



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

# *The Communicator*

2017 VOL. 2

*Isabel Olsen, Director 2017-2019*

### *Message from SCR Director...*



Our South Central Region has been a victim of **very** devastating weather. As summer began the southeast part of Tulsa, Oklahoma was hit with a tornado. And now Hurricane Harvey has devastated our Texas coastal area near Houston. I contacted several members in these areas, and I am so grateful for their safety and well-being.

In this newsletter Idalia Aguilar has written about the many different forms of social media networking. Many of us have apprehensions about using social media, and perhaps don't see the benefit. But I think you will find if used correctly, it is an opportunity to showcase your garden clubs activities, projects and events. Our clubs can always use more exposure in the community. In many towns the newspaper is no longer an option. I do want to caution you to always be conscious of what you are saying. If you are maintaining a social media outlet for your garden club, you want it to reflect the spirit of the club. Remember... anything you post is out there forever!

We are about to launch our newly designed South Central Region website at the end of this month! It was developed with your needs in mind. You will find that the tabs will make for easier navigation and provide you with the information needed. There will be several links that will take you to the National Garden Clubs website, along with our four states website. Kathryn Cox, Website Manager has done an outstanding job accumulating the information, photos and graphics for our new website. I would like to thank Cindy Hill and Shawn Abel for assisting her with this exciting undertaking. As your club begins to make plans for a new garden project, I want to remind you of the various grants that are available through partnerships with National Garden Clubs. AMES will continue to grant garden tools for approved clubs landscaping projects. You can apply by completing an application on the NGC website <http://gardenclub.org/projects/ames-gardentools.aspx>. Another opportunity is a Grant from Espoma Organic Gardening products. Twenty garden clubs will be awarded grants up to \$250.00 of organic plant foods and potting soils. The application form can be located on the Espoma website <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/>. How wonderful it would be for some of our clubs in South Central Region to be awarded these generous grants. Happy Gardening!

*Isabel*





## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)



### *Director's Project*

**"Beautifying our Communities"** is a project that will coincide with the National project, "Plant America." The Purpose is to beautify our communities within our four states and join with organizations, uniting to achieve a specific purpose. Projects to consider - gardens at schools, churches, cemeteries, hospitals, libraries, parks, adult centers, retirement homes, historical or art museum.

**Prize Awarded:** One award winning garden club will receive a high quality marker with their club name to be posted where the project is located. In addition, each state will be eligible to receive \$100. for the most outstanding community project. The prize money will go to the specific club responsible for the creation of the garden.

**Who May Apply:** Any individual garden club that is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and SCR.

**Application Deadline:** Chairman must receive on or before **December 1, 2019**, via e-mail.

**How to Apply:** The application will be on the SCR website, in "*The Communicator*" and available through the State President.

**Program Criteria:** Involving other community members, benefits to the community, total involvement and participation by club members, including youth from school or other public organizations. Other considerations will include reduce, reuse, recycle, composting, worm farms, vertical plantings and utilization of space. A short one-page report describing the project including before and after photos must be submitted to the Chairman.

**Questions:** Shirley Tetreault, Chairman of the Director's Project "Beautifying Our Communities", 12404 Apache Pl. N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87112. **Phone:** (505) 294-4331 or (505) 259-2263.

**E-mail:** ammasangels@comcast.net



# SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)



## Director's Project

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of State Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: (Club name) : \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: (Name of individual representing club) : \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

New Project: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning date: \_\_\_\_\_ Completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Project also listing the type of garden - vegetable, sensory, flower, native plant, cactus, annual, perennial etc.:

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Brief statement of club members and outside volunteers:

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### Director's Project Scale of Points:

Impact on the community	30
Benefits and visibility	30
Involvement and participation by club members	20
Community Groups involved	15
Complete application with budget attached	5
Total points	100

**Email or mail the completed application form and budget to:**

Shirley Tetreault  
12404 Apache Pl. N.E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112  
[ammasangels@comcast.net](mailto:ammasangels@comcast.net)

# SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

## WEBSITE UPDATE

**Website Chairman, Kathryn Cox**

**SCRGARDENCLUB.ORG .....** a name to know

South Central Region's website will be sprouting online at the end of this month. Interesting data and exciting information will be at your fingertips. Watch for the news flash announcing its debut.

**Remember the website address:**

**SCRGARDENCLUBS.ORG**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!**

**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!

***Full Registration in the December Communicator***

**April 27** Trip to Arbor Gate Nursery (private cars, Lunch will be on your own)  
Trip to Mercer Arboretum  
Dinner Program on Design by Corrie Ten Have

**April 28** Luncheon program on Feeding Fields (Community Gardening)  
Dinner Program on the Katy Prairie

**2017-2019 ARKANSAS STATE PRESIDENT, Drenda Stanley**



**“Plant America”, “ Sow Arkansas”.**

What a different summer we had in Arkansas with our weather. August was wet and much cooler. This leads me to talk about our Mid Year Board meeting held in Forrest City AR. It was a great meeting, a lot of first timer where there and that made it so fun. Many presidents or representatives of clubs came to pick up their presidents packets. So much information was shared on “Plant America”, “ Sow Arkansas”. My Arkansas Clubs are already showing enthusiasm on NGC, SCR and the States themes. Looking at ways to plant beauty in our communities, sow seeds in our youth and Harvest new members.

