



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

AUG-OCT 2010

GREETINGS from Renee Blaschke, NGC President

Dear Garden Club Friends,

Many of you are in the process of canning the bounties of your Spring and Summer gardens. This is a busy time of the year but hopefully you are finishing up this annual chore before the real impact of the summer heat has embarked upon you.

This has been an interesting spring for me as I traveled in recent months in those states that I have always thought of being "cool"; however, weather patterns across the country are playing tricks on us. Many of these states have had much higher temperatures than we have experienced in Texas to date. I have experienced snow, hail, rain and tornadoes in Denver in an attempt to travel to Kansas and North Carolina. I learned to know the Denver airport from one end to the other as I was stranded there for 1 1/2 days. I experienced the floods in Iowa.

I learned that airports can be a place to share the lives of many strangers who are experiencing the unknowing circumstances with you and, for the most part in a very calm and cool manner. People are interesting creatures. Since Atlanta, I have shared the lives of many strangers as well as those of you in the six states I visited.

This issue of KIT has an abundance of information so my message to you will be brief. The Atlanta convention was wonderful; interesting, informative with great workshops,



interesting speakers, and fun tours. The members of the Georgia Federation are to be commended for wonderful planning and leaving no stones unturned for our enjoyment. I want to send a special thank you to the NGC Board members who participated in providing exhibits regarding their work areas. I continue to receive accolades, on your behalf, for your interesting and informative exhibits you created and displayed. We have not had this response in years and I appreciate YOU! It

added tremendous dimension to our convention.

There were several other incidents that added to the conventions atmosphere. There was the luncheon at the beautiful Georgia Headquarters where, unbeknownst to me at the time (thank goodness), a large snake took residence under my assigned table. Being scared to death of this sect of the animal world, and perhaps those around me who thought I had any dignity at all, would have soon seen the real me! Believe me when I say, there would have been no dignity in sight!

The well planned tour continued only to find the bus I was on, "bottomed out" on a narrow street close to campus. All participants of the tour were calm and collected and took advantage of the down time to visit and learn to know each other better.

This past July 4th weekend, is particularly meaningful as I recall several magnificent Blue Star Memo-

rial dedications that member clubs have sponsored during this administration. Members of NGC continue to support this premier project of our organization with orders for Blue Star Markers and plans for more dedications on the horizon.

In time of war, we are constantly reminded of the men and women of our Armed Forces who have, are and will serve to preserve this great country. Far too many make the ultimate sacrifice and we must not take this heroism for granted. This past holiday season, a group of garden club friends in Florida, led by former NGC President Lois Shuster, banded together and decided to send email greetings in lieu of hard copies and for each card they emailed they contributed fifty cents to an established fund. They raised enough money to pay for a small Blue Star Marker that has been ordered.

Due to their success, this group plans to continue their efforts, their purpose is to spend all of the dollars collected to purchase more markers

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for placement throughout the country. Although this project is not a sanctioned NGC project, if anyone is interested in participating with them, please contact Lois for details on the 'Sage and Roses' (Send A Greeting Electronically & Remember Our Servicemen's Every Sacrifice).

A full report will appear in the next KIT, but due to limited space in this current issue, I wanted you to know of this project early in the year. More details are being established to determine the placement of these markers. Checks should be made payable to NGC, Inc. and sent directly to Lois. The funds raised will be donated to NGC for this purpose. What a great project!

Please remember to support WAFA, the 10th World Flower Show and first-time hosted in the USA. The show, "This Glorious Earth," is scheduled in Boston, June 15-19, 2011, at the Seaport World Trade Center. A \$1000 donation will place your state's name on the list of supporters. NGC and GCA have partnered to form the Umbrella Group (WAFA USA). If your state cannot afford the \$1000, perhaps a group of individuals can

organize under a given name and raise this amount or more among themselves. Of course, any amount will be welcomed. Donations should be sent to Gerry St. Peters, WAFA USA Treasurer. The show is held every three years. Let us help to make USA shine! As Americans, we want everyone, everywhere to come away with the optimum impression of our country. WAFA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Federal Identification # 20-5814388.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. appreciates YOU! Thank you for the work and dedication you contribute to your local communities, districts, states and regions. We are proud to call you MEMBERS! I send a personal THANK YOU for your many hospitalities and the outstanding support given me in this first year of a fun filled administration. You are each a very special friend to me.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer. Take pleasure in your gardens and "The World Around Us". Enjoy your travels and relish in your family.

