



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

The Communicator

2017 VOL. 1

Isabel Olsen, Director 2017-2019

Message from SCR Director...



Passing the baton doesn't just happen in track and field competitions. It is what occurs when we start a new garden club term. We receive it from another, carry it for a while and then hand off to the one who follows. Team work is required and it takes each team member doing their part properly. The baton may have been fumbled when it was given to you or it may have been a smooth exchange, but you decide what happens to the baton when you carry it. I think this is an analogy that we can all relate to, whether you're a chairman, club president, district director, or state president. Let's

all challenge ourselves to do the best we can with the baton that we have been given, it will only be ours for a while. I just returned from attending the Oklahoma Garden Clubs 88th Annual Convention in Norman, OK (Sooner Country) and was honored to participate by installing the new President, Linda Lawson and her team of officers. Mary Ann Holman passed the baton with much grace and dignity. I enjoyed the fabulous group of gardeners that I met, and seeing their club activities on the district display boards they created. Thanks for the hospitality and friendliness, that was extended to me.

"Plant America" is the rallying call for the next two growing seasons (years) for National Garden Clubs, and for South Central Region. Our project of "Beautifying Our Communities" will be more evident in our four states as we plant gardens in downtown areas, in parks, at medical facilities and various landmark locations. The theme of Plant America is one that we can all identify with and embrace, and it's a good reminder of why we are proud to be garden club members. I want to congratulate the 2017-2019 elected and appointed officers, and thank the SCR Chairmen and Committee members for serving with me. The unity of our team has already been felt and will demonstrate outstanding leadership for the progress and future of our wonderful region. I hope you enjoy this issue of "The Communicator" and find the information useful. Kudos to Fran Walker, the Wildlife Habitat Gardening Chairman, for submitting her article first to the editorial team. Please give us your feedback and let us know how we are doing. Happy Gardening!

Isabel



SCR Regional Director's Project - 2017-2019

"Beautifying Our Communities"

Isabel Olsen has selected a project that emphasizes the regions theme of "Plant America". She would like to encourage the garden clubs of all four states to participate in a New project that will make a great impact in their community. For many years our local garden clubs have shown a presence in their community by sharing the joy of gardening when they plant, and maintain gardens in various public locations. This is probably one of the most rewarding aspects of being a garden club member. For the two year term, NGC will have a Plant America Grant Program for Community Projects. This will provide financial support to the participating clubs to offset the cost of the plants and materials of their project.

SO WHAT BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO START A NEW PROJECT!!!

Now is the time for your club members to decide the kind of project they would like to participate in. There are a multitude of possibilities, such as the type of garden, the location, in containers or a raised bed? Perhaps planting trees in much needed locations? Edible gardens at schools or public locations might be an option, and of course we have churches, cemeteries, hospitals, libraries, parks, adult centers, assisted living or retirement homes. Or perhaps container gardening downtown or at a historical or art museum. Consider your membership size and the capabilities of the members. Along with applying for a grant from NGC, you can submit an application (in the second year of the administration) for the Regional Director's Project Award and **receive from Isabel a high-quality marker with your garden club name proudly posted where your project is located. And in addition, four \$100.00 awards will be given (one for each state).**

Shirley Tetreault will be serving as SCR Chairman of the Director's Project "Beautifying Our Communities". The deadline for states to send their application to Shirley will be December 1, 2018. Send to ammasangels@comcast.net or 12404 Apache Place NE Albuquerque, 87112. You can contact me at (505)294-4331. I will post the criteria of the application in "*The Communicator*" and on the SCR website.



2017-2019 ALTERNATE DIRECTOR, Shirley Tetreault



Shirley joined Uptown Garden Club in 1997. Shirley served as Treasurer, President of Uptown, President of Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs, Supervisory Chair, Garden Tour Chair, District I Director, Blue Star Chair, (State & Region), Life Member Chair, (Region) and two consecutive terms as State President of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. During the 2013-2015 administration, she served on the National Flower Show Schools Committee, correcting Student FS Schedules. She held the office of NGC Recording Secretary for the term of 2015-2017 under Sandra H. Robinson. At the present time (2017-2019) she will serve under Nancy Hargroves on the Calendar committee and as Alternate Director for South Central Region. Shirley has been a Design Instructor for National Garden Clubs, Inc., since May of 2009, responsible for the training of our Nationally Accredited Judges across the country. She takes every opportunity to share new ideas with others, from a basic design class at the Albuquerque Garden Center to more complicated class instruction for judges. Membership with other organizations includes Master Gardeners, African Violet Society, Daffodil Society, Uptown Garden Club, High Desert Design Club and founder of the first youth club in New Mexico, The Blooming Gardeners. The love of her life is her family. Her husband of 48 years, two sons, and five wonderful grandchildren that fill her life with happiness.

2017-2019 TREASURER,

Donna Marcheck



I am President of Hopeful Redbud Garden Club, NE District Treasurer for: Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc., Oklahoma Council of National Accredited Flower Show Judges, Master Judge, an Environmental Consultant, past Treasurer for South Central Region and now the new Treasurer for South Central Region.



Director, Isabel Olsen and Alternate Director, Shirley Tetreault at National Garden Clubs Annual Convention in Richmond, Virginia, May 2017.



Bandelier National Park Tour with SNOW in April

Mary Ann Holman, OK Pres., Carol Moore, TX Pres., Barbara Baker, Director, Rose Knight, AR Pres. & Suzy Andrego, NM Pres.



Barbara pinning Isabel



Newly installed 2017-2019
SCR Board Members



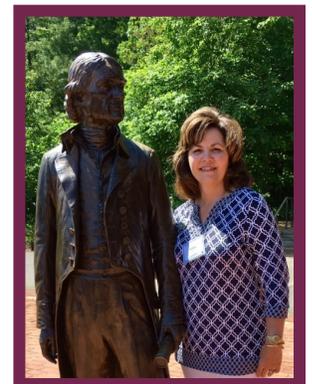
Design at NGC in Richmond, VA



Isabel with P. Allen Smith



Isabel Toasting at NGC Convention



Isabel with Thomas Jefferson



Barbara Baker, Director, Suzy Andrego, NM Pres.,
Rose Knight, AR Pres., Carol Moore, TX Pres., &
Mary Ann Holman, OK Pres.



Shirley Tetreault, Alternate
Director, Jennifer Moreno,
Smokey/Woodsy Chair,
Rose Knight, Mary Ann
Moreno, Past SCR Director
& Container Gardening
Chair, Suzy Andrego &
Carol Moore.

**2017-2019 RECORDING SECRETARY,
Peggy Moreland**

I have been a member of Park Foothills Garden Club in El Paso, Texas for over 40 years and I have been active in Texas Garden Club's for about 20 years. Currently, I am TGC's Vice President of Finance and Recording Secretary for SCR. I enjoy my garden club friends and I hope to continue serving and making a difference while making more friends. My family has always encouraged my love of garden club. My husband, Rob and I have been married 45 years. We have three sons, a daughter, three grandsons and a new granddaughter born May 30, 2017.



**WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE,
*Phyllis Byrum, Kathy Brown &
April Pratt***

CALLING ALL SCR MEMBERS---

You do not want to miss the **SCR General Store** Fun in Houston at the 2018 convention. Look for us. There will be items for your gardening needs, and even more--something special to take home from the meeting. There will be some special yard art made just for this meeting--flowers made of ceramic plates and bowls--also tea cup bird feeders. There will be some new gardening books, jewelry and accessories. You have not seen a General Store like this one.

We will accept any gently used merchandise that you would care to donate. Start looking around your house for treasures to donate. I know you are like me and collected too many. I have been cleaning out the storage closet that holds years of treasures.

**2017-2019 CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY, Liz Howell**

Liz is a native of De Queen, Ark., a graduate of Harding University, and has lived in Searcy most of her life.. She is the vice president of alumni and parent relations at Harding and the executive director of Women for Harding. Active in her community, she serves as chairman of Searcy Holiday of Lights and other Chamber of Commerce committees. She is on the board of National Garden Clubs and served as president of Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs. She is also a Master Gardener. Her six grandchildren are loved and adored by her husband of almost 42 years, Charlie. They also have two children, Dustin Howell and Audrey Chandler. Liz's favorite things to do are working in her garden and teaching her grandchildren and others about God's beautiful flowers and nature. She travels extensively for Harding University and is passionate about recruiting and working with students and promoting Christian education.



WAYS & MEANS Continued

Now I will donate them to our very good cause. If you start looking now, you will find a treasured item or two that you can contribute

All proceeds go to the Plant America projects in SCR and SCR scholarship fund.

Some of you remember all the fun we had in Little Rock several years ago with what Suzy Andregio called ***"Phyllis's House of Treasures"***. We will have even more fun this time.!

2017-2019 HISTORIAN, Jo Krallman



Jo is a Master Judge and Accredited National Garden Clubs Instructor of Design, Flower Show Procedure and Symposiums. She's taught for the past 25 years. She has given programs and taught Flower Show Schools and Symposiums in forty (40) states and Mexico.

She's a member of Riverdale Garden Club of Benton, a member of Designer's Study Club of Little Rock & also Verna Garvin Design Study Club of Hot Springs. She has served in various positions as an officer of these clubs.

She has served the Arkansas Federation of Garden Club's as State Flower Show Schools Chairman and Credentials for 25 years & also serves as Symposium Chairman. She is a former state president and editor of the Arkansas Gardener as well as serving in other offices and chairmanships.

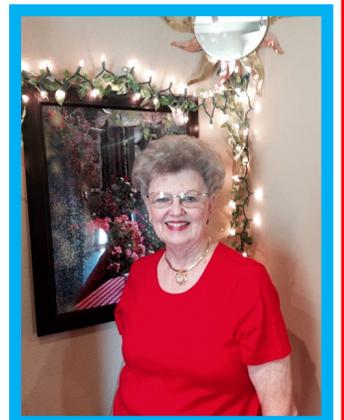
She has served NGC in several capacities. She has served as Recording Secretary for South Central Region & served as various chairmanships over the years. She currently serves as SCR Historian.

She has given a program for NGC at the Atlanta Convention and has her designs published in Designing By Types by Harriet Osborne.

She's a retired Radiologic Technologist, is married to her gofer-chauffer husband for 55 years and has two sons and two grandsons.

2017-2019 PARLIMENTARIAN, Renee Blaschke

Raised in San Antonio, Married to Ken 61 years...have lived in Smithville 61 years
3 married children...Kenneth (Connie), Rex (Karen), Rochelle (David), 5 grand daughters, 1 grandson, Co-owner Ken's Pharmacy. 45 years
Involved with City of Smithville 30 years (assistant City Secretary, Tax Assessor, 1st woman on City Council; Mayor. 8 years)
President, Region 10, Texas Municipal League , Chairman, Cooperative Training Recycling Association-Texas), Co-Chair 1995 NGC Annual Convention- Dallas
President, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc 1991-1993
President, NGC. 2009-9011
President, Assembly of Flower Arrangers if the Americas, VP- United States Floral Arrangers (WAFSA), Member- CFAA & NFA, Master Flower Show Judge, Master Garden Consultant, Master Landscape Design Consultant, Environmental Education Consultant
President, FS Judges Council, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., NGC , Calendar Committee
NGC PH&E Committee, NGC Advisory Committee, Parliamentarian, SCR Tenured member, Smithville Garden Club, 61 years





OUR NEW DIRECTOR & the New State President's for the 2017 -2019 Term

Left to Right, Drenda Stanley, Arkansas; Barbara Vance, New Mexico; Isabel Olsen, Director, Linda Lawson, Oklahoma, and Betty Edwards, Texas

2017-2019 ARKANSAS STATE PRESIDENT, Drenda Stanley



Hello Everyone, I would like to start with you getting to know me through my first Communicator article written as the newly installed President of the Arkansas Federation of Garden Club, Inc. I am so excited for this opportunity to be a representative for the state of Arkansas and the South-Central Region. So here goes; I live in the Southeast corner of the state in the small town of Hamburg (16 miles from the Louisiana line and 38 miles from the Mississippi River). My husband and I have been married for 37 years. I received a B.S. degree in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. I had worked for my Brother in law on a farm as a teenager and help with a large family garden as soon as I was able to pick a butterbean and was blessed to have a wonderful grandmother that was given a special green thumb, hence the interest in plants and a career in Agriculture. In my late teenager and early adult years, I work as a florist in my home town while attending school, so that gave me the interest in cut specimens and design. Over the course of 34 years, I worked in the research and development divisions at two major seed companies. And I am currently on my second career, as a new business owner of a small plant nursery, gift and décor shop in my home town. I grew up with a strong love for plants, gardening and the beauty of the outdoors.

As I start this new chapter as the AFGC, Inc President, the NGC, Inc Theme suits me perfectly.... "Plant America". I choose for my state "Plant America, Sow Arkansas" and after attending my first NGC convention in May, I see the love and passion from each participate that attended. Learning that "PLANT AMERICA" will be a continued long standing Theme for the next several NGC President terms is wonderful. We can do so much for our organizations; planting new seed to grow our organization, planting new ideas and knowledge to fellow growers of the land and to plant new seeds in our youth as they may continue to "Plant America" in years to come. So, let's "Plant America, Sow Arkansas".

2017-2019 NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT, Barbara Vance



GROW NEW MEXICO is the theme for the term 2017-2019. Emphasis on expanding our knowledge of gardening and conservation. Grow in Leadership, Grow in Membership – Grow Friendships. With these goals in mind we encourage **TEAM** work. **Together Everyone Accomplishes More.** We all work to carry out the goals of National Garden Clubs and the goals of our Region – State – District – Clubs. We have 5 districts in our state with 27 clubs. Membership total of 616. There are 3 youth clubs with 84 members. Each club selects programs, garden studies, floral designing, that will appeal to their members. We have planned educational opportunities: Garden Studies – Environmental Studies – Landscape Design – Flower Show Schools. Several clubs have scheduled Garden Tours over the summer months – an excellent opportunity to learn what plants work in different areas of our state. We encourage members to plan their gardens for participation in county and state fair shows and apply for awards.

