



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

FEBRUARY-APRIL 2010

GREETINGS from Renee Blaschke, NGC President

Many of you are in the thrust of winter as you read this. Many of you have experienced the hardest and coldest season in many years. For those of you who have been shoveling snow, you are looking forward to the burst of spring that will follow. With the first breath of the new season, I hope you are enlightened with the golden rays of



sunshine as your daffodils break through the soil and raise their heads to the sun. I only wish I could be everywhere at the same time to experience the sights. Thank you for your support of *Golden Days*. It is exciting for me to know you embraced this project and that you will bring joy to your senior members and mentors with whom you share the beauty. By your support, *Color Blend* completely sold out of both selections- Golden Harvest 12,450 bulbs and Master Blend 13,900. The goal set for the year was 25,000 bulbs and this was exceeded by 1,350. And these numbers do not reflect the bulbs that clubs purchased through local growers and hybridizers. I hope you will report those numbers to your State President so that she can share them with our members in Atlanta. The wonderful part is that the bulbs you planted will multiply and bring joy for many years. I hope you will continue to plant more for next year. If you have not read the Daffodil Principle, please go on line for it is a wonderful story.

Almost daily I receive word of another community garden being developed. As garden club members, you have

embraced *Beautiful Blight*. In troubled times, you recognize the needs of those less fortunate and you step up to the plate to provide fresh produce. You are not only feeding the hungry, but you are nurturing their souls. You are partnering with other community volunteers, involving the youth and teaching them the

importance of community service and teaching them gardening skills. Thank you. You are serving as an example for these young people and instilling the importance of caring for the needy. You are paving the path for future leaders of your community and state and future garden club members.

Another exciting and continuing project is the Blue Star Markers. Jimmie Meinhardt, Blue Star Memorial Chairman, reports that seventy two dedications were scheduled this past year. This brings the numbers to over two thousand. Others have been ordered and more dedications will take place. There were 27 Memorial Markers, 9 Highway Markers and 36 By-Way Markers that were placed. This is such a wonderful tribute for the men and women of the Armed Forces who have, are and will continue to defend our country and the freedoms we enjoy. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice. If your club has not sponsored one of these markers, please consider doing so.

I hope all of you go on line and check National Garden Clubs' website on a regular basis. (www.gardenclub.org).

Judy Binns does a wonderful job of keeping the information current and updated. If you or your club members have any questions regarding any facet of NGC, you can most probably find the answers to your questions on the site. I commend the Communications Committee for their dedication. On the website, you will also find a link to NGC Facebook and Twitter accounts. This is a wonderful way for you to post pertinent information that needs to be shared with our entire membership. If you have any press releases that you would like to share on Facebook or Twitter, email to molfamily@earthlink.net. Let's inform the world of the work we do!

To date, I have visited twenty-six states (in US) and three states in Mexico. I am impressed as I listen to reports of clubs as they tell of their projects within their communities. The garden clubs are an intricate part of service to their cities, large and small. As a former mayor, I know first hand of the work and dedication of garden club

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members, for as I drive through the streets of Smithville, I can easily point out the garden clubs' successful projects that bring beauty to our community. Each of you can do that as well. We can, and rightfully should, take pride in our efforts toward civic development and community beautification. We create awareness of the necessity to conserve our natural resources. Garden Club members are respected citizens who sit on Boards and Commissions within their cities and counties and they bring much to the table. I salute each of you.

In many of my travels, I have had the opportunity to sit in round table discussions and listen to and visit with members one on one. Our members come from all backgrounds and all professions. I find it exciting to see more and more men joining local clubs and becoming involved at district and state levels. I urge you to invite husbands to join your club. Many retirees are getting more involved with gardening - it is the number one hobby in our country - and we can learn from them as well as share our knowledge and gardening experiences with them.

It was interesting and informative for me to meet with International Affiliates and listen to their concerns of international travel, expenses, and the language barriers they experience. At the same time, I learned and saw first hand many of their ongoing projects. They are not only sponsoring but they are increasing their participation in more and more of NGC's schools. Their work with youth is phenomenal. Their environmental concerns are sincere and they are increasing awareness of the importance of recycling, clean air and water. Their cultures are strong in support of the arts. My visits with them have been stimulating. They are endeavoring to protect their flora and fauna.