Get on the ROW, Plant America!

**OKLAHOMA STATE PRESIDENT, Linda Lawson**



The President of Oklahoma Garden Clubs wishes to thank the former presidents, the board members, and the membership for their support. This is an amazing group. The president is overjoy to follow in the footsteps of the former presidents and leaders who have served before. The president returned to Oklahoma after attending The National meeting in Richmond Virginia. The President met with contest chairmen to discuss themes rules and titles of contests for 2017-2019.

The president is proud that Oklahoma started the 1<sup>st</sup> series of Flower Schools in over 10 years .This course was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The next course shall be held in Midwest City Oklahoma. The President wishes to thank members of South Central Region who helped the classes. Course 2 is in the planning stages. This class will be held in Midwest City.

An Environmental School will be held in Ardmore Oklahoma September 18-20<sup>th</sup>. Symposium was also held in Tulsa Oklahoma. Thanks to all those who attended or helped with the symposium. This is a great region!

The president presided at the summer board meeting. She explained the National theme and project: “ Plant America”, the regional project “Beautifying Our Communities” and Oklahoma’s project “3 peas in a pod.”

In conclusion the president would like to say in the words of those before “remember the past.” Push forward, choices matter, leap into action, and Plant America.



## NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT, **Barbara Vance**

### **Plant America – Grow New Mexico!**

New Mexico – “Land of Enchantment”. New Mexico is a state with a variety of climates and topography. We have high mountains and flat desert lands scattered around our state. Our gardeners have learned how to produce beautiful gardens and raise a great variety of fruits and vegetables, working with different soils, weather, and water availability. Flower Shows, County and State Fairs are where these items are displayed for the public to see and learn about what grows in the various locals around our state. We are the home state of Smokey the Bear and his story about preventing forest fires is known throughout the nation. We have a varied history. From the ancient time to the present space age – we keep learning – growing into the future. Plant America – Grow New Mexico! We support these efforts at all levels.

Our changing climate has been a challenge for us. We have had severe drought in many areas for the past 5 years. This summer we finally had our monsoon rains. Our garden club members took advantage of the welcomed moisture – gardens and wildflowers flourished. Clubs planned garden tours with a member on hand at each stop to answer questions about the numerous plants, bushes and trees. Gardens came in all sizes – shapes – and plantings. Some had sculptures to augment a particular flowering area. When you get up into the higher elevations – shorter growing season – it is more challenging to find plants that will grow and mature before the cool fall and cold winter arrive.

This summer we had a number of “first ever” garden club flower shows, thanks to Suzy Andregó’s, 2015-2017 President’s Project’s. One was held at an Art Gallery -floral paintings on the walls added color, festivity to the show. The floral designs and horticulture entries fit right in. A very different venue – a show held in a small airport at a very high elevation. How exciting to see so many different plants that can survive at that altitude. The most important benefit of these shows – attracting new members to our clubs. People attending are amazed at the many different plants that grow in our state. Viewers inquire about the exhibits and want to know how these got “so big” - “bright color” - “sweet scent”. Conversations lead to discussions about clubs and activities and invitations to visit one or more clubs. Attendees also learn about our Educational Studies. We will start a new series of Flower Show Schools in November at the Albuquerque Garden Center. Two of our clubs have many new members. We have one very new club in northern New Mexico with a title that truly tells what we all are about: ***Amor de la Tierra*** (“love of the land”).



## TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT, Betty Edwards

### *“Plant America, “Sowing Seeds the Texas Way”*

Summer has flown by and, thankfully, taken most of the heat with it. I, myself, have been happily busy embroidering green and blue aprons for our fundraiser. As summer comes to an end, I hope all of you have had time to enjoy the festivities and visit with your families.

Unfortunately, the end of the summer was marked with devastation as hurricane Harvey landed in Texas. My heart is heavy for our Garden Club Members stuck in the path of this natural disaster. Let us all be in prayer for everyone effected by hurricane Harvey and keep them in our thoughts.

In other news, Lyda Smith and I attended Garden Study School in Houston in June. Chairman Cheryl Lenert did an excellent job with the school. If you haven't had a chance to attend Gardening Study School, I highly recommend the experience. The school was held at the Mercer Botanic Gardens, a beautiful place to visit. The participants were educated on interesting and useful topics.

If curious about attending a school, there are four NGC sponsored Educational Programs and you may choose the school that best suits your interests. We promote all of these schools. They are Gardening Study School, Environmental Studies School, Flower Show School and Landscape Design School.