My serious interest in gardening began as a charter member of ABC Garden Club in 1975. We chose that name to best describe our aim of helping our members with basic gardening problems – learning about different soils, elevation, water availability. Many of us were from other states and we needed to learn to garden with very different conditions. Interest in flower arranging led to charter membership in Floral Designers Garden Club in 1994. I served as District Director twice and served in various chairmanships. I am an Accredited-Master Judge. Served as State Flower Show Schools Chairman, State Symposium Chairman and State Credentials Chairman for 12 years. Our gardens in Santa Fe are mostly flowers and fruit trees. Vegetables – fruits – flowers grow in gardens at our lake house at Conchas Dam where the elevation is lower – warmer weather – longer growing periods. Being a member of a garden club has opened many doors to learning about gardening, our environment, and protecting our natural resources. The biggest reward – making friends that have lasted these past 42 years. And now, as State President, traveling to different states - meeting and making new friends and learning more about our organizations.

2017-2019 OKLAHOMA STATE PRESIDENT, Linda Lawson



My formal installation will be held June 3rd, 2017. Thus far the incoming president has attended the South Central Regional Meeting in New Mexico during the end of April. The Regional Meeting conferred the title of officer on the incoming officers. The incoming president also attended the National Convention of National Garden Clubs in Richmond Virginia.

The new president has served on National Board of Directors for over twelve years. She indeed hopes this experience shall aid in guiding Oklahoma Garden Clubs for the 2017-2019 term. The new president looks forward to serving

with the boards from Districts, State, Regional, and National Board of Directors.

P.S. Remember “Plant America”

2017-2019 TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT, Betty Edwards

Texas Garden clubs has 9,399 members, 325 clubs and 13 youth clubs. We have 10 Districts. We are spread out over a lot of miles but with meetings, schools and projects the miles don't seem so far apart.

My Texas theme is Plant America "Sowing Seeds the Texas Way". We not only sow seeds and plant, we teach members of our clubs, and help our communities by planting in public places, city gardens, nursing homes, and hospitals. We sow seeds by teaching the youth gardening skills and providing a foundation for them to learn how to care for our earth and life skills. They are our future.



My main goal for the next two years will be tackling the problems that plague our struggling districts and clubs. We need to identify causes that lead to decreasing membership. It is essential that we find ways to assist clubs in growing and gaining members. Member clubs that are gaining will be sharing ideas in how they are progressing in this matter.

As youth is one of our focus, I will be presenting a State Award sponsored by myself. It will be a coloring contest. I have chosen the Eagle for this project. I chose the Eagle because of the way he soars over our earth. He is vigilant, constant, and a true beauty of nature. No matter how far he goes he always returns to his nest. This contest will be for grade school children. Our Youth Chairperson Linda Jean Brown is working out the details to present to the schools. There is so many programs that can be implemented by clubs and activities and year books.

So everyone will know a little about me. I have been a member of Kermit Garden Club and District I for 21 years. I also belong to Judges Advance Garden Club. I have held all of the offices in Kermit Garden Club. It has been such an honor to be part of these two clubs. I've been secretary, Vice Director and District Director of District I. I help maintain the War Memorial at our Courthouse corner. We have a Blue Star Memorial marker there. We share this place with the VFW and American Legion and they have a granite monument to the armed forces. There are benches to sit and enjoy.

My husband Ken and I have 2 children. Our daughter Judy and her husband James Williams lives in Kermit. They have 3 children, son Josh and wife Elli Williams with their children Katelyn and Wesley live in Lufkin, daughter Kaysie and husband Brodie Sabella live in Henderson, and youngest son Tyler and wife Jessica Williams and their daughter Lyla live in Southlake. Our son Ernie and his wife Debbie Edwards live in Justin, daughter Megan and Ryan Hisaw with their daughter Katie live in Kermit, daughter Haleigh and her husband Andrew Carr, with their children Zoey and Franklin live in Justin and daughter Aryn Edwards is away at college.

I'm active in our church. I teach the adult class and lead the singing. I love studying the word and teaching others about the Lord. I enjoy gardening, sewing, going to garden club meetings and doing for others. Most of all I love family and cooking for them and having them come home. At my installation all those mentioned in my family came to it and my sister Tommie Whitaker came from North Carolina. How blessed I am to have the Lord in my life, my family and my garden club family.

NGC AWARDS PRESENTED TO SCR STATES AND CLUBS

Congratulations and Appreciation to SCR/NGC Member Award of Honor. Sherrie Eoff

ARKANSAS FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

- #12 Publication/Newsletter. *Avenues & Adventures*. AFGC
- #11 State Standard Flower Show Achievement "Dream Design, Discover" AFGC
 - #63 Website. Arkansas Federation of GC
 - #44 Publicity Press Book. Bella Vista GC
 - #16 Yearbook. Bella Vista GC
 - #53 National Garden Week. Bella Vista GC
 - #53 National Garden Week. GC of Rogers
 - #16 Yearbook. GC of Rogers
 - #16 Yearbook. Bentonville GC
 - Youth
 - Woodsy Owl 1st Place Winner Mazie C, 3rd Grade
 - NGC Poetry 1st Place Winner Salter M, 3rd (tie) Grade

NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

- #13 Publication/Procedural. President's Book NMGC
- #13 Publication/Educational. Garden Journal and Garden Diary. NMGC
 - #13 Publication/Other. Award Book. NMGC
- #12 Publication/Newsletter. *New Mexico Gardener* NMGC
 - #7C Special Achievement
 - NGC Scholarship for Katelyn Nicole Stein \$4000

OKLAHOMA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

- #4 Publicity Press Book. Dahlia GC
 - #16 Yearbook. Dahlia GC
 - #16 Yearbook. Tulsa GC

TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

- #44 Publicity Press Books. Frisco GC
 - #12 Newsletter. District V
- #16 Yearbook. Houston Federation of GC
 - #16 Yearbook. Hemphill GC
 - #39 Litter, Recycling. Hondo GC
 - #48 Horticulture Therapy. Waverly Park
- #54 National Garden Week. Grapevine GC
 - #63 Website. Grapevine GC
 - Operation Wildflower Awards
 - \$750.00 Dogwood GC Palestine
 - \$750.00 A&M GC
 - \$500.00 Grapevine GC
 - NGC President's Project \$200.00 A&M GC
 - NGC Scholarship for Olivia Ross \$4000.00



Awards Chairman, Bobbi Verser

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION AWARD for 2017

Congratulations to all of the SCR Award winners at the 2017 convention in Albuquerque, NM. Also, thank you to all who sponsored these awards with generous contributions. The winners for the 2016 entries are as follows:

- #1, Arbor Day Dedication, 1st Place, Garden Club of Rogers, AR and \$15
2nd Place, Bentonville Garden Club, AR
- #3, Club Program, 1st Place, Garden Club of Rogers, AR, and \$25
- #4, Yearbook Theme, 1st Place, Uptown Garden Club, NM and \$25
2nd Place, Hondo Garden Club, TX
3rd Place, Garden Club of Rogers, AR
- #5, National Garden Week, 1st Place, Bella Vista Garden Club, AR and \$25
2nd Place, Garden Club of Rogers, AR
3rd Place, Harrisburg Garden Club, AR
- #6, Community Concern, 1st Place, Garden Club of Rogers, AR and \$25
- #7A, Single Club Flower Show Schedule, 1st Place, Newton Garden Club, TX and \$25
2nd Place, Plano Garden Club, TX
3rd Place, Hemphill Garden Club, TX
- #7B, Multiple Clubs Flower Show Schedule, 1st Place, AFGC, AR and \$25
2nd Place, Houston FGC, TX
3rd Place, Home Garden Club and Morning Garden Club, NM
- #8, Garden Therapy, 1st Place, Bella Vista Garden Club, AR and \$25
2nd Place, Garden Club of Rogers, AR
3rd Place, Waverly Park Garden Club, TX
- #9, Landscape Design, 1st Place, Hondo Garden Club, TX and \$25
- #10, Recycling/Litter Control, 1st Place, Hondo Garden club, TX and \$25
- #11, Member Award of Honor, Sherrie Eoff of Garden Club of Rogers, AR
- #12, Membership Increase, A&M Garden Club, TX and \$25
- #13, Youth Program Award, 1st Place, Home Garden Club, NM and \$50
2nd Place, Garden club of Rogers, AR
- #14, Publication Awards
 - Brochure, (Membership), 1st Place, Garden Club of Rogers, AR, \$10
 - Club Newsletters, 1st Place, Plano Garden Club, TX, \$10
 - Multi Club Newsletters, 1st Place, AFGC and \$10
 - Cookbook, 1st Place, Grapevine Garden Club, TX, \$10
 - Bookmark, 1st Place, AFGC, AR, \$10
 - Journal/Diary, NMGC, NM, \$10



2017 SCR AWARDS CONTINUED:

#15, Press Book Awards, Overall winner: Kerrville Garden Club, TX, \$25

1st Place, Small Club, Kerrville Garden Club, TX

2nd Place, Small Club, Dahlia Garden Club, OK

3rd Place, Small Club, Harrisburg Garden Club, AR

HM, Small Club, Tulip Garden Club, OK

1st Place, Medium Club, Bentonville Garden Club, TX

1st Place, Large Club, Frisco Garden Club, TX

2nd Place, Large Club, Garden club of Rogers, AR

1st Place, Ex-Large Club, Bella Vista Garden Club, AR

#16, Yearbooks

#16-1, 1st Pl., Dahlia Garden Club, OK. 2nd Pl., Kermit Garden Club, TX. 3rd Pl., Dardanelle Garden Club, AR

#16-2, 1st Pl., Hemphill Garden Club, TX. 2nd Pl., Harrisburg Garden Club, AR

#16-3, 1st Pl., Bentonville Garden Club, AR. 2nd Pl., Garden Masters Garden Club, TX

#16-4, 1st Pl., Garden Club of Rogers, AR.

#16-5, 1st Pl., Tulsa Garden Club, OK. 2nd Pl., Hunt Garden Club, TX

#16-6, 1st Pl., Bella Vista Garden Club, AR

#16, Yearbooks,

Group of Clubs, 1st Place, Houston FGC, TX. 2nd Place, Bartlesville Garden Center, Inc. OK

Judges Organization, 1st Place, District III Flower Show Judges Council, TX

International Affiliates, 1st Place, Ikebana International, TX

#23, Sweepstakes Award, Garden Club of Rogers, AR, \$25

Director's Project

"Protecting the Migrating Path of the Monarch Butterfly"

1st Place, bluebonnet Garden club, Brenham, TX



Director, Isabel Olsen and Suzy Andrego, who installed the 2017-2019 SCR Board in ABQ, NM



Newly installed Director, Isabel Olsen & SCR Parliamentarian, Renee Blaschke



SCR MEMBER OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Ronna Precure, Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Awards Chairman, wanted to be there to see her friend Sherrie Eoff receive the Member of Honor Award from the South Central Region during the national convention. Sherrie received a certificate and a beautiful pin from Sandy Robinson, NGC President. Each of the 8 regions may select one

**Ronna Precure, AFGC Awards Chairman,
& her friend *Sherrie Eoff*
SCR 2017 Member of Honor Recipient**

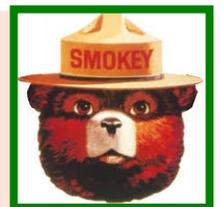
person to receive this award each year from their designated region. The winner is then invited to the region convention and the national convention. It is always exciting when the winner can actually be there for this honor.

Sherrie was nominated by the Garden Club of Rogers for the work she has done with children for the past seven years. Sherrie approached the local school district with a plan to work with the disadvantaged youngsters in the special Pre-K school. The 4 and 5 year old students are called "Early Sprouts" Junior Garden Club. 120 of them participate in Sherrie's program. Twenty students at a time have lessons with Sherrie and other garden club members who are there each month for valuable lessons.

CONGRATULATIONS SHERRIE!



Jennifer Moreno, Region and National Chairman for Smokey Bear Woody Owl, with Woody and Sue Cummings.



WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SMOKEY BEAR & WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE COMMUNICATOR.

Plant America Chairman, Veta Reese

National Garden Clubs 2017-2019 President, Nancy Hargroves, has announced her theme, "Plant America." Isabel Olsen has asked me to serve as the SCR Chairman for the project. Below are guidelines for applying, criteria, funding guidelines, etc. Additional information can be found on the NGC website, gardenclub.org under "Projects" then "Plant America."

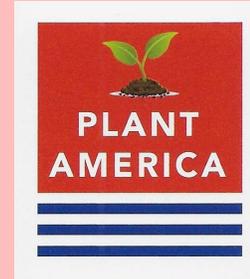
The scope of these projects may include:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Landscaping for Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Landscaping of Blue Star Memorial Markers
- Implementing of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public and/or youth

The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial support for **new or existing** projects.

It would be wonderful if EVERY club in our four-state region submitted a project. Grant application deadline is November 1, 2017. Let's get to work!

I am available to help guide you through the process if you get stuck anywhere along the line. My cell phone is 432-559-6549 and email is wyveta.reese@mygrande.net or vetareese@hotmail.com.



CONTAINER GARDENING CHAIRMAN, Mary Ann Moreno

South Central Region is sponsoring a **Youth Garden Club/group, Container Contest, "PLANT AMERICA"** – Helping our Birds, Bees and Pollinators.

Prizes will be offered to Youth Garden Clubs or Groups, by size of Club/Groups.

Small Club – members up to 20 Medium Club – 20 to 40 Large club – 40+
1st place in each category is \$100.00, 2nd prize \$75.00, 3rd prize \$50.00, & HM \$25.00

All clubs/groups must be sponsored by a NGC Garden Club. All work must be done by the Student/youth. Containers must be placed in a public area and maintained. Age limit is 17 or be a Senior in High School. Groups that are special Education or have special needs are encouraged to enter the contest.

Applications are limited to three pages, pictures of youth and their container's is recommended.

Plants used in containers should be identified. A description of the project should be included. Cost of project and participation of the Garden club members is part of the application. Include number of students/youth and club size.

Contest should be completed and mailed in/or emailed to Chairman by March 15, 2018. Please ask permission of Parents or Guardians to use pictures taken of the students entering the contest for application use only.

Questions?? Contact me (505)266-8498 or email: jbmamoreno@gmail.com.