Renee D. Blaschke,
NGC President 2009-2011

PRESIDENT'S 2010 TRAVEL SCHEDULE



Jul 12-15	St Louis - Headquarters Mtg
26-31	Texas A&M - TX Design Seminar
Aug 9-10	Hot Springs, AR - Mid Yr Mtg
Sep 13-15	Cooperstown, NY - State Mtg
17-19	Kearney, NE - Rocky Mountain Region
20-25	Great Falls, MT- FBM
Oct 4-6	Elkhart, IL - Central Region
10-14	Tennessee Conservation Camp/State Meeting
17-19	Tyler, TX - State Meeting
Nov 3-6	San Luis Potosi, MX
8-15	Peru - NGC Tour
Dec 2	Rhode Island - State Mtg

NGC tour to Peru November 8-15-2010

This is just a reminder of the tour NGC has planned for Peru for November 8-15, 2010. We are still needing seven (7) judges for the flower show that will be held in Peru. Please pass the information along to other garden clubs members or friends.

If there are any questions please contact Deana Roberts, email: robertsdeana@aol.com or Itropa Tours (800)666-3838.

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

Please send information, articles, etc. to

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NGC BYLAWS REVISION - Shirley Nicolai, Pres. Elect

A Bylaws Revision was adopted at the 2009 Hous-ton Convention. Reading the revised ARTICLE VII should clarify the current procedure for paying NGC dues.

ARTICLE VII -- DUES, FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS Section 1. -- DUES

A. Annual dues of each State Garden Club shall be fifty cents (\$.50) per capita on all categories of members, including NGC Life Members.

1. Annual dues for State Garden Club membership shall be paid to NGC Headquarters between June 1 and October 31 of that year.

2. Annual dues shall be delinquent after October 31. Notices of dues unpaid as of the Fall Board Meeting shall be given by the NGC First Vice-President/President-elect to the Regional Directors and State Garden Club Presidents at that meeting.

3. State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues by October 31 shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention.

4. State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards.

5. Additional dues payment for members not included in the original report shall be remitted by a State Garden Club to NGC Headquarters prior to March 31 of the following year. These additional dues will be utilized in tabulating the number of delegates to the NGC Conventions.

6. State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

B. Annual Dues of Affiliate Member Organizations

1. Annual dues of each Affiliate Member organization shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31.

2. Annual dues of each National Affiliate Member organization shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31.

3. Annual dues of each International Affiliate Member organization shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31.

4. Affiliate member organizations failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards and shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention.

5. Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

C. Youth Gardener groups shall pay no NGC individual dues.

Section 2. -- FEES

One annual fee for all Youth Gardener groups within a State Garden Club or country shall be ten dollars (\$10.00 U.S.) per state or country payable by October 31.

Section 3. -- CONTRIBUTIONS

The one-time contribution of an Honorary Life Membership or a Life Membership in NGC shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

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

The Beautify Blight committee would like to welcome Carol Smith from Texas as our newly appointed co-chairman.

Entering the second year of the Presidential Project, Category 1, our emphasis is on the recently established Community Garden. This is the joint effort of garden clubs and community organizations of adults and youth to promote the development of community "vegetable" gardens.

For many groups it has taken a year to find a suitable piece of land, presenting ideas to municipalities, providing tree removal, cultivating soil and finding access to water. Planting, maintenance and protecting both the garden and its volunteers only added to the difficulties of the community team.

"Beautify Blight" is a great example of National Garden Clubs commitment of service to one's community. The Books of Evidence presented this past year with Financial Awards were given at Regional lunches in Atlanta. Photographs from those Books showed the breadth of service and care given to those less fortunate by garden clubs over the years.

As a committee we ask all members and their clubs to unite behind individual community garden projects. Being involved in one's own community not only enhances the view held by the public but also encourages others to want to be a part of a growing movement of service.

Join us in the second year of our endeavor to serve, with Beautify Blight as your starting movement.

Congratulations to all the winning clubs at the National Convention in Atlanta; and to the outstanding job done by our International Affiliates. Let's join the march to "LOVE IS.... CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY GARDEN," serving each of our communities.