However, if attending a school is not feasible, then there are other ways to contribute to the club. One such way is to help out with the website. Kathy Cox has been working on the SCR website and while Kathy already has a lot of essential information about our Texas club, she needs more material to keep our website up to date. So, if you have or are willing to take photos of landscape, plants, flower shows, conventions, garden tours or other events, then please send them to Kathy Cox at [mkcoxelp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkcoxelp@sbcglobal.net).

On a final note I would just like to take a moment to say, garden clubbers are a special group of people. We tend this beautiful planet that God gave us by planting and caring for the earth. We teach, spreading knowledge that allows others to learn and plant. God gave us the ability to share with others in so many ways, which we see every time someone gives a plant to someone in grief, illness, love, or celebration. We need to remember how important plants are not only to our planet but to our society. I thank you all for everything you do for the club and look forward to seeing you in Killeen at our Fall Convention in October.

## **NEW NGC DESIGN TYPE—*Barbara Baker, Emeritus NGC Instructor***

This fall floral design is a Grouped Mass of sunflowers, mums, lilies, Solidago, and mixed fillers that came with the 3 small grocery store bundles. Cat tails and cinnamon sticks (for fall fragrance) were added for rhythm.

The square tin container has a plastic liner and was chosen to contrast with the rounded flower shapes and repeat the tin watering can and antique gardening tool collection used throughout family room. The warm colors contrast well with the blue drapery.

HB 78 Grouped Mass: a mass design of only plant material with radial placement. Plant material emanates from one point of emergence. Like material is grouped and placed next to other different grouped like material. Additional plant material may be included but proportion of groupings dominate the design.

Notes: only plant material; more plant material than space; material is massed so depth needs to be added; does not specify Creative Design; materials may be abstracted or may have some abstraction within the grouping.

Differs from Creative Mass which does not require groupings, one point of emergence nor only plant material.

Hint: use the powdered additive for the cut flowers and to soak the wet floral foam for nutrients and anti-bacteria.



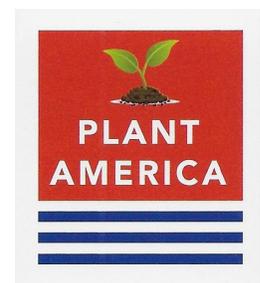
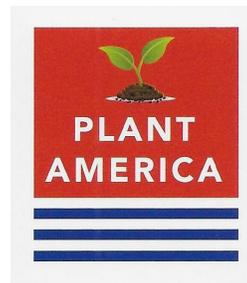
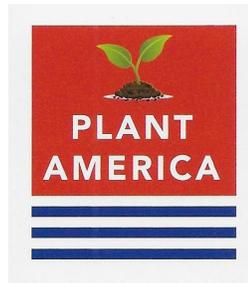
Grouped Mass by Barbara Baker



## SCR Plant America Grant Chairman, *Veta Reese*

With garden clubs ready to begin another club year, I hope that each of you and your clubs will find an existing project that could use some tweaking. That is exactly what the National Garden Clubs Plant America initiative is all about. But, you can't win if you don't enter. Your application must be submitted no later than November 1, 2017.

Guidelines and an application form are contained in this copy of *The Communicator*. Additional information, as well as the forms, can be found on the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).



## A JUDGES SYMPOSIUM in OUR REGION

### Dallas Flower Show Judges, Founders Group hosting

**Flower Show Symposium November 29-30**

**at the Meadows Conference Center**

**Explore New Horizons**

**Cultivate and Expand Your Knowledge of the 2017 Handbook**

**“Horticulture”:** Container Grown Cyclamen/Ilex Shrubs, Sue Kirkman, Instructor

**“Creativity in 2017:** Cascade-Creative & Grouped Mass Designs” Lynn Fronk, Instructor

Allied topic: **“Exploring Botanical Arts in 2017”**

Registrar: Rachel Clark [mrclark2@msn.com](mailto:mrclark2@msn.com)

**Registration Forms available at:** <http://texasgardenclubs.org/forms/>

Let's explore the new handbook,  
exciting new designs, horticulture and botanical arts opportunities and have fun!

# **SCR SCHOLARSHIP 2017-2019,**

**Heather White, Chairman**



South Central Region awards a \$1000 scholarship to one individual every 2 years in the odd year (2019 for this term). The specific guidelines for the scholarship are the same as for NGC Scholarship and the application is the same as the NGC Application, available at the NGC Website (<http://www.gardenclub.org>, then click Scholarships, **make sure to read both the Instructions and Application tabs**).

The 2017-2019 SCR Scholarship Committee Chairman is Heather White (TX), with committee members representing each state in the South Central Region. Members are: Liz Howell (AR), Sally Warner (NM), Donna Marsheck (OK), and Peggy Moreland (TX). All of these ladies have prior experience with SCR and extensive work within their states. The committee will meet and evaluate all correctly completed and screened applications from State Scholarship Chairmen from within the region submitted by the January 1, 2019 deadline for awarding at the SCR Convention 2019. Applications **must be submitted by the individual state scholarship chairmen** (Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) to the committee chair, Heather White, by January 1, 2019 either by mail (2108 Chestnut Oak Circle, College Station, TX, 77845-4168) or by email ([heathermwhitemd@aol.com](mailto:heathermwhitemd@aol.com)). If questions, call 979-220-7545.