WORLD GARDENING CHAIRMAN, Sarah McReynolds

Global Running Water Project *Give the Gift of Water*

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) has partnered with the Global Running Water Project (GRWP) in Guatemala. GRWP Is a nonprofit organization, 501©(3) established to build relationships that work together to **increase access to safe water in Guatemala**. Billions of people around the world currently get their water from rivers, ponds, or other sources subject to contamination. **Donations made through NGC will help bring safe drinking water to villages**. Over 90 cents of every dollar is used directly on supplying water. Making clean water a reality one village at a time!

Many of the villages in Guatemala do not have clean running water so the women and children walk several miles per day to get water for their families. Past NGC contributions helped complete a project at Ojo de Aqua Quiche. Clear drinking water was brought into this village. Hours that the people of the village spent walking miles to fill jugs with water can now be spent to plant food and raise animals for families. **GPRW current project is to bring potable water to 263 families or 1,578 individuals in Los Llanos, Quiche, Guatemala. To help at your own local level:**

- Sponsor a "50 is Nifty" campaign. If nationwide every member would contribute only 50 cents, we would have a sizable contribution to offer.
- Consider a "Drop in the Bucket" collection at your regular events. You can pass a bucket and ask members to contribute loose change.
- Display an educational exhibit about this program at your flower shows and schools to promote awareness.
- Celebrate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or recognize a special achievement with a donation from an individual, club, a district or state. **All donations over \$25 will be acknowledged with a recognition certificate.**
- Make checks payable to: National Garden Clubs, Inc. Forms can be found on the



**Clean water means
happy smiles!**

Photo courtesy GPRW WebsiteTop of Form

\$3000 PRESENTED FOR SCR & YOUTH BUTTERFLY PROJECTS

Director, Barbara Baker's Term Project "BUTTERFLIES are GOLDEN!"



Grapevine Garden Club, Grapevine, Texas Since 2013 members have coordinated with Grapevine Park and Recreation Department to continue planting wildflower seed in a 4 acre section of Parr Park. Two Girl Scout troops have helped with the seed planting along the walking/bike trail along Highway 26. This area and the club's garden project at Heritage Elementary School have been designated as a Monarch Way station. For 20 years, the Grapevine Garden Club has co-planned the annual butterfly festival with the City of Grapevine at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park. Between 2500-3000 attend "Butterfly Flutter-by" each October to celebrate the monarch migration. The event includes a Butterfly Costume Parade, bingo/scavenger hunt, story time, displays, art contest and plant sale

In 2016 the **A&M Garden Club**, College Station Texas added butterfly host and nectar plants at Richard Carter Park as part of a new emphasis on Butterflies in the Brazos. The club was the lead coordinator in establishing a Monarch Way station at Bee Creek Park along a new community walking trail. Five large planting beds along the trail connect to a wooded area with picnic tables and gazebo that can serve as a display area and outdoor garden classroom. The planting involved: scouts, school teachers and citizens including the local chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter and Beta Sigma Phi. Also Texas Master Naturalists and TAMU Sophomore horticulture class. The Monarch Way station has been covered on KBTX-TV, *The Eagle* (front page) and *Navasota Examiner* newspapers and City of College Station Parks Guide.

Bluebonnet Garden Club, Brenham Texas members began working with seven 4th grade classes "Brenham Elementary Gardeners" in the fall of 2002. Initially a Backyard Habitat the members and students added and continue to maintain a large Butterfly Garden and Outdoor Learning Center at the school. In addition, on STEM night students and parents enjoy a scavenger hunt and walk in the Butterfly Garden; on Family Science nights the entire family is welcome to come and explore; the Center is used on outdoor community days and also when students from other schools are brought to the Learning Center. "Weekly Weeders" are aided by students and some PTO mothers in maintaining the garden year round

Norchester Garden Club, Texas In 2007 members created and continue to maintain a Butterfly Garden within the 20 acre Matzky Park. For four days in April and May, members offered free 45 minute programs three times each day on the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly to day-care classes (ages 4-7) in the Garden Gazebo as part of their Children's Program. A story by Catherine the Caterpillar, a guided garden walk to identify plants and look for caterpillars was followed by a short craft. In October 2016, Norchester Garden Club held their annual Matzke Park Butterfly Photo and Day Care Drawing Contest. Each participant received a certificate.

In 2016 **Bella Vista Garden Club**, Arkansas members received seed and began propagation of *Asclepias* seed. Throughout the spring BVGC members provided articles for local newspapers, periodicals and Facebook pages. Members set up a large monarch display at Benton County Master Gardener Expo in April 2016 with hand-outs for children, photos, caterpillars and *Asclepias* plants and nectar plants for sale. Their May plant sale featured educational display, signs and photos plus 300+ milkweed plants for sale. In August -September members gathered and packaged their own seeds from members' gardens and gave them away at Bella Vista Farmers Market with information on monarchs and seed planting instructions. Another successful Fall Plant Sale was held October 2016 with 300 seed packages donated. Also in October club members presented a monarch program and seeds to BV Tiger Cub Scouts.



DIRECTORS PROJECT AWARDS CONTINUED:

The Garden Club of Rogers, Arkansas Youth Committee meets monthly with the “**Early Bloomers**”, 120 four-five year olds at Rogers’ Pre-K Center. With only a budget of \$300 per year, they work with one class of 20 at a time, 3 classes per day. In October 2015 the club’s Youth Committee gave a program on Monarch Butterflies to 120 with caterpillars, chrysalis and butterflies. Each classroom was given a butterfly habitat with chrysalis and caterpillars to feed, watch and release. The 2016 fall club year began with “Let’s Talk Butterflies”. Members presented a story board with information on the Monarch Butterfly, its life cycle, importance of the butterfly and what the public can do to help the Monarch. Each classroom was presented with a butterfly habitat from Insect Lore, complete with Monarch and Black Swallowtail caterpillars and chrysalis. In March 2017 “What is a Pollinator?” talk was present; members and students planted a 16" container with pollinator friendly plants for each classroom. The club recently totally replanted their city garden in Tower Park in native plants for pollinators.

New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. President Suzy Andrego created two year project: Plant a Butterfly Garden, A Habitat Garden, A Monarch Way Station for a club or individual. In June 2015, New Mexico Garden Clubs members participated in the “Butterfly Education and Awareness Day” sponsored by Wings of Enchantment Butterfly Farm, an Albuquerque company. Suzy also offered a President’s Butterfly Garden Award for 2017. The NMGC 68th Annual Convention was entitled “The Magnificent Mariposa”. Keynote speaker was Gail Morris, Coordinator of the Southwest Monarch Study, Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist and the Vice-President of the Monarch Butterfly Fund supporting research and development in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.

Sunflower Youth Summer Camp has been held annually since 1999; usually at Albuquerque NM Garden Center. The week-long camp is held in June or July for 4-11 year-old campers was founded by Mary Ann and Jennifer Moreno. The camp focuses on learning about plants and animals through garden-based activities. The 2016 camp focused on pollinators and included activities such as: drawing chalk pictures, a pollinator scavenger hunt in the gardens, origami and planting pollinator-friendly container gardens. The local newspaper interviewed and took pictures of the children doing fun activities. Over the years, many volunteers from District 1, local Albuquerque Gardens Clubs and Master Gardeners have helped with these activities.