I always look forward to receiving your publications. I read them from cover to cover and find information to pass on to others. In a recent issue of the Montana publication, I read an insert titled "You Light Up My Life" which

addressed CFLs –compact fluorescent lights. The information was found on the following site: www.energystar.gov/CFLsandMercury. I quote just a few facts from that article. "If every American home replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars. Several of the usage tips includes: Always hold the base and not the glass to screw in the bulb. Use ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs in places where you will have the light on for at least 15 minutes at a time. Frequently turning a CFL on and off will shorten the bulb's lifetime. Most photocells and timers are not designed to work with CFLs. When your CFL burns out, recycle it. Check your local municipal solid waste agency for recycling locations. Stores such as Home Depot and IKEA are just a few that accept these. Read packaging to see where each bulb should be used. Not all ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs are designed to work in every socket.

I want every member of NGC to know I am here to serve you. Do not ever hesitate to contact me if you have a concern. If I can be a voice for you, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

A note to Club Presidents: As President of your garden club, you receive a complimentary copy of The National Gardener and Keeping In Touch. These are sent to you for your enjoyment and to keep you abreast of the happenings of NGC. They are not to be considered as a personal copy, but rather, they are sent to you to share with your membership and to keep your members abreast of the projects, programs and tools available to assist in planning your year's activities and programs.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Atlanta for the Annual Convention. A wonderful time is in store for all. Please make plans to attend. The Georgia members welcome all of us as their guests and you will find their

PRESIDENT'S 2010 TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Jan 12-14 Winter Park, FL - Board Mtg
Jan 18-21 Palm Springs, CA- NGC Winter Executive Committee Mtg

Mar 7-8 Deep South Region, Natchez, MS

Mar 14 -16 South Atlantic Region - Georgetown, So. Carolina

Mar 17-23 NGC Tour – Mexico City

Apr 8-10 Arizona

Apr 13-15 New Orleans, LA - Convention

Apr 18-21 Gettysburg, PA - Convention

Apr 22 Rhode Island - Convention

Apr 23-25 – Hays, KS - Convention

Apr 25-27 Raleigh, NC - Convention

May 11-16 NGC Convention, Atlanta, GA

hospitality absolutely GREAT! See you there.

Remember, it is our job, our responsibility to observe "The World Around Us-Love It-Beautify It-Protect It".

You have honored me to serve as your president and to represent a wonderful, educational and beneficial organization. I am humbled by your confidence in me and I thank you.

Renee

Deadline for the next issue of KIT - April 1, 2010

Please send information, articles, etc. to

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BEAUTIFY BLIGHT - LOVE IS - CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY GARDEN - Jeanne Nelson, Chair

BEAUTIFY BLIGHT.....Love Is.....Cultivating A Community Garden

Our deadline for **CATEGORY 2...Existing Community Gardens** is fast approaching.....February 10, 2010. Our committee wishes to thank all those who have embraced this project. Many thanks to our National President Renee Blaschke, for financial support so we may award each of the Regions and the International Affiliates a token of our appreciation for all the diligent service rendered to their individual communities.

BEAUTIFY BLIGHT..... **CATEGORY 1**...still has an additional year to complete a new community garden incorporating all three components; garden club, organized town group and an organized youth group.



If you have any questions feel free to contact your Regional Chairperson or me either through email, snail mail, or phone.

LETS MAKE OUR GARDENS A FULFILLING PLACE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.

Jeanne T. Nelson, jtnelson@optonline.net
143 S. Harrison Ave.
Congers, NY 10920-2229
(845) 268-6220

GOLDEN DAYS PROJECT - Lila Petersen, Chair

“Golden Days” Certificate of Appreciation and Participation

Just a reminder of a few details for President Renee’s “Golden Days” Project.

A Certificate of Appreciation and Participation will be issued to each who submit a one page summary of their project to the “Golden Days” Chairman, Lila Petersen. You may include no more than 3 photos on this one page summary. One page only!