The source of funding for the SCR Scholarship is in part donations, and in part revenue projects which may be undertaken with the guidance of the SCR Director during his/her term. Any donations to the SCR Scholarship would be greatly appreciated. Please send donations to "SCR" with "scholarship fund spendable" in the memo line. The SCR Treasurer for 2017-2019 is Donna Marsheck, 402163 W



The 2017 SCR Scholarship Recipient, Caroline Allen with 2015-2017 Director, Barbara Baker

## RECYCLING, Carol Moore, Chairman

### RECYCLING – CAN YOUR CLUB TAKE THE INITIATIVE?

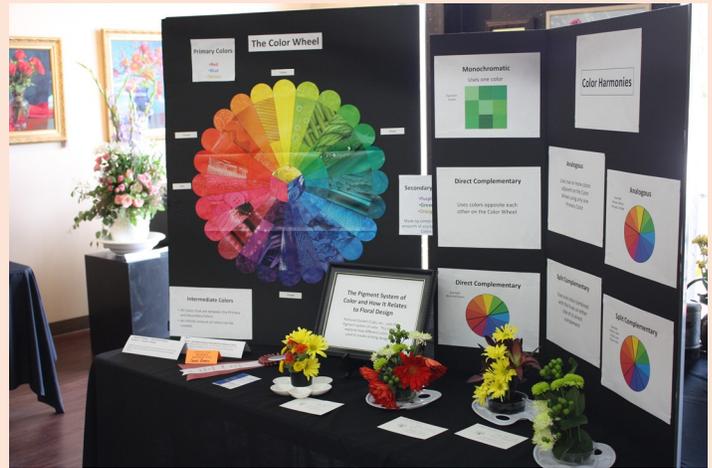
IF RENEWING, REUSING, REDUCING AND RECLAIMING HAVE NOT BEEN PROMINENT PRACTICES PROMOTED BY YOUR CLUB, YOU CAN ALWAYS START WITH SOME IDEAS FROM THE LIST BELOW:

1. Recycle rechargeable batteries: [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org); nationwide stores such as Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Depot, Target
2. Multiple unwanted articles: [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org); no money changes hands.
3. Gently worn shoes: [www.soles4souls.org](http://www.soles4souls.org) distributes shoes to the needy in 60 countries worldwide
4. Worn athletic shoes: Nike “Reuse-A-shoe” program makes “Nike Grind” from old athletic shoes to produce playground and sport surfaces; contact Nike at [www.letmeplay.com/reuseashoe](http://www.letmeplay.com/reuseashoe)
5. Packing peanuts: take to UPS or other mailing centers, for the closest business to you call the “Peanut Hotline” at (800) 828-2214
6. Coat hangers: take to a local cleaner or make wreath frames
7. Plastic containers: contact local preschools, elementary schools, craft groups, use for seedlings
8. Grass clippings and leaves: compost
9. Pine Needles: Mulch
10. Film Canisters: check with high school science departments; use for crafts or seed storage
11. Clothing: Disabled American Veterans, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Purple Heart, homeless shelters in your community
12. Mesh bags: store flower bulbs, scrub pots, (dishes and flower pots)
13. Plastic bags: support your own cloth bags for groceries; use them to pull noxious weeds like poison ivy
14. Avoid using cups/Styrofoam at meetings and ask people to bring their own mug
15. Use refillable “laundry balls” in the dryer instead of softener sheets
16. Donate gently used books for public library used book sale or give to shelters where homeless children may be
17. Collect metal pull tabs for Ronald McDonald house recycling
18. Vermiculture (red wiggler worms) recycle all kitchen waste except meat and dairy
19. Broken pottery and dishes can be used as drainage in flower pots; consider using old plates as a garden border
20. Try not to idle your vehicle for more than 10 seconds to reduce air pollution

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GREAT  
EDUCATIONAL  
DISPLAY ON THE  
COLOR WHEEL at  
HIGH DESERT  
DESIGN CLUB Flower  
Show in ABQ, NM  
AUGUST 2017



FOLKS in LITTLE ROCK GOT A GREAT  
VIEW OF THE ECLIPSE

## RECYCLING (Continued).

21. Unplug Wall Energy “vampires” (rechargers, TV’s and appliances) when not in use; standby electricity eats up energy
22. Use old jeans to make stuffed teddy bears
23. Use egg cartons to start seeds to fill with single servings of baby food that can be frozen
24. An important consideration is to simply buy less – we throw away large portions of food, tons of disposable packaging, and we rent large storage units for “stuff”. One great way to get to know other people in your club is to bring stuff to your sales tables and pass along some of the stuff you don’t need rather than throwing it away.