In 2015 **Morning Garden Club**, Roswell NM helped plant 25 large concrete planters with colorful annuals and perennials up and down Main Street. Members planted two butterfly gardens in Cahoon Park as a demonstration garden to area residents; the walled garden of 4 beds was originally build in 1930s through the Civilian Conservation Corps. It is near a well-traveled road in a densely, populated area near the municipal golf course, swimming pool, parks and play area. In early 2015 the club asked cadets from the New Mexico Military Institute to help plant 400 donated bulbs. With that success, a local nursery offered bedding plants and members used the opportunity to bring wildflower seed and drought-resistant and native plants from their own gardens. The *Roswell Daily Record* has been very supportive of the new Butterfly Garden with coverage in the newspaper and on their Facebook Page. Part of the club’s educational goals will be egg, caterpillar and chrysalis recognition. Members maintain the garden.

DIRECTORS PROJECT AWARDS CONTINUED:



In 2016 **Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.** held a Youth Monarch Butterfly art contest and created note cards to sell; the 2015 Youth contests included Butterfly Poster for the Monarch Butterfly and the Milkweed for the Wildflower Poster. The April 2016 OGC State Spring convention featured educational exhibits on Monarchs, pollinators and bees. Oklahoma Garden Clubs sponsored the "Monarch Butterfly Celebration" on April 21, 2017 at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City. OGC received a Proclamation from Governor Mary Fallin for promoting preservation of the Monarch Butterfly and its Pathway. Members used a guest room in the Capitol and invited State legislators to visit, pick up literature and view educational exhibits. Programs at the OGC annual Wildflower Workshop on May 12-13, 2017 included Pollinators and Native Wildflowers.



OK Garden Clubs President MaryAnn Holman, Accepting the award for Oklahoma!



Director, Barbara Baker presented her Directors project awards in this beautiful Monarch costume.



Caroline Allen, an Environmental Engineer Senior, at New Mexico Mining and Technology, accepting her SCR Scholarship certificate from Director, Barbara Baker. Caroline gave an informative and wonderful short program at the ABQ SCR Convention on "10 Things We can Do to Help the Environment Now!"



Golden Butterfly Awards!



Oklahoma Garden Clubs to host Flower Show School I & Judges Symposium in July

Flower Show School I—July 10-11 & Judges Symposium—July 12-13, 2017

Both to be held at the *Tulsa Garden Center with*
Horticulture presented by David Robson & Design presented by Shirley Tetreault
SEE ATTACHED BROCHURES FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Penny Pines Chairman, Larry Layden

As the new Penny Pines Chairman for the South Central Region I am looking forward to working with all the garden clubs in our region. The United States Forest Service and National Garden Clubs have had a working agreement since 1941. It used to be that for every \$68 donation from a club the US Forest Service would plant 680 trees in a national forest designated by the club, thus the name “Penny Pines”.

Today the donation is still only \$68 while the number of trees is now 200. That is an incredible bargain in today’s economy.

The labor costs alone for planting 200 seedlings would far exceed \$68.

One way to generate funds for the program is by passing a container around at each garden club meeting. Many clubs have bought numerous \$68 plantations by this method. It is suggested that each club designate one person to manage the Penny Pines program.

Another great way to donate is by members giving \$68 to honor a friend or relative. For example instead of giving our kids more stuff they may not want; my wife Jo Ann and I plan to give them a certificate for their birthday that indicates 200 trees have been planted in a national forest in their honor.

Recommendations:

- a. Individual garden clubs should make checks payable to “**NGC – Penny Pines**”.
- b. Clubs send your checks in increments of \$68 directly to NGC Headquarters.
- c. Everything you need to know plus the form for submitting a donation can be downloaded from the NGC web site gardenclub.org then look under “**Projects**”.

State representatives if you want to track your states activity, ask clubs to let you know each time they send \$68 because NGC does not maintain a list by state.

Remember you can always email or call me if you have a question or concern.

Larry Layden

llyden@kitcarson.net

(575) 377-2743



Youth Sculpture Chairman, *Ronna Precure*

SUMMER FUN WITH THE KIDS!

Ok, call me a newbie! I'm a new chairman and I'm totally excited about this job...so I'm CERTAIN that you and your club will want to participate in this one as well!

Youth Sculpture Contest! One, this contest challenges us as gardeners to teach children environmental messages, yes. Secondly it leads kids to express themselves in a creative way, yes. BUT WHAT A GREAT WAY TO FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN YOURSELF! See things from their point of view, giggle with them and well, just play...

Encourage the kids around you this summer to get involved in saving the environment by taking recyclable or trashed items or even discarded food and make something cool with it! Maybe at Vacation Bible School, in your backyard with grandkids or even organize a project at your local library or youth center. This is a really fun project...you give it a little thought, the kids will have fun for an hour or two, the kids will learn valuable lessons and this can offer an opportunity for BIG publicity in your community for your club. Everybody likes to see the kid stuff in the news...

Snap a few pictures of the creations, check your state award offerings to see if they conduct this contest for an award. If so, enter. This contest has the possibility for the kids to win accolades at state, regional and national garden club levels. If your state does not offer this contest, you may send your club's first place winning entries to me! Then I can have some fun too!

Rules:

Children in 4th through 8th grades are eligible to enter

The sculpture is limited to a size that will fit on an 8 ½ " X 11" sheet of paper

Entries should include as many photographs as can be printed on the back of the entry form; (2) 4" X 6" are recommended

Club entries must be sent to your State Chairman by your state's deadline. State winners will be sent to Regional Chairman by Feb. 1st, 2018. Regional winners will be sent to NGC by Mar. 1st, 2018

Youth Sculpture Contest winners will be asked to submit a high quality photo of their entry to be used on the NGC website and in other state, regional and national publications.

Scale of Points:

Creative use of materials and self-expression: 60%

Description of sculpture and materials used: 30%

Craftsmanship and technique: 10%

YOUTH SCULPTURE Continued:

Take a bit of time to take a look at projects making something from litter, in magazines, on the web or at your library. There are some easy projects and some way fun ideas...ask the kids, they may have done something at school, they may have ideas! Take pictures of the project this summer and put the simple entry form together on a cold rainy day this coming fall! You will only send in one or two sheets of paper...not the sculpture itself! Rules and entry forms may be found on the NGC website, or contact me if your state does not offer them!

sanfords@arkansas.net
2673 Madison 1230

479-644-9673
Huntsville, AR 72740-7840



Youth Bird Poster Contest Chairperson, *Mardi McKenzie*

The bird for 2017-2018 is
the male Eastern Bluebird,



2018-2019 bird is
the male Ruby throated
Hummingbird.



INSTRUCTIONS: Draw on 8x10 sheet of paper. You may color, paint, or use colored pencil.

DID YOU NOTICE ???? The 2017-2019 SCR OFFICERS & CHAIRMAN LIST

**HAS BEEN SENT TO YOU AS
AN ATTACHMENT TO THIS
JUNE 2017
ISSUE OF THE
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
COMMUNICATOR????**

**Be Sure to Download
this list for future Use!**

Civic Development Chairman, Sarah Bianco

How Your Garden Club Can Actively Support Civic Development

Have you been thinking about ways your National Garden Club (NGC) affiliated garden club can provide community support? By working with other interested parties to initiate and/or support community-based projects, your Club can contribute to your community's quality of life.

Among suggested projects, popular categories include planting/maintaining/inventorying trees, assisting in community gardens, helping maintain parks and other open spaces, Blue Star Memorials, volunteering to help in school horticultural and/or agricultural projects, and landscaping/maintaining public buildings, medians, and other areas by public roads. The knowledge and skill of garden club members is a valuable asset. Other opportunities include providing support during Earth Week, participating in Arbor Day activities, and caring for public areas which include planted containers, such as troughs and urns.

Participation can be encouraged by understanding and participating in NGC awards for Civic Achievement. The three awards are:

Kellogg Civic Achievement Award. The award, along with a silver tray donated by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc., may be awarded for distinguished civic or conservation work making permanent improvement for public benefit, e.g., establishing sanctuaries, experimental forest, municipal gardens, landscaping public buildings, etc. No commercial project is eligible.

Garden Center Achievement Award. The award and a silver tray, in honor of Mrs. Frederick T. Fisher, may be awarded for a garden center, maintained by members, which in proportion to size has performed the greatest service to the community, e.g., library, lectures furthering NGC objective, courses, exhibits, trial garden, youth involvement, and networking with other civic organizations.

Special Civic Achievement Award. A Certificate of Merit may be awarded for outstanding civic work furthering NGC objectives and projects throughout the club year or special project not provided for in another NGC Award.

Civic development is an important component of NGC's mission. Member clubs are encouraged to embrace and nurture community projects. The good will created by these activities can provide members with a sense of satisfaction about their accomplishments.

SCR LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, Doris Jackson

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$50 + PIN \$ 5 = \$ 55

Pins are available with a magnet back or standard pin back.



All proceeds from the SCR Life Membership sales now go to the \$1000 SCR Scholarship given in the second year of a term. I encourage SCR members that do not have an SCR Life Membership to consider purchasing one during this new term. These memberships also make wonderful gifts for honoring members in your Club, District, State or our Region.

Order from:

Doris Jackson, SCR Life Membership Chairman
316 Venado, Los Alamos NM 87544

505-662-7563 Email: dfcix@aol.com

HERB GARDENING Chairman, Sherie Clarkson,

Encouraging Bees with Herbs Increases Garden Yield



One of my favorite sounds in the garden this time of year is the steady humming of bees gathering nectar from all the flowering plants. Not only relaxing, bees are an essential part of any garden, pollinating crops such as squash, cucumbers, melons, many bush and tree fruits, clover and various herbs. By having a nearby hive, your garden yield can increase by 50 percent.

However, European honeybees are experiencing a worldwide decline in recent years, as much as 50 percent compared to 50 years ago, mostly due to mite and disease problems. But there are several herbs that gardeners can grow to help feed and strengthen bees. And by all means stop using chemical pesticides. Bees are more susceptible to pesticides than many insects.

You don't need a hive to have bees as they will travel up to three miles to feed, visiting as many as 1,000 flowers in one foraging trip. Honeybees will feed on different flowers at different times of the day, depending on the secreting of the nectar, so you need to know which plants are more attractive to bees at what time of the day. Also important is to have a ample supply of nectar-producing plants as long as possible during the growing season.

The following is a short list of flowering herbs that should supply your bees with a constant supply of nectar and pollen to keep them around and healthy. Give them a try in your garden and you might just see your yield increase and have the added benefit of healthy bees.

Thymes – (*Thymus* spp.) Bees love all thymes, however I have had the best luck with the English and lemon thymes for attracting bees. In fact, you might want to avoid your thymes during high activity times because the bees tend to bury themselves down into the carpet of thyme unseen until distributed.

Rosemary – (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) With its beautiful blue flowers and aromatic smell, it is a natural for bees. Rosemary also contains a herbal oil that can be effective against certain bee parasites. Others that contain this oil include the previously mentioned thymes, sages, lavender, borage, mint and wild roses.

Lavender – (*Lavandula* spp.) A lavender hedge can bring in hundreds of bees and I have seen mine covered as soon as the very fragrant spikes start to open. One of my favorites, the English lavender, *Lavandula angustifolia*, produces the long tall spikes that the bees seem to especially favor.

HERB GARDENING CONTINUED:

Sages – (*Salvia* spp.) Even though bees love all varieties of sages, one of their favorites is the high-quality nectar of purple sage, *S. leucophylla*) a 5-foot tall white to gray plant. The honey made by bees feeding on these plants has a pleasant, distinctive flavor, a true sage honey.

Mints – (*Mentha* spp.) What garden would be complete without a couple of mint plants. One of the easiest grown herbs, bees especially like all varieties. Be sure if you plant several kinds, plant them away from each other as they will combine and revert back to their parent plants. Most varieties of *Mentha* spp. tend to spread, so unless you want a bee- buzzing carpet, contain your mints.

Catnip – (*Nepeta* spp.) Not only loved by the feline population, catnip with its pale purple flowers, it is a favorite of bees. Easily started from divisions or seeds, it prefers dry soil. Noted herbalist Adelma Grenier Simmons once stated if you plant catnip transplants, the cats will have a great time, but if you plant catnip seeds, the cats will leave them alone. Since I have never raised catnip from seed I do not know if this is true or not, but I do know every cat in the neighborhood knows when I set out transplants. To keep kitty away until your catnip has become established, cover your plants with a tomato cage.

Bergamot (*Monarda didyma*) With its flamboyant scarlet blooms and regal height, bergamot is among the loveliest of the flowering herbs. Beloved of hummingbirds, butterflies and bees, it is one of those plants with many common names: bee balm, beebread plant, Oswego tea, horsemint, and simply monarda. Its leaves have a strong fragrance evocative of bergamot orange. A hardy American native, bergamot reaches a height of 4 feet and works very

Front to back, catmint, catnip, Russian sage, Purple sage and bergamot.



English Thyme



& Monarda didyma



Educational Schools Chairman, Idalia Aguilar

During the last NGC, Inc. Convention at Richmond, Virginia new changes were introduced to the Educational Schools system. The word STUDY has been taken out of their titles and from now on their correct names will be: *Gardening School, Landscape Design School and Environmental School*. Another new item is that NGC has eliminated the Five Dollar Registration payment for all educational events, however, payment for accreditation of students and Consultants will continue to be five Dollars.

Coming back from Convention during the usual waiting for delayed planes, I had the opportunity to ask someone why their State doesn't offer the Educational Schools, since these Schools are so beneficial to all Garden Clubs. Her prompt answer was "... *too much complicated paper work*"! Gladly I could inform her that NGC has a special Committee working in establishing one Handbook for all the three Schools and will soon provide a set of interactive forms that will facilitate the managing of all the so called... *dreaded paperwork*!

These are the good news I bring to you as your SCR School Chairman and it is my sincere hope that the new Presidents of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and New Mexico will soon answer with enthusiasm the command of service sent by our new NGC President Nancy Hargroves to "Plant America!"

The first step to take in answering to this command is appointing a Schools Chairman and begin offering to your state garden clubs this wonderful system of continuous education. Taking this first step we guarantee will prepare your Club members to benefit from the Plant America Community Project Grants, because the Educational Schools will offer knowledge of horticulture, the skills to design beautiful landscapes and the ability to promote an active civic interest in protecting our environment.