A special deadline date of April 1, 2010 has been designated for this project for entries this year. This is a two year project so you may apply for this award again next year or participate with a two year project next year. When the summary is complete, send to:

Lila Petersen,
860 Hunting Hills,
Boone, NC 28607
828 264 7181 email - flip12@charter.net

MEMBERSHIP - ‘WYOMING WILDFIRE’ CANNA

Order ‘Wyoming Wildfire!’ Before the April 20, 2010 Deadline

(This canna named was by Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., winner of the 2008-2009 NGC Membership Contest and available to garden club members and their friends.)

‘Wyoming Wildfire’ grown by American Daylily & Perennial Company, is a beautiful disease resistant plant with red to red/orange blooms with dark purple/black foliage and a height of 3 ½ feet. Be the first to grow this gorgeous canna in your area. It will be a welcome addition to your garden! You may want to purchase these now to be shipped as gifts.

The cost of each ‘Wyoming Wildfire’ is \$14.00, including shipping and handling. Send in your order now and it will be shipped with instructions at the appropriate time for spring planting. After April 20th, shipping and handling, if any plants remain, will be extra. An order form can be found on the NGC website (www.gardenclub.org)

Send orders and check to: American Daylily and Perennials
P.O. Box 210
Grain Valley, MO 64029
or contact by Phone: 800-770-2777

GRANTS COMMITTEE - Pat Westgard, Chair

The Grants Committee members are committed to seeking out people who are connected with major corporations. No activity to date has produced a solid contact for a major gift, but members will continue networking. In this economy, national grants will be rare.

We can all help bring *unity* to NGC by seeking ways for small clubs to have projects funded. We can probably best do this by providing exact information on methods that small clubs can use to approach Big Box stores and local philanthropists in their communities who have a history of assisting non-profits locally. Projects that are most often funded are those that: involve matching the money, involve other non-profit groups, provide educational experiences (re: children), include gifts in-kind, provide aid to local ethnic groups, are projects located on public or historic properties.

Letter of approach should include:

- We are a national organization in 50 states, 220,000 members, with 501c3 status.
- We have national publications that may credit donor and project - may see their name in print or on web pages.
- You must be specific as to who receives the money.
- You must be specific as to how the money/donations will be used.
- You must be specific as to follow-up. Who will contact the business? When will contact be made? Nothing happens if you just mail out letters.
- You should briefly outline who your group is: What have you done in the past in the community? How large/small is your group? Do you have a 501c3?

Let us know of your successes. Let us know if we can help you. We can provide more information about NGC for your contact. You will also find information provided on the website.

Pat Westgard, Chair - LWestgard@aol.com

NGC BUTTERFLY COMMITTEE -Wendy Cote

Promote the increase of butterflies in your communities in the following ways:

1. Garden organically - with no pesticides.
2. Discourage overdevelopment and promote the need for green spaces in flyways.
3. Develop way stations in these green spaces.
4. Encourage club members to plant host and nectar plants in their gardens.
5. Have club programs identifying types of butterflies in the area; visit local butterfly houses.
6. Learn to identify the stages of local butterflies so that eggs, larva, caterpillars, and chrysalises are not destroyed.
7. Encourage clubs to work with school children tracking the migration of the monarch butterfly; also raising and releasing native butterflies.

FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE - Gerry Ford

The Flower Show Committee has prepared a stimulus package to encourage clubs to hold Standard Flower Shows. The package will contain a model schedule for a Small Standard Flower Show (SSFS) with choices of titles that a club may adapt to suit their needs. Other items in the package will include entry tags with information on where to order them and how to complete them and samples of appropriate award ribbons. Any club that has never had a flower show or has not had a Small Standard Flower Show in the past five years is eligible to participate. A Certificate of Achievement will be awarded to clubs that complete this new venture.

The Student Schedule Correction Committee has written the model schedule including three divisions, Horticulture, Design and Special Exhibits as well as the necessary Rules and General Information. The club must reproduce their selected schedule for each member and the judges and purchase the necessary ribbons and entry tags. An approved panel of NGC judges must judge the show.

The procedure is as follows:

All information may be e-mailed.