*(This article was adapted from the NGC Website and Heather White, LSG Editor from 2015 – 2017)*

## 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.

**NGC, Inc. School Chairman :**

Gardening School

Barbara Hadsell

BarbaraHadsell@cs.com

Landscape Design School

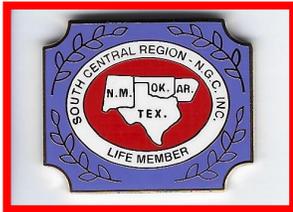
Greg Pokorski

gregpokorski@earthlink.net

Environmental Design School

Patricia Rupiper

patruriper@gmail.com



**SCR LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, Doris Jackson**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the new SCR Life Members:

**Donna Womack** Ft. Worth, Texas

**Betty Edwards** Kermit, Texas

**Barbara Vance** Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Derenda Stanley** Hamburg, Arkansas

**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](mailto:dfcix@aol.com)

**Plant It Pink - Melanie Mason-Spence, Chairman**

As the new *Plant It Pink* - Chairman for SCR, I'm very excited to promote the passion for pink with garden clubs in our region. This particular initiative is very special to me because breast cancer has impacted our family and most likely it has affected many of our families within our organization.

Within our family, we go above and beyond to support the American Cancer Society by supporting events and fundraising for early detection for breast cancer. So, you can understand why I instantly replied "YES" with great enthusiasm to Isabel Olsen, Director SCR, when asked to be the representative for *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink*.



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## **Plant It Pink Continued.**

In case you were not aware how *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink* came into play, the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) started a grassroots campaign, "*Plant It Pink*," to help celebrate breast cancer survivors, honor those we have lost to the disease, and join forces to fight against cancer by working with Congress to protect funding of the cancer research that leads to breakthrough treatments. The ACS CAN teamed up with the National Garden Club (NGC) to "*Promote a Passion for Pink*" by planting pink flowers everywhere to make a statement for Breast Cancer Awareness along with the ultimate goal to "*Help Create Hope for a Breast Cancer-Free World!*". NGC

*"Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women. Each year in the U.S., breast cancer is diagnosed in more than 192,000 women and it takes 40,000 lives. About 11,000 cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed each year and more than 4,000 women lose their lives. Despite increased awareness of the importance of early detection for these cancers, millions of underinsured and uninsured women across the country do not have access to these lifesaving screenings."* ACS CAN

After speaking to the former NGC *Plant It Pink* Chairman and reviewing the NGC website, I was made aware that clubs can work with the 4-H clubs, American Cancer Society, school youth programs, community parks and gardens, hospitals, cancer centers, churches and libraries. Other ideas are to partner with community groups such as Girl Scouts, local school clubs, and tourism to do plantings; encourage donations of pink plants for Habitat for Humanity gardens. In addition, clubs can partner with tourism groups/city leaders to splash pink all over your community

Your local club can "kill two birds with one stone" by incorporating *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink* for the "*Plant America Community*" Project Grant (NGC). *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink* can be incorporated into beautification and/or restoration projects, classrooms and/or youth projects, landscaping for Habitat for Humanity Homes, landscaping of Blue Star Memorial Markers, implementing of environmental practices, or organizing a horticulture or environmental educational event for the public and/or youth.

Go on Pinterest and look up *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink*; multiple planting ideas come up for pink gardens, etc. In addition, you can search for pink flowers for geographic area/planting zone; multiple suggestions are available. You can find many unique and creative ideas on Pinterest and Google. *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink* for garden therapy projects and private gardens. Use your imagination and have fun *Planting It Pink*.



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## **Plant it Pink, continued**

Participate in National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) and *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink*. Your club can invest in pink tee shirts to wear as you plant pink in your community or schedule a flower show using classes of pink flowers on your flower show schedules. Take photos and reach out to your local newspaper and share your *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink* projects. Other ideas from NGC website include host a “*Plant It Pink... Planet Pink!*” “Walk in the spring”...work together to place a pink bench in a focal spot.

Please share your clubs *Plant It Pink - Planet Pink* events, stories, and ideas by sending photos and project description to Melanie Mason-Spence, [mamason89@yahoo.com](mailto:mamason89@yahoo.com),

## **SCR Awards, Bobbie Verser Chairman**

### **CHANGE IS GOOD**

SCR Award Guidelines for 2017-2019 and CHANGES are found below. Please take time to read over them as you plan your programs and projects for Director Isabel’s term. Your SCR Awards Chairman is excited to announce that we have some changes which I include new awards. You will see (new) in four locations. Some of the changes reflect updates by NGC. This is exciting. It is my hope that you will enjoy studying the possibilities and preparing entries as we reach out to others to share our love of gardening.

Please study the awards listed below and the dollar amount for each. We are hoping to prepare a more detailed list of sponsors. We hope to be able to do a better job of tracking your gifts.

- Awards winners for #1-10, along with #12 and 15 receive \$25 each.  
I need 13 sponsors for \$25 each.
- Award #13 is a Youth Award for \$50. I need one sponsor for this.
- There are 14 possible winners at \$10 each for Publications, #14.  
I’d like to have 5 sponsors for \$28 each.

