



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

The Communicator

2018 VOL. 4—March

Isabel Olsen, Director 2017-2019

Message from SCR Director...

As winter fades out of sight, let's