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MEMBERSHIP - Lana Finegold, Membership Committee Member-Pacific Region

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS "GROW WITH GARDEN CLUB"

When we are enthusiastic and share information about the many fun things we are doing in garden club, it can make others interested. Talking about Garden Club while standing in line waiting to pay for groceries and flowers, or when we are out and about may trigger positive interest. My membership mantra is "My Energy Matters Because Enthusiasm Renews, Sustains & Helps Inspire People". Membership is about attracting members, inspiring them to action and retaining their interest and involvement. Groups survive because they meet the needs of their members. It is very important for programs and workshops to meet member needs. Most new members want to get involved but not necessarily overloaded. New members will benefit from mentoring by long-time members and groups will benefit by having new members. Meeting people, learning by doing, feeling needed, these are all things that garden clubs facilitate.

Never underestimate the power of a smile and extending friendship. Invite neighbors. Post event flyers at laundromats, libraries or nurseries. Work with school

children and involve their parents. I heard an inspirational speaker say, "It's all about the people." When we value people, when we set values and goals together, there is ownership and group spirit thrives.

When I was State President, NGC President Lois Shuster asked me what we were giving our members. I really thought about that question. I knew some garden clubs gave free workshops, supplied free materials or subsidized tours. I believe that garden club members gain skills in gardening, working together, leadership, organizing, event planning, fund raising, flower arranging, landscape design, garden crafts and much more.

With the internet, NGC is linking us to abundant information. The full color NGC quad-fold membership brochure *Grow Your World* and *Green Your Community by Joining a Garden Club* is a wonderful PR piece that can be personalized with club and/or district information. Just add a label under - Join today! - on the inside back cover bottom. Brochures are free but postage is required. Order them from Member Services at 800-550-6007. Go to www.gardenclub.org to find other membership materials on the NGC website. Let's join together as we inspire others to grow with garden club.

GRANTS COMMITTEE -Pat Westgard, Chairman

Our committee continues to receive requests from garden clubs for assistance with very worthwhile community projects. The Grants Committee has no new sponsor to report at this time, so we thought you might like to see what is available for your club at NGC.

WILDFLOWER AWARDS/GRANTS: Operation Wildflower offers opportunities for clubs, groups of clubs and states to receive monetary awards for projects that include some native plants and/or wildflowers. Many of your projects could be planted with some native plants and wildflowers, so why not apply for an appropriate award. Your clubs or states could win up to \$1,000.00 for a worthy project! There are categories for small, medium and large clubs and states, so that small clubs or states compete with similar sized organizations.

OPERATION WILDFLOWER/NATIVE PLANT EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OR WORKSHOP GRANTS: A grant of up to \$500.00 is available to be used towards direct expenses for an educational program on this subject. Details are on the website: <http://gardenclub.org/Awards/WildflowerAwardsGrants.aspx>

NATURAL DISASTERS FUND:

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. For complete details see the website: <http://gardenclub.org/SpecialProjects/NaturalDisasters.aspx>

Do you know of a corporation, business or foundation that may have an interest in donating to NGC to fund civic development projects for local clubs? Personal contacts are most effective. We would love to support you in reaching out to these potential sponsors. Keep us informed of your activities.

CHILDREN'S GARDENS-Joyce Droege, Chairman

We are excited! We have been informed of four new Children's Gardens to be added to our increasing list of gardens on the NGC Website. These are on the campus of Pensacola Junior College in Milton, FL; the Children's Garden at Rotary Park in Westerlee, RI; Shriner's Hospital in Greenville, SC; and the Children's Garden at the Cheyenne Botanical Garden in Cheyenne, WY. Most of these were found by personal contact with the members of the state garden clubs on our NGC Board. We hope to find even more.

Please contact me if you have a Childrens Garden in your state that is not on our Website. Hope to hear from many of you. Joyce Droege, Chairman Children's Gardens. jwdroege@cfl.rr.com

MEMBER SERVICES - Carole Iuso, Chairman

JUST GOT TO HAVE THESE NEW INTRODUCTIONS!!!!!!

Member Services is delighted to introduce our new "BLOOMIN' BAG"!