1. The club requests a model schedule from their Regional Schedule Correction Chairman.
2. The club members select the schedule with their choices of class titles and returns it to their Regional Schedule Correction Chairman. He/she approves the choices and sends it back to the club along with the sample package.
3. When the show is over, the club sends a copy of the schedule, signed and dated by the three judges who judged the show to the Regional Chairman.

The Certificate of Achievement will be sent promptly.

The FSS Student Schedule Correction Committee and their corresponding Regions:

Chairman – Gerry Ford – GKFORD1022@AOL.COM

Regions – Deep South, Central

Roger Buhr – RBUHR@MCHSI.COM

Regions – South Atlantic, Pacific

Marie Harrison – MARIEHARRISON@VALP.NET

Regions – Rocky Mountain, South Central

Fran Wittgartner – DF.WITTGARTNER@YAHOO.COM

Region – New England, Central Atlantic

NGC PLANT SOCIETY LIAISON - Carol Catlin

An updated list of Plant Societies is now available on the NGC website. Information includes plant societies, contact information and websites.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Sharon Yantis, Chair

"Challenges for Public Relations – Social Networking"

It's that time of year when we each take a look backward and one forward. So here are some reflections and projections.

The past year, and beyond, we have been bounced around with the economy - lost jobs, lost investments, lost homes, shrinking resources and much more. For example, the traditional media which many of us grew up with are aging and in some cases folding for the last time.

Today, when we want to promote our programs, projects, people, and priorities, we cannot rely on the mainstream media to provide the conduit of information. Instead, we need to find and tap into the new channels of information. For example, millions of people are utilizing social networking opportunities such as Facebook and Twitter. Our National Garden Club is using both of these forward thinking communication tools. If you have not signed up for one or both of these

opportunities, you really should. It is easy, just go to the NGC's Web site www.gardenclub.org and click on Facebook and Twitter on the home page.

Social networking gives you instantaneous access to an ever-growing audience. From these sites, one can read what others are saying, and view photos of current events. As a member, you too can post information and your thoughts. Don't be afraid to try these innovations. If you are reluctant, maybe your local garden club will help you or even provide a program on how best to use this growing list of networking opportunities. Or why not invite your child or grandchildren to help you get started. You'll find the experience of inviting a friend/being a friend satisfying and rewarding. Happy New Year, and do make a resolution to join this evolutionary networking opportunity.

Sharon Yantis
Publicity/Public Relations Chairman
Sharon.Yantis@sbcglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP - Shirley Nicolai, First VP

Please remember to send in NGC dues for new members until March 31st. Doing so will help your state garden club successfully compete for the honor of naming a gorgeous new daylily cultivar- and all states with increased membership from the previous year will be recognized.

We all know that increasing age, competition from other organizations and a lack of leisure time are factors challenging NGC's growth. Recently, however, traffic in nurseries has increased, along with a desire to learn gardening techniques. Concern for the environment is escalating. People are spending more time in their own homes, yards and communities in lieu of traveling to faraway places. NOW is an ideal time for recruiting!

Last year, NGC came close to increasing its total membership for the first time in many years. We were short by just 426 members nationwide- less than 9 members per state garden club. With your help, we can start a new, positive trend in 2010.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Suzanne Potts, Vice Chair

New Youth Sculpture Contest

The Youth Committee is excited to announce a new contest using recyclable, reused or reduced materials to create a sculpture. Children in 4th grade through 8th grade will be eligible to enter this contest. The purpose is to encourage youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving our environment.

The sculpture is limited to a size that would fit onto an 8½ X 11 sheet of paper. Height should be proportional to width. Entries should include as many photographs that can be printed on the back of the 8½ X 11 entry form, but two 4X6 photographs are recommended. Entry form should include child's name, age, grade level, school, name and address of contact person, sponsoring garden club and a paragraph of three to five sentences describing materials used to create the sculpture.

This contest will begin in May, 2010, to allow time to promote and encourage participation. Entry forms and contest deadlines to State and Region Chairs will be on the NGC website soon.

For any questions, please contact this chairman, Suzanne Potts, NGC Youth Committee, Vice-Chair, at smp9114@att.net.