Please e-mail me as quickly as possible and let me know the name of the award you’d like to sponsor for \$25 or \$50. If you’d like to be a Publication sponsor, just send me your name and write “Publications”. I’ll assign as needed. All sponsorships will be on a first come basis, and I may have to request a few adjustments when I hear from you. Hopefully this will run smoothly. Thanking you in advance for being an SCR Award sponsor. ***Email address: [bobbieverser@att.net](mailto:bobbieverser@att.net)***

## **Educational Schools Chairman, *Idalia Aguilar***

### **#socialmediaforSCRGardenClubs.... Let's meet the challenge!**

The internet digital systems have transformed world communications....and as garden club members we must face the challenge to learn how to efficiently use Social Media, which is one of the most active of all internet tools available to promote and multiply Garden Club memberships in the SCR states of Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Can we together meet this challenge?

Just imagine the many obstacles our great-grandparents, grandparents and parents had to face as they met their own challenges learning how to use the tools to receive and transmit information. Nevertheless, each generation mastered the use of the telegraph, phones, radio, later TV and computers. It's because of their efforts that we have inherited the necessary knowledge for harvesting the multiple benefits of the internet. History repeats itself, for our grandchildren and great grandchildren are actively using social media as an efficient networking communication tool to interact with each other. As Garden Club members, we need to accept the challenge to learn about Social Media and I hope this short article will inspire you to better understand how this digital communication tool can provide benefits to your Garden Clubs.

To begin, please let me define what Social Media is to me, since I'm just a regular, not so young great grandma, that for twelve years have enjoyed using the computer from the comfort of my home in Texas. At any time of the day or night my computer becomes a magical open window that daily sets the mood for my curiosity and learning process. It's been fun to be a part of this interactive means of communication, learning more about the things that interest me, meeting people from other countries and promoting garden club educational activities and objectives. All this has happened little by little, but every day it somehow touches my life and actions. I hope you will someday also share my enthusiasm, just follow some easy steps and soon you will find multiple informative sources available.

Social Media not only will empower you to access any type of information in the internet but best of all, it will likewise allow you to express and share your own personal views and interests. All you need to start is to take the time to learn about different forms of networking, getting familiar with digital apps as Facebook, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Circle, YouTube, Tumblr, Skype, Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram and the many other multiple digital sources. Don't be afraid to use your computer to visit these different sites, it is the best way to learn how to use them or perhaps you could also consider giving a part time job to a High School or College student to teach you how navigate the internet...it is also a well-known fact that grandkids will teach for Brownies and Cookies!

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA CONTINUED ...**

To become more familiar with social media, the following jargon will help when you begin navigating the web:

*Internet Site or website:* A World Wide Web (www) digital files that have a homepage and a Menu to guide the visitor navigating within, for information.

*Blog:* A website or web page usually kept by one individual or a small group that is regularly updated.

*Hashtags:* short links preceded by a pound ( # ) sign. On Twitter, the pound sign turns a group of words or a word into a searchable link. If we see this message #fbm2017 and click on it, we will obtain information related to registration, tours and agendas for the Fall Board meeting at St. Louis.

*Memes:* a digitally transmitted symbol or idea, usually funny photos!

*Groups:* sites used by individuals to connect with other users that share a certain interest and constantly exchange information.

*User accounts:* These are sites that allow visitors to create their own accounts and log to share online information.

In addition, there is another important feature about Social Media called Social Marketing and this is a well-known efficient publicizing commercial tool used for advertising on websites and often have applications that are placed to target the user's known preferences. As members of a nonprofit gardening organization, we can give a different, yet similar use to social marketing.... since we don't sell a specific product, but better yet we instead provide the means to enjoy an extraordinary hobby that provides educational venues for Gardening, Design and Conservation of our natural resources.

Are you ready to take the challenge? Follow these three steps:

First: find the time to learn how to use social media.

Second: Open your own page in Facebook or Twitter.

Third: Publish your Clubs events and "kindly" answer posted questions.

At least once a week, add to your site new information and interesting photos, invite to meetings and Flower Shows, share gardening hints, inform about new plants, introduce the art of floral design or invite others to share our most serious endeavor, which is to teach how to conserve the natural resources of our earth.

All these steps can be taken from the comfort of your home, begin by opening the magical window of your computer and use it for learning and to express your thoughts to the world. Please remember that it only takes one click to send your message to hundreds... that could easily become future garden club members!