This high style, light weight bag features a three dimensional open rose (8-1/2" x 10") on the front of the bag. Constructed of the finest soft faux-leather, accented with goldtone hardware, reinforced bottom, top zip, one outside zip pocket, lined interior, inside pocket, with additional compartments inside. 10" high x 12" wide, with two 7 1/4" handles. The "**Bloomin' Bag**" is available for \$36.00 plus shipping in the following color selections - Daffodil Yellow, Light Grey, Bronze, Beige, Light Purple, White, Black, Pewter, Green (Citron Yellow), Blue, Green and Red. To date, the top selling color is Bronze, followed by Pewter, Yellow, Red, Light Purple and the remaining colors. View most of the colors on the NGC website.

Ordering information: All bags will be shipped directly to you from the manufacturer. Minimum shipping is \$10.00 per bag. Shipping to the East and West Coasts will be an additional few dollars. Several bags can be shipped for \$10.00, so combine your order with other club members and friends. The manufacturer will gladly replace any damaged bag received. There will be no color exchanges. Please call Teri Virga at Member Services 1-800-550-6007 to place an order. When you receive your "Bloomin' Bag/s", please immediately inspect the bag/s for any damages.

The new **Collection of Inspirations and Installations** \$15.00, has arrived at Member Services in St. Louis. This wonderful book is a must for every garden club!

President Blaschke's **Daffodil Pin** is a beautiful profile of a daffodil, handcrafted in enamel. Price \$12.00 each. Quantity pricing 24 or more pins \$9.00 each. A bail has been added to the back of this pin, so it may also be worn as a necklace.

The two new **Nature-Inspired Vine Pins** are now back in stock. Option #1 all silver, a mixture of metals (silver over bronze). Price \$12.00 each. Quantity price 24 or more pins \$9.00 each. Option #2 Austrian Crystal (white) The stem and tendrils are a soft rich silver with Austrian Crystals hand-placed in the leaves. This pin is elegant!! Price each \$15.00. Each Quantity pricing 24 or more pins \$9.50 each. Please visit the NGC website to view the "Bloomin' Bag" and the new jewelry line.

Colorblends **Golden Days Daffodils:** Now is the time to place your daffodil orders with Colorblends. Selections and terms will remain the same. Order early, as last fall both the Master Daffodil Blend and the Golden Harvest Collection sold out by September. Orders should be placed directly with Colorblends 1-888-847-8637 or www.colorblends.com. Orders will be billed when the bulbs are shipped. Read about both collections on the NGC website. All bulbs are named and show quality! Combine club members' orders to easily reach the wholesale minimum.

The **2011 Vision of Beauty Calendar** has arrived. This calendar gets better and better. Prices \$3.50 to \$5.95

Visit Member Services often on the NGC website: **www.gardenclub.org** for the latest introductions, coupons, and viewing the catalog.

NGC AWARDS - Bobbie Verser, Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS, to the winners, runners-up, and all of the clubs, states, and regions who participated with their entries in the NGC Awards program. So much time goes into your entries and your efforts are so appreciated. Please note that the Publication 13B, 7B should have been listed in the 2010 Awards Program as District VI (PA), for "79th Annual Convention Program of Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania".

Many of you are preparing books of evidence and completing NGC Award Applications during these warm summer days. It is certainly too hot to be in most gardens. The Awards Committee made a few changes which may make things a little easier for you, considering the January 15th deadline is not really that far away. Please make a note of the following changes:

1. Page numbering and Table of Contents are not needed in your books of evidence. This includes Publicity Press Books, also. (Flower

Show Achievement Awards follow different set of rules)

2. OPERATION WILDFLOWER AWARDS: (#71, #73, #74) – Following the words "native plants" - Please add the phrase "to your region".

3. Concerning all Yearbooks... a budget does not have to be included.

4. International Affiliates, please add Award #63 (Website) to your award list.

5. This committee looks forward to receiving your entries, (deadline Jan. 15). Please remember that your state Award Chairman sends entries to the NGC Awards Chairman, exceptions are noted in The National Gardener, fall issue of 2009.

If I may be of assistance to any of you, please contact me at bobbieverser@att.net
Submitted by Bobbie Verser,
NGC Awards Chairman

MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR- Jackie Davies, Chairman

Member Award of Honor

Every garden club has that very special member who works tirelessly and gives years of service in many areas... here is an opportunity for YOUR CLUB to say "we appreciate you and thank you for all your efforts!"

The Member Award of Honor is presented annually to ONE member in each of the EIGHT REGIONS whose volunteer efforts of five or more years have made outstanding contributions to club and community in one or more of the following areas:

Civic Development, Horticultural Therapy, Youth Activities, Conservation, Floral Design, Horticulture, Landscape Design or All Around Excellence

Eligibility: Any member of a State Garden Club who has never served as a member of the NGC Board of Directors; including State Presidents.

Book of Evidence Required: Please refer to the NGC website for complete details and instructions. The eight winners will be recognized at the 2011 National Convention in Washington D.C.

Nominees must be sent to your State Awards Chairman by January 1, 2011. Entries are judged and the State Winner is forwarded to the Region Awards Chairman for the next judging.... the winning entry from each Region automatically becomes the National Winner for that Region.

Questions? Contact: Jackie Davies, Chairman, NGC Member Award of Honor, 610-670-1751
jadDavies@comcast.net

Make it the year for YOUR CLUB to nominate your special member for this prestigious award!

HELP MEMBERSHIP BLOOM! Contest Update - Adrienne Langan, Contest Chairman

National Garden Clubs, Inc. continues its Membership Contest with a fabulous new award and a new deadline: June 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

Disappointed that your state did not win the honor of naming that beautiful new Daylily? Well, you have a chance to claim victory by participating in this new contest where the state with the greatest number of new clubs will have the honor of naming a magnificent new variety of **African Violet**.

This **African Violet**, grown by Lyndon-Lyon Greenhouses, Inc., is a semi-miniature variety with single/semi double pansy shaped blooms of white, a distinct wavy green edge and light purple highlights randomly scattered about the flower face. Wavy medium green foliage enhances the striking blooms. HELP MEMBERSHIP BLOOM by creating new clubs in your state, and proudly compete to have this beautiful **African Violet** bear your state's name!

Congratulations to North Dakota, winner of the 2009- 2010 Membership Contest, whose members chose *NORTH DAKOTA SUNRISE* as the name of the beautiful new daylily cultivar! Instructions for ordering this beautiful daylily will be sent to all states, and order forms will be available at NGC Fall Board Meeting.

BP DEEPWATER HORIZON GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL -- APRIL 20, 2010 (Information used in preparing this article was current on June 28, 2010 ... Marion Hilliard)

Day 70 of the nation's gigantic and largest environmental disaster has come and gone with no significant expectations of seeing the oil well securely plugged in sight. Pick a number 12,600 barrels ... 20,000 ... 25,000 ... 30,000 ... 40,000 ... 50,000 ... (5,000 barrels= 210,000 gallons) Scientists have put every one of those numbers in play and continue to struggle to come up with a solid estimate of how much oil is gushing each day from the black geyser at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. If one team's estimate of 25,000 to 30,000 barrels a day is on target, and the flow has been more or less consistent since the April 20th blowout, the amount gushed by June 20th exceeded five to six times the amount spilled in 1989 by the Exxon Valdez.

There are more than 35 National Wildlife Refuges at risk with a tremendous threat to wildlife. The USFWS (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) <http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/index.html> June 25, 2010 Consolidated Fish & Wildlife 59 Day Collection Report stated the following: Birds Collected Alive - 770; Dead - 1,074. Sea Turtles Collected Alive - 132; Dead 417. Mammals Alive - 5; Dead - 48. The

report covered Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas with Louisiana showing the highest loss of sea turtles and birds. Unfortunately no specific numbers were obtained on the number of sea turtles burned alive in the burning of the escaping oil.

It was stated by reporter Carl Safina in a special to CNN "In some ways, a catastrophe of this magnitude could not have happened in a worse place. Or at a worse time of year." It is difficult for us to imagine that the area of surface oil is now bigger than Massachusetts, Connecticut and Long Island (NY) combined. No amount of boom, placed to keep oil from the coastal sand beaches, will protect waterbirds like the pelicans, gulls and terns, because diving is how they fish for food. Sea turtles are at risk by oil ingestion and direct toxicity, and by the stressing of their immune systems. This year's crop of hatchlings will now have an even harder time for survival.

The arrival of Hurricane Season added another major concern -- one we have absolutely no control over. Tropical storms, hitting the area of the Gulf affected by the massive oil spill, would disrupt BP efforts to drill the relief wells and capture the oil. Storms with sustained winds of only 40 mph could disperse the still gushing oil over an even wider area while storm surges could wash more oil ashore. Efforts to clean up

coastline areas would be disrupted.

For readers who missed the exploding headlines of April 20th I suggest going to: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/US/06/18/oilrig.explosion/index.html> to read "The Night the Oil Rig Exploded: Escape from a fire-breathing monster" by Scott Bronstein and Wayne Drash, based on exclusive interviews with five survivors conducted by CNN's Anderson Cooper and the CNN Special Investigative Unit. For the latest information about the BP Gulf Oil Spill Response and other related stories go to: <http://www.deepwaterhorizon.com> -- the official site of the Deepwater Horizon Unified Command. For information released by BP Oil go to: <http://www.BP.com/GulfOilMexicoResponse>.

This chairman daily scans news media, on site reports, government agency news releases and congressional testimony. President Blascke requested the Government Action Education (GAE) Committee report on Environmental Concerns created by the April 20th Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill at the NGC Fall Board Meeting in Great Falls, Montana. **DO YOUR PART ... PLEASE BE READY TO RESPOND TO ACTION ALERTS. YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT. .**

Marion Hilliard, NGC GAE Chairman, marionh@bellsouth.net

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST- Elaine Dates, Chairman

Iris Velez, of the Forest Service, announced at the NGC Convention in Atlanta that out of almost 34,000 posters the winners of The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl winners for 2010:

- 1st Grade Carley Jacobs of the Beautiful View Garden Club in GA
- 2nd Grade Karina Gebert of the Thoroughgood Garden Club in VA
- 3rd Grade Matalynn Clark of the Thoroughgood Garden Club in VA
- 4th Grade Kadajah Perry of the Evergreen Garden Club in AL

5th Grade Erin Walton of the Glasgow Garden Club in KY

Each of the students will receive a \$100.00 Savings Bond from NGC and the Grand Prize Winner, Matalynn Clark, will be honored with a ceremony at the USDA Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Look for these winning posters on NGC's web site: **www.gardenclub.org**. You will also find the forms for the 2011 contest, which marks 50 years of collaboration between the Forest Service and National Garden Clubs, on the website.

The Forest Service also awarded a trophy to the state chair with the most participants in the contest, this year the winner was Sylvia Layne of Kentucky.

Congratulations to all those garden clubs who sought out children to connect with the world of conservation and the environment.

Elaine Dates, 145 S. Pointe Dr, South Burlington, VT 05403; 802-658-4061 elainedates@comcast.net

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

NEW ENGLAND REGION KATHLEEN M. THOMAS

I have been visiting the New England Regional States for their Annual meetings. The Federation of Vermont knows what makes members happy and arranged perfect weather for a convention on a ship cruising Lake Champlain. Rhode Island's meeting was very enjoyable but in the end rain appeared and power was lost. The meeting for both Maine and Massachusetts were great successes. I plan to attend New Hampshire's Flower Show and Fall Meeting and visit Connecticut again this summer.

We are now planning for our Annual Meeting and Regional Flower Show in October at Stratton Mountain in Vermont. For this meeting I have invited the presidents and their vice presidents to a round table discussion. We all have similar issues that hopefully we can solve. Just like when you have a moment with a dear friend, before you know it you have solved all the problems in the world. When I was a little girl my mother told me you could never have too many friends. Yes Mom, you were right, I now have 6 new friends.

CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION CARMIE DEVITO

The NGC Annual Convention held in Atlanta was an extraordinary and amazing meeting for all who attended.

Our Region was delighted to receive many outstanding awards and we are very proud of Mary Pope, a member of The Edgewood Garden Club from The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania as our "Medal of Honor" winner. Congratulations to Mary and to all award winners!

One of the smallest states in our region is Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs with 28 member clubs. They have taken on a huge project of constructing a "Memorial Garden" at the Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware. Most people have heard of the heartbreaking task that this base handles each day. The base receives the bodies of service personnel killed while on duty. This past January, the base opened a special building called *Center for Families of the Fallen* which is used by families while in Dover for the dignified ceremony of receiving the remains of their loved ones. The outside of this building desperately needed an enclosed garden area, screened from the road to afford families privacy and peace. I am very proud of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs for taking on this enormous

project to provide this Memorial Garden at the Dover Air Force Base as a special gift to the nation and to the "Families of the Fallen". They are soliciting contributions to cover the estimated cost of \$125,000 for this garden. We were so pleased that NGC has endorsed this project. Only garden clubs and their members can punch out the darkness. A John Ruskin quote "In order that people may be happy in their work, these three things are needed: They must be fit for it. They must not do too much of it... And they must have a sense of success in it." Two of those lines are perfect for this Federation.

Congratulate the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland for their grand opening and dedication of the Cylburn Arboretum. It is an outstanding Horticulture facility for the public.

Our region is looking forward to our Conference - "Glory Days with the Jersey Girls" in October at Ocean Place and Long Branch, New Jersey.

DEEP SOUTH REGION MARY SUE COLVIN

The Deep South Region enjoyed hosting the 2010 NGC Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The garden clubs of Georgia entertained, energized, and excited their NGC guests with a big dose of Southern hospitality.

From the enjoyable to the catastrophic as states of the Deep South Region are facing an environmental disaster of devastating consequences. The 2010 Gulf oil spill will impact the lives, the economy and the natural resources of the Deep South for many years to come. How ironic (or visionary) is the Deep South's project "Protecting Our World – Living Green – Living Clean"!!?

Garden clubs in the DSR now have a mission to partner with state officials, restoration organizations and specialists to ascertain how we, as an organization, can assist with the restoration of the marshes, wetlands and shores affected by the oil spill. Garden clubs in the region will continue to educate and motivate club members, our educators and youth, government officials, community leaders and citizens of the urgent need to live greener and cleaner in all aspects of daily life.

On a more up-lifting note on the anniversary of D-Day, June 10, 2010, the Louisiana Garden Club Federation dedicated a Blue Star marker at the WWII Museum in New Orleans.

CENTRAL REGION JOAN A. HOOD

Summer time and the living is easy! Well, maybe not so easy as enjoyable. Summer came this year with our florals popping early; and right along with the changing seasons came the heat of summer. Many of our members in Central Region work on NGC projects between soaring temperatures. We certainly are at the mercy of Mother Nature's heat, floods, tornadoes, thunderstorms etc.

Speaking of Mother Nature, the Central Region Convention, October 4-6, is entitled "Mother Nature's Follies" and will be at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. This "chosen spot" is known for its awesome natural beauty and is rich in history and legend. A perfect location for garden clubbers to assemble and reach out to each other.

Unified Project is still front and foremost in the minds of our Central Region gardeners and the deadline for this activity is August 30, 2010. The deadline for Chairman Mary Ann Meador to complete the 7 state C.R. Book of Evidence to NGC is November 15, 2010. "Helping Others Learn to Grow" will be a welcome project throughout the region.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION MARY ANN MORENO

What a wonderful time everyone had at the NGC's 81st Annual Convention in Atlanta. The presidents from Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas gave reports on garden club activities and projects were outstanding. NGC President Renee Blaschke was very pleased with all the Golden Days and Beautify Blight projects accomplished to date. Thank you to Suzy Andrego our SCR Golden Days Chairman for her wonderful SCR display for the convention.

Our SCR Theme "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle To Protect our Beautiful World" should be on our minds this summer. To conserve water (Reduce) in our drier states, consider mulching your gardens and landscaping areas with compost, wood chips, pecan shells, pine needles or mulch commonly used in your area. For those members who live in a rainier state, catch that rain water (Reuse) to use on houseplants that only receive chemically treated water from the tap. Compost those coffee grounds and vegetable peelings, etc. (Recycle), so the earthworms get busy and make that black soil for you to use. Keep up the good work!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION SANDRA DENNIS

The eight states of the Rocky Mountain Region are very green as I write this report in early summer. Most areas have received above normal rainfall giving the trees and prairie a healthy and abundant growing season and replenishing nearly dry rivers and reservoirs from the recent years of drought. I have spent days driving through our 8 states to attend State Conventions giving me the opportunity to again view first hand how beautiful and vast the Prairies and Mountains are that serve as the backbone of this continent. Even the forests scarred with Mountain Pine Beetle devastation hold the promise of renewing growth. Speaking of trees, during my state visits I am hearing about all sorts of wonderful projects that fall under the umbrella of our Regional Tree Project. This will be a Book of Evidence not to be missed! All our clubs are hard at work with a myriad of garden related projects. Besides plant sales, civic beautification activities & blue star dedications, our members still find time to maintain and host tours of their own wonderful gardens.

Now, if I could just see a Western Meadowlark flitting about our fields....

PACIFIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR SANDRA FORD

All eight states in the Pacific Region have now been visited by this director including the regional and national conventions. The last nine conventions were held during the months of April to June.

It was a pleasure to visit so many home gardens and find bird feeders of all types at every one of them from Ketchikan, Alaska to Phoenix, Arizona.

Our region has united together to protect and feed our wildlife and work with children and community gardens to feed the hungry. Thousands of acres of land have been set aside for wildlife and future generations to enjoy. Programs are being held to save our resources through recycling, planting trees and native plants.

Washington Garden Clubs has applied for their 501(c)3. Idaho Garden Clubs, Inc. has reorganized as the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. State President Robyn McCarthy's new email address is robbyngcii@q.com. The newsletter is Gem State Gardeners.

It was an honor to present so many national and regional awards at our state conventions. Plans are already made for a second planting of daffodils this fall.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CAROLYN GOLDEN PATTERSON

Spring has been very busy following the

SAR Convention in March. I attended four of our Region's state conventions/meetings and spoke on "Good Soils". I found it very interesting what a diverse group we have. I also visited the hotel in Greensboro, NC where the 2011 SAR Convention will be held next March and attended the NGC Convention in Atlanta where Jerry Hightower gave a very interesting and informative talk to our region about getting and keeping youth interested in knowing and using our native plants. His changing accents kept us all entertained.

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL - Greg Pokorski, Chairman

Online Course Ends - The NGC Board of Directors voted at the Pre-Convention Board Meeting in Atlanta to terminate NGC's contract with Learn2Grow. NGC and Learn2Grow developed Garden Time Course 1 based on NGC's Gardening Study Schools (GSS) program. As a result of the board action, Garden Time Course 1 (also known as Online Course I and Virtual Gardening Study School Course I) is no longer available. This course had been offered (through the NGC and Learn2Grow websites) for the past year to the general public and was also available for student and refresher credit in NGC's GSS program. It was a disappointment that cancellation was necessitated due to the lack of participation.

Please be aware that this course is no longer an alternative for those seeking GSS credit. Those who did receive course or refresher credit by taking the online course retain that credit. The traditional GSS program remains unchanged and is available throughout the country. Questions about the GSS program and about the discontinuation of the online course may be referred to members of the NGC GSS committee (see The National Gardener, Winter 2010).

Memoriam and Personals:

LaVerne R. Collard, NGC Golden Circle Member. Laverne died on April 23, 2010. She has two sons living in Pocasset, MA. Clyde Collard and Roger Collard, 61 Circuit Ave, Pocasset, MA 02559.

WORLD GARDENING GLOBAL PARTNERS - Barbara Wesley, Chairman

Outreach Project - World Gardening/Haiti

Find more Information on the Haiti project on the NGC Website Home Page "What's New?" News and Events {Click on News} Special Projects (www.gardenclub.org).

Donations can be made in any amount. NGC will acknowledge donations with a printed tax receipt form and a recognition certificate if \$25 or more is donated.

Checks are made payable to:
NGC World Gardening
Please note Haiti on check.
Send to: NGC Headquarters
4401 Magnolia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

Voice of Haiti received non-profit status in 2005. Interest began when a documentary was being made. They support the philosophy of 'Haitians Helping Haitians Toward Healthy and Sustainable Living.'

Work in an orphanage and schools continue. A new orphanage on donated land is located 3 hours from Port au Prince and is providing relief. There are few medical clinics and medical personnel are scarce. Many of the children have been severely injured and have special needs. 5000 people draw water from one well. Water that goes through the special filters will provide life-giving help. One bucket/filter costs \$55. Members generously donated \$11,657.62 and it has been sent to purchase filters.

Haiti faces other needs. Emphasis on education is another important element. Scholarships are needed to educate 5 Haitians at \$2,000 a year. Dry compost toilets are in use. Planting and reforestation projects are being addressed. Micro Businesses encourage Haitians to Teach and Grow.

Global Partners/ Running Waters continues to have an account at NGC Headquarters. NGC's goal is to fund their own water project.

For more information contact Barbara Wesley, NGC World Gardening Chairman, barbandwes@earthlink.net