Wafa USA - Shirley Nicolai

Ninety-one delegates from 21 countries participated in "Excursion Botanicus", a 10 day Seminar held in 3 cities this fall. Claudia Chopp, President -National Flower Arrangers, represented NGC. Many NGC members participated as committee chairmen, teacher assistants, program presenters and centerpiece artists. Gerry Ford and Penny Horne in Chicago and Evalee Ciuca in Washington, DC chaired flower shows judged by Seminararians. Both shows had 48 exhibits, half of which were created by NGC members. Wafa USA Management Committee members and NGC board members Deen Day Sanders, Gerry St. Peters, Candace Morgenstern and Shirley Nicolai thoroughly enjoyed traveling with the talented group.

Plans are now well under way for "This Glorious Earth", which will take place in Boston from June 15 - 19, 2011. For further information, please go to www.wafausa.org.

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY — MAY 21, 2010

What exactly is “Endangered Species Day”? How can National Garden Clubs, State and local Garden Clubs get involved? Are there opportunities to participate with other eco-friendly organizations?

In 2006, the U.S. Senate unanimously declared “Endangered Species Day” a national celebration of America’s commitment to protect and recover our nation’s endangered species. On the third Friday in May, America celebrates endangered species’ success stories, including many species of animals, fish, reptiles, birds, insects and plants. Each and every state in America has unique species that are on the verge of extinction. Most people are aware of the demise of the American Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Polar Bear and Humpback Whale, although there are literally hundreds of less publicized species at peril.

This spring, on May 21st 2010, “Endangered Species Day” will host educational activities throughout the country. Many organizations are actively involved, such as Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Endangered Species Coalition, Fish and Wildlife and Center for Wildlife Diversity.

As NGC Endangered Species Chair, I have been working with Marion Hilliard, NGC Government Action Education Chair. Marion and I are representing the National Garden Clubs on the Endangered Species Day Advisory Board, along with representatives of other national environmental organizations. We are compiling information that will be made available by the NGC Government Action Education Committee to help garden clubs plan activities that will publicize and support the 2010 “Endangered

Species Day”. Our National President is pleased that National Garden Clubs was asked to join the Endangered Species Day’s Advisory Board. We feel that being actively involved in this annual event supports President Blascke’s theme: “The World around Us—Love It-Beautifully It-PROTECT IT.” We must remember that our endangered species cannot speak for themselves.

There is an “Endangered Species Tool Kit” available that defines many ways in which our communities can celebrate this day. We need to “spread the word”.... educate our youth, involve our local garden clubs and become part of this global concern. A “How-to-Guide” is available from the Endangered Species Coalition www.stopextinction.org.

NGC members could celebrate Endangered Species Day by becoming involved in an “Endangered Species Art Contest.” Children across the country are invited to enter a contest for the best Endangered Species posters and pictures. NGC Flower Shows could include Endangered Species Special Exhibits. Partnering with local environmental organizations, schools and community groups we could educate the public about this ever growing global issue. We are a huge organization and can make a difference through education and awareness, promoting the PROTECTION OF OUR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.

Michelle Mensinger
NGC Endangered Species Chair
loveoflife@comcast.net

Marion Hilliard
NGC Government Action Education
Chair
marionh@bellsouth.net

Are we using our web sites to the full advantage? Are we aiming our information at non members - those web users that are interested in our subject matter and might become future new members? If not, we need to be doing just that.

You have less than 20 seconds to engage a visitor - i.e. convince them to stay on your site before they click away in search of something more interesting. Your homepage must engage them immediately in accordance with their needs, and it must have enough compelling information to draw them into other areas, and to want to find out more about you.

When events are planned, all the *what/where/when/how* information needs to go on the web immediately. Keep the web site current; delete events that have already happened. Got gardening tips? (if not, get some) – put them on your web site! And be sure that all newsletters or bulletins have your correct website address ... no one can find you with the wrong address ... Fill your state/club website with articles and pictures, make your site the “go to” site for gardening information ... know what you will get? ...NEW MEMBERS!

And don’t forget to send all that information to NGC’s Twitter/Facebook guy at molfamily@earthlink.net – you will get twice the bang for your buck! ... he will tweet on Twitter about your event, post your pictures and articles on Facebook and drive more traffic to your websites. Let the wide world of the web users know what you are about!

