clubs have years of experience in public landscape, plant choices and education. All SCR clubs have been asked to promote Monarch and pollinator-friendly areas by working with city-owned buildings, city properties, such as preserve lands, parks and open spaces, as well as schools and our own home gardens. We must also develop our leadership skills to work with these entities and help make things happen.

Although the Monarch butterfly has only a limited range in New Mexico, more than 300 other species abound there.

New Mexico Garden Clubs is promoting them through an outstanding tri-fold publication created by their butterfly chairman, Jo Ann T. Layden. www.newmexicogardenclubs.org

The Frightened Frog, an Environmental Tale has become a favorite educational tool and a way to gain/regain entry into busy public schools. Primrose Garden Club and Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs President Rose Knight presented copies to the three primary schools in Arkadelphia. Primrose Garden Club also sponsored an AFGC "Bird Poster Contest" (Barred Owl or Great Blue Heron) for the art students at the Goza Middle School, Arkadelphia. The Northwest District and AFGC are hosting NGC President Sandy Robinson during their state convention April 6-7 and the South Central Region Spring Convention and Flower Show April 8-9 in beautiful Bentonville, AR.

Like Johnny Appleseed, Texas Garden Clubs President Carol Moore donates ***The Frightened Frog*** to school and public libraries as she gives programs on her state project: Recycling -- Reusing -- Energy Saving -- Water Conservation. Northside School students were thrilled to have their picture on the front page of the local newspaper accepting 15 copies for their library.

Oklahoma Garden Clubs ***Frightened Frog*** Chairman Merlene Brown has also bought stacks and recently donated copies to every Guymon Public School. OGC is hosting two workshops that will develop members' skills to implement and carry through with community projects: February 20 is a Leadership Workshop led by NGC Leadership Chairman Robin Pokorski in Oklahoma City, and May 20-21 is OGC's annual Wildflower Workshop in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

PACIFIC

<http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org>

Kristie Livreri, Director

Wow! 2015 has come and gone. When I was a little girl, if someone had mentioned 2016, I would have thought they were talking about a sci-fi movie. Well, it is here now, and we must look to the future as we claim the past.

What have we done in the last forty years to make this world a better place? With our theme in the Pacific Region being "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child," I am filled with hope that in forty years when those who are children today look back, they will see what they



have done to improve the world around them one garden at a time.

It falls upon us as garden club members to educate and motivate children. With that education and motivation, children can change the world around them, and make it a better place for all of us. Some children may never have the opportunity to dig their fingers in soil, watch a ladybug crawl up their arm, press wildflowers in a book, or feel the coolness of running water in a stream. Given a choice, I am sure that most children would opt to go for a hike, rather than play video games.

As I have visited states in the Pacific Region, I have been delighted to hear of plans to include children in club programs. There are community gardens involving children, and ***The Frightened Frog*** is being introduced into classrooms and donated to school libraries. National Garden Clubs, Inc. has provided us with many avenues to take to involve children. Awards are connected with many of these programs; there are a kaleidoscope of possibilities.

It is my hope that the new year will find us teaching and working with children. It will give us hope for the year 2066 when they will be the ones to lead, educate and motivate to make this beautiful earth a better place. Happy New Year from the Pacific Region.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

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

Click here to visit the [NGC website](#) for information about the 2015-2017 President's Projects

NEW - All issues of KIT appear in the Member Section on the NGC website. Members should contact their District Director or State President for access information.

Submissions for KIT are due April 1, 2016

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