## Herb Gardening, *Sherie Clarkson, Chairman*

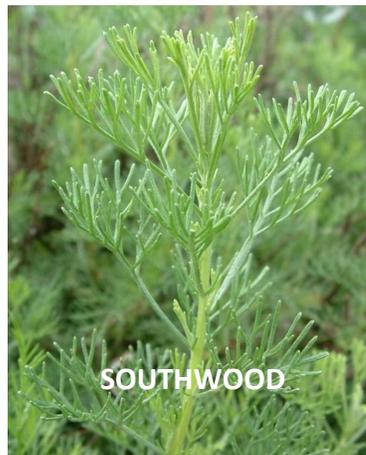
### Fall is the Time for Artemisias

Now is the time for **Artemisias** as autumn is their season. After most herbs have been harvested and are starting to go to seed, these backbones of the herb garden start to shine. Members of the composite family, artemisias are generally divided into three groups: mugworts, wormwoods and southernwoods. The seasoning herb tarragon is also a member of this family. These herbs were probably named after Artemis or Diana, goddess of the hunt and of the moon and of virginity, as many were used by women for their special ailments. They were also used as magical herbs and to season ale and stuffings.

**Mugwort**, *A. vulgaris*, or common mugwort, can grow to 8 to 9 feet, has silver-backed leaves and is used in wreaths and dried arrangements. "Silver King" or *A. ludoviciana*, is valued for its cloud effect in the garden and is dried for bouquets, wreaths and swags. Also known as St. John's Plant, it is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It was said to be worn by him in the wilderness and reputed to have protected him. In England, it was used to flavor ale and in

Germany it is still added to stuffing for the Christmas goose. A tea made from the leaves was once recommended as a brain tonic for hysteria in epileptics, as a stimulant, a tonic and an emmenagog. The most familiar of the artemisias are the **wormwoods**. The true wormwood, *A. absinthium*, is a large gray shrublike herb that grows 2 to 4 feet tall. Even though it does best in full sun, it will tolerate partial shade. A native of Europe, wormwood was one of the great medicinal plants of the past. It was known to be highly tonic and used in the treatment of fevers. It was also used to keep worms and moths off clothes, a use continued to this day. Roman wormwood, *A. pontica*, grows 1 or 2 feet, has fine lacy foliage and makes a beautiful border. *A. stellerian*, or beach wormwood grows to one foot and because of its white leaves it is called, "old woman", or more commonly dusty miller. 'Powis Castle', a wormwood hybrid, is one of the most popular landscape plants used today, its silver fern-like foliage mixing well with other herbs and pastel antique roses.

**Southernwoods** are among the most attractive and aromatic plants in the herb garden. *A. Abortanum* or "Old Man", is most commonly grown, has a lemon scent and is still used as an insect repellent today. The finely divided leaves, reduced to ashes, were once used to make an ointment to promote the growth of a beard, thus its name "young lad's love." More modern uses include infusing as a tea for a general tonic, powder or infuse to make a moth repellent and either plant southernwood next to cabbages to deter cabbage butterfly or lay branches between onion rows to deter flies. Most artemisias thrive in lean, well-drained soil and full sun. Most are hardy in zones 4 to 9, although the humid heat can do them in, especially if they are planted in rich soil. Grow artemisias from cuttings taken in early summer and divide plants in spring or fall.



**ARTIMESIA  
PHOTOS**



**DO YOU HAVE YOUR 2017 FLOWERS SHOW  
HANDBOOK? Purchase them from NGC Member's  
Services for \$25.00**

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL I**

Little Rock, Arkansas

**November 6-8, 2017**

Hillcrest Hall,  
1501 Kavanaugh Blvd.,  
Little Rock.

Sponsored by Arkansas Judges  
Council. The course fee has  
been reduced.

Horticulture lectures will be  
presented by Judy Newman, of  
Wisconsin.

Judy Binns, of VA, will present  
design lectures.

Contact Jo Krallman,  
Arkansas Flower Show School  
Chairman with questions.  
EMAIL: krall-  
man@sbcglobal.net

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL I**

**November 17-19, 2017**

**Albuquerque, NM**

Sue Kirkman from Kentucky will teach Horticulture  
(Pinus and Winter squash) &

Shirley Tetreault of New Mexico will teach Design

**FOR DETAILS or to REGISTRATION, Contact Suzy Andrego,**

**New Mexico State Flower Show Schools Chairman**

**Sandrego@qwest.net or (505) 259-3318**

# GARDENERS TIPS

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? *Phyllis Byrum of Arkansas*

Some speak of gardeners who have a green thumb. I never considered myself to have one. However, after studying horticulture, I find that I have pretty good luck growing plants. On a small city lot, I manage to have flowers in bloom year round, and unusual foliage for flower arranging. You can too. Here are a few suggestions.

Take a fist full of your soil to find out what your soil is. Squeeze the soil in your fist. If it holds its shape and does not show your handprint, you have the best texture of soil. It is loam. You do not have to do so much to this soil. However, it can always use some compost and even inorganic fertilizer such as 13-13-13 to grow plants. Osmocote is one I like to use, because it only releases the nutrients to the plant when they are watered.

If your handful of soil holds its shape and shows your handprint, it is clay soil. Clay soil can be almost any color, so don't think that clay is only red, as I used to believe. Clay soil contains many nutrients needed by plants, but the particles are held so closely together that the plant does not get them. Clay drains poorly, and becomes hard. Add equal parts of sand and compost to the third equal part of clay. Mix it very well, and you have ideal soil to grow flowers, shrubs, and trees.