“As the years pass, fewer and fewer people will long for the call of frogs. Today’s children, growing up on lawns and pavements, will not even have nostalgia to guide them, and soon the animals will not only be missing but forgotten.”

Noah’s Garden by Sara Stein

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

NEW ENGLAND REGION KATHLEEN M. THOMAS

The New England Region is gearing up for Flower Shows. The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. is looking forward to its 29th year of presenting a Flower Show in Hartford the "Spice of Life", highlights designs for the home and will feature a Club Competition, a Novice Class, and a For Men Only Class. The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. invites you to enjoy their Standard Flower Show "Everything Old is New Again". The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts will again participate in the New England Spring Flower and Garden Show in March with a new venue at the World Trade Center in Boston. Together with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society they will present "Blooms" with a design division titled "The Times of Your Life". Maine is gearing up for the Annual Regional Symposium being held in May in Kennebunkport. New Hampshire is holding their Flower Show in August. The Regional Flower show will be held in October at the Annual Meeting the title of the show is "Recycle" with all the states participating in this team effort.

I am very proud of the accomplishments of the NER and am pleased to serve them as the director.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION CARMINE DEVITO

Having a few months tucked under my belt, I am most gratified by all of the projects and good deeds that are progressing throughout the Central Atlantic Region. I admire each of you for what you are doing to promote our President's projects. October's Fall conference in Tarrytown, NY proved just that as many were honored for their outstanding work and received certificates, some with monetary rewards for club achievements. A gracious thank you to Lynne Arnold and Jeanne Beryl-Metz, Chair and Co-Chair, as well as all those behind the scene who worked so hard to provide wonderful workshops, tours, programs.

I would also like to recognize our seven great state presidents. They have stepped up to the challenge and are doing an extra ordinary job in their leadership, we appreciate you!

I am enjoying the newsletters that have been sent to me as well as your directories, it is a wonderful way for me to stay in touch with our region, thank you for thinking of me.

As we move through our daily lives, we are back to normal business, chores, meetings etc. We must all remember to take time for ourselves as well as for our family and friends and then count our blessings. There will always be something trying to grab our attention; the phone calls, the emails. Life is always movement, always change, always circumstances. To get a fresh start on the New Year, I plan to discard as much as I can, go through my personal papers at home and organize my desk so I may find things and get a fresh start on the New Year! I declare, "LESS is MORE!"

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CAROLYN GOLDEN PATTERSON

With the theme *Color Our World - Exciting*, board members of the South Atlantic Region are busy preparing for the 2010 Regional Convention at Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort near Pawleys Island, SC on March 14-16. Convention attendees will have the opportunity to visit historic Brookgreen Gardens with their world-renowned sculptures collected by Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington and take a boat tour of an old rice plantation where they can observe the vegetation of the South Carolina Lowcountry. Dr. Paul T. Gayes, Director of the Center for Marine and Wetland Studies and Palmetto Professor of Marine Science and Geology at Coastal Carolina University will present a *Good Soil* workshop and beach walk. James Cothran, Landscape Design expert, author and professor will speak on *Pass On Our Gardening Heritage*. NGC President Renee Blaschke will be with us to enjoy the design program, tours and wonderful Lowcountry cuisine.

DEEP SOUTH REGION MARY SUE COLVIN

The states of the Deep South Region have launched many outstanding programs related to NGC's theme.

Garden Clubs of Alabama are continuing a recycling project collecting ink cartridges and cell phones applying the money to their scholarship fund.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, members conducted two sessions of SEEK (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge) a four-day conference for teenagers. A highlight of the conference was the Green Living workshop where students calculated their carbon footprints, measured the wattage of electrical appliances and learned how

to live in a more sustainable manner.

Garden Club of Georgia members have instituted a "Back to the 3 Rs!" youth program focused on reducing, reusing and recycling. GCG is producing "Bulletin Boards in a Bag" containing everything needed to decorate an environmental bulletin board featuring the 3 Rs for a school classroom, public library, media center or church.

Louisiana Garden Club Federation members are partnering with the Acorns of Hope organization in a reforestation project to replant 10,000 live oak trees in their hurricane devastated coastal areas and in the central interior prairies, as well as aid in the restoration of the Chenier Plain, the breeding and maturation grounds for most of the Gulf of Mexico seafood.

Each club of the Garden Clubs of Mississippi has appointed a "Green Chair" who will present facts and tips on Living Green – Living Clean at club meeting. A Mississippi Clean Up to Green Up Day with a state-wide trash pick-up is planned in April 2010.

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs held their Conservation Camp at Fall Creek Falls State Park. "Our World Around Us – Water, Water, Everywhere", was the theme. Programs and workshops included: Drought Tolerant Plants, How to Make a Rain Barrel, Ten Principles for an Environmentally Friendly Landscape, and Storm Water and You.

CENTRAL REGION JOAN A. HOOD

Winter time finds most of us in the Central Region digging out of snow drifts, enjoying warm chocolate by the fires and dreaming of warmer days in our gardens. Escaping to Palm Springs, CA with the Winter Executive Board highlighted the month of January. Discussions concerning all of the important NGC projects during our National President's term consumed most of the meeting time.

Having had a most successful fall CR Convention in Naperville, IL our CR Board now turns to urging our 7 states to take part in all of the projects that were discussed during the convention, our Newsletter and on the Website.

It will be award time for us at the NGC Convention in Atlanta this spring. We look forward to rewarding those states who take part in executing and fulfilling the many projects offered by our sponsors. Having individual sponsors

from our region now relieves our treasury of the financial commitment to honor these awards and our membership is encouraged to check deadlines and present their "briefs" or Books of Evidence for judging.

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
MARY ANN MORENO**

South Central Region has changed Editors for their publication, "The Communicator". Jim Moreno is relieving our former Editor, Andy Core. Jim comes with a background in Engineering and has written many papers on research and development of Solar Energy while working for Sandia National Laboratory, in Albuquerque, NM.

The SCR Convention Committee is sending the Call and Registration forms out to the state publications in Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas, so Garden Club members can make plans to attend the South Central Region April 23-24, 2010 Convention, in Addison, Texas. "PAINT YOUR WORLD GREEN" is the theme and remember to be GREEN in your neck of the woods or desert.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
SANDRA DENNIS**

The Rocky Mountain Region is pleased to announce the establishment of their new regional website: <http://www.rockymountainregiongardenclubs.org>. We want to thank Phyllis White, our Regional Communications Chair, for this accomplishment.

Highlights of activities around our region - Colorado continues to host NGC schools with a Gardening Studies I, Environmental Studies II, and Flower Show Studies II. In Kansas, two clubs reached significant anniversaries - Olathe Garden Club celebrated 80 years and Smith Center Garden Club reached their 75th anniversary! Several of our states - Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah have developed exciting projects to support the Regional Director's project on Trees. These include providing tree seedlings to clubs and offering competitive \$500 grants to clubs. Montana has developed and issued to their clubs the first educational gardening DVD featuring an inspiring Zone 3 garden. For a preview, see the on-line version of "Montana Gardens" on their outstanding website: mtfgc.org. North Dakota hosted a wonderful Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting in Fargo, and at the Wyoming fall board meeting attendees participated in a brainstorming session to inspire future club activities.

**PACIFIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR
SANDRA FORD**

We celebrated a wonderful family Christmas in Boise, Idaho with only a dusting of snow, but the coldest temperatures in 12 years. Each morning's chore is checking the bird feeders to keep them filled for the cold and hungry birds. Our ski resort finally opened with just three feet of snow at the base. It may be a sign of another drought year. Southern California wildfire area from this past summer became landslides from heavy rains. The Penny Pines project is a very successful program here with a lot more trees needed.

This director is looking forward to the Winter Board Meeting in Palm Springs, California and then meeting with gardeners in Maui and Oahu, Hawaii during January and February.

Spring will be right around the corner with daffodils blooming everywhere. They will be a bright and cheery way to start up our gardens and in time to attend the Pacific Region Convention. It will be held in Spokane, Washington on April 22-24, 2010 with the theme "Near Nature, Near Water."