Let's get in touch with the NGC School's Chairman to offer in our South-Central Region these extraordinary tools of knowledge and encourage our members to join Nancy Hargroves and together we shall Plant America! idaliaaguilarv@hotmail.com

NGC, Inc. School Chairman :

Gardening School

Barbara Hadsell

BarbaraHadsell@cs.com

Landscape Design School

Greg Pokorski

gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Environmental Design School

Patricia Rupiper

patrupiper@gmail.com



WILD LIFE HABITAT Chairman, Fran Walker

What Not to Plant, Plants that Attract Deer and Other Wildlife

Many find the beauty of America's wildlife breathtaking. From the graceful deer to the wiggle-nosed bunny, their splendor is undeniable. However, when they choose to feast on our property, their visits become problematic. Knowing what foods they find particularly palatable serves to invite or deter them.

Deer

Two species of deer reside in Oklahoma, the mule and the more abundant white-tail, which dwell in every county. Their annual movements range from 100 acres to over 2,400 acres according to area food production.¹ Travelers often spot deer in pastures at the edge of the woods. They emerge from the protective cover as the seasonal food supplies diminish. By late season, they may dine in numbers alongside wooded country roads.

Understanding the food preferences of deer is as easy as understanding their anatomy. Like cows, deer have a four-chambered stomach (rumen). However, their stomachs are quite different. The cow has a large rumen that allows a longer digestion time, maximizing the saturation of low nutrient grasses. However, the deer's small rumen demands a diet with a high nutritive value since it holds only 4% of that of a cow.² Nutrients must be replenished every 3-4 hours. Since most grasses must digest longer in the rumen, deer cannot afford to be grazers. They must forage preferring only those grasses that degrade quickly.

Food Preferences: Deer are browsers favoring woody twigs, buds, leaves, forbs (broad leaf flowering shrubs and weeds), grains (oats, wheat, rye) mushrooms, and mast (nuts, fruits, acorns). These staples are high in nutrients. Unlike grasses, forbs are easily digestible and full of vitamins. This is just what the deer need after winter. Mushrooms provide phosphorous for antler growth. Deer prefer trees that have opposite placed buds like that of the Maple and twigs that are less than 3 inches in diameter. Masts provide high-energy food, plums and cherries being a favorite.

Unappealing Foods: If your property abounds with these tasty treats, you might as well have a neon sign flashing, "Come and Get It." Is there anything we can do to protect our landscape? Unless you have a super tall fence, preferably one you cannot see through (out of sight, out of mind), you will continue to provide a smorgasbord of delight.

We have learned what not to plant. Are there plants that deer do not like? To some extent, placement of deer-resistant plants will discourage their visits. If hungry enough, a deer will eat most anything, but food preferences categorize as *often*, *occasionally*, and *rarely*. Certain plants are considered undesirable: Hairy, Thorny, Bitter tasting, Gray/silver in color. Deer also avoid the plants with a strong aroma because it inhibits their sense of smell—a key means of detecting threat.³

If your yard contains the foods deer often eat, try lining the perimeter with plants like lantana, foxglove, asparagus fern, globe thistle, and butterfly bush. If you have a food garden, plant an outer edge of oregano, basil, artichoke, cucumbers, eggplants, and peppers. Deer are not crazy about barberry (thorns), boxwood, forsythia, spirea, or lilac. Trees such as the ash, birch, sweet gum, and our state tree, (redbud) rarely beckon the deer.⁴

What Not to Plant, Plants that Attract Deer and Other Wildlife , **CONTINUED.**

Living fences are an option employed since before statehood. Long ago, Native Americans in southeastern Oklahoma created a whole market using the bois d'arc apples. The Choctaws shipped them from Boggy Depot to surrounding states that had little timber. These intertwined plantings grew to create impenetrable wildlife barriers by intertwining them as they grew, a process called inosculation. Today that might seem extreme, although some landowners do create living fences using wisteria, oak, beech, and other trees with young pliable branches. This is a labor-intensive process, and keep in mind, deer can jump very high with little effort.

Other Wildlife

Rabbits

Unlike the deer, rabbits love grasses. Though they love fruits and vegetables, grasses comprise most of their diet. Without this staple, they develop serious digestive problems. Rabbits are not finicky eaters and can quickly annihilate a vegetable garden. Planting herbs, onions, rosemary, garlic, sage, and thyme amongst your carrots, peas, and lettuce will help deter them.⁵

Squirrels

I never minded having squirrels in my yard. The oaks provided plenty to eat and they never seemed to bother any plants. That is, until a drought minimized the production of acorns and seeds in our area. One morning, I noticed a squirrel hurry down a tree, grab a mouthful of St. Augustine, and scurry back up to enjoy the bounty. This feeding ritual continued throughout the summer until my beautiful grass looked like it had the mange. That was the year the squirrel stop being a fluffy-tailed beauty and became a rat like its cousins. Squirrels have a keen sense of smell, avoiding pungent plants. Those not favored include lilies, daffodils, impatiens, geraniums, and marigolds.

Skunks

Both plants and animals lure these smelly creatures. They like insects, bird eggs, rodents, moles, frogs, snakes, lizards, and earthworms. They favor nuts, berries, leaves, grass, and roots. The best approach is to eliminate their access. Plant squash borders around your garden since the tiny hairs on the plant leaves chafe the skunk's skin and feet.⁶

Armadillos

The armadillo is a living tiller. These prehistoric looking creatures can tear a lawn to shreds in a single night. They root along in search of grubs and worms at an alarming speed. There is not much one can do to discourage them other than trap and remove or a good fence. Black and rubber mulch encourage armadillo visits since the increased warmth brings the grubs and worms closer to the top of the soil. Try to minimize places they can burrow and remove any brush piles.

The best tool one can use is research. Books, magazines, and the internet provide a multitude of information about plants that attract and deter animals. We love the beauty of wildlife and want these living things to thrive, just not in our backyard.

For References Contact Chairman.

2018 SCR Convention in HOUSTON, Texas

Come join us in exploring the “**Wonders of the Coastal Plains**” at the 2018 SCR Convention April 27-29, 2018. It will be held at the Marriot Airport Houston. Rooms are \$99/night for double occupancy with breakfast for 2.

This is a time for making new friends, seeing fellow gardeners and get a taste of what happens in the Coastal Plains area of Texas. All of us in District IV are anxious to show off our treasures!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMNG EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

- ♦ **JULY 10 & 11, 2017** Flower Show School I, Tulsa, OK
- ♦ **JULY 12 & 13, 2017** Judges Symposium, Tulsa, OK
- ♦ **SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2017** National Garden Clubs, Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, Mo
- ♦ **SEPT 26-27, 2017** Landscape Design School III , College Station, TX
- ♦ **SEPT 26-28, 2017** Flower Show School IV, Houston
- ♦ **OCTOBER 10-13, 2017** Flower Show School IV, Dallas
- ♦ **DEC 2-3, 2018** Environmental School, Groesbeck, TX
- ♦ **APRIL 27 & 28, 2018** ***SCR 2018 Convention, Houston, Texas***
- ♦ **MAY 21-24, 2018** NGC Convention , Philadelphia, PA

South Central Communicator Editorial Team

Suzy Andregio & Pam Grotts

Communicator Email address: scr.communicator@yahoo.com

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