If your fist full of soil will not hold together when you squeeze it and you have trouble making a ball of it, you probably have sandy soil. Sandy soil drains too well. The nutrients go all the way through it and down into the subsoil, where it does not help the plants to grow. Add lots of compost to sandy soil. You can buy it by the bag or make it at home by allowing leaves, grass clippings, vegetable peelings, crushed eggshells, nut shells, coffee grounds to decompose in a compost area in your garden. It can be put in a trench dug in a row in the garden, in an unused flower bed, in a heap, or in a wire fence enclosure. Be sure some garden soil and either organic or chemical fertilizer is interspersed, and water gets to all of this, but does not get waterlogged. It speeds decomposition if you turn the mixture occasionally, but it will eventually decompose without much mixing in a few months. You will love this rich compost for topdressing every plant you own.

You should dig a hole much larger than the root ball when you are planting a shrub or a tree. Take the original soil out of the planting hole and mix it with the sand and compost amendments outlined above. Take a knife and score a line top to bottom all around the root ball about an inch deep into the root ball. Then place the plant into the planting hole at the same depth it was growing in the pot. Firm the soil around the plant with your hands. Don't stomp it with your feet. Be sure to water the plant completely, and keep watering it often for the first month or so until it is established. After it is established, be sure it gets water once a week in the absence of rain.

## How does your garden grow, continued.

Soil is also important in growing container plants. Many times when houseplants come from the florist, they are growing in soilless mixture that is lightweight, saving the grower shipping charges. It is probably a good idea to repot the plant into a good quality soil that has been mixed for container grown plants.

Another enemy of the newly purchased houseplants is plant shine that the florist sprays on plants. Don't buy a plant that has plant shine on it. It clogs up the stoma on the leaves and does not allow gases, including water vapor to pass. The plant shine is very hard to wash off, even if you use soap and warm water. I lost 2 very large Peace Lilies last summer even after I repotted into good soil and tried to wash off all of the plant shine. If you are losing houseplants, it could be something that happens to them before they come into your possession. You probably already knew that plants with plant shine are not allowed in the competition of the horticulture section of our National Garden Club Standard Flower Shows.

The proper amount of moisture is very important to growing healthy plants. The gardener who waters his garden every day is causing the plant to have shallow roots, so this is not good. The gardener who leaves his plants to the elements and never waters, unless they are of the Cacti/Succulent variety, is also courting disaster. An in between method is to give a good soaking to most plants in the absence of rain about once per week. Even most houseplants just need to be given a good watering once per week. When I learned from a very early horticulture flower show school instructor to pick a day, like Monday, and always water the houseplants on that day, I started having better luck with my indoor plants. Give plants a chance to dry a little between watering. Never leave water standing in the saucer underneath container plants. (Soil should be 50% mineral and organic matter, 25% oxygen, and 25% water. Just like us plants need air to live. With no oxygen, plant roots die.) There are lots and lots of exception to these rules in growing plants. It is always a good idea to look up in a book or on the internet the exact plant you own, and find out if it has needs that don't fit these general rules.

Another very important element in growing plants is light or lack of light. Some plants like Crape Myrtles, Zinnias, and roses require 6 hours of light per day. Other plants such as Mahonia and Aucuba can't take afternoon sun. Aspidistra, Cast Iron Plant, will grow under a roof, but just be sure it gets some water under there. Some plants, such as Podocarpus, Boxwood, and Holly, like a combination of sun and shade. Would you believe that Clematis prefer shaded roots and sunny tops? It all sounds so simple, but we gardeners need to find out what the plants require, and try to provide it.

Soil pH is a measure of how acidic or alkaline the soil is. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14, but plants grow only in range of 4 to 9. Most are 6 to 7. Take 1 pint of your soil from all over the garden. Remove rocks and sticks. Take or send to the Cooperative Extension Office to test your soil. You will learn the pH and other important things.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

- ♦ **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, TX
- ♦ **OCTOBER 10-13, 2017**      Flower Show School IV, Dallas. TX
- ♦ **NOVEMBER 6-8, 2017**      Flower Show School I—Little Rock, AR
- ♦ **NOVEMBER 17-19, 2017**      Flower Show School I—ABQ, NM
- ♦ **NOVEMBER 29-30, 2017**      Judges Symposium—Dallas, TX
- ♦ **DEC 2-3, 2018**      Environmental School, Groesbeck, TX
- ♦ **MARCH 23-25, 2018**      Flower Show School II—ABQ, NM
- ♦ **APRIL 27 & 28, 2018**      *SCR 2018 Convention, Houston, Texas*
- ♦ **MAY 21-24, 2018**      NGC Convention , Philadelphia, PA
- ♦ **JULY 20-22, 2018**      Flower Show School III, ABQ, NM
- ♦ **NOVEMBER 16-18, 2018**      Flower Show School IV, ABQ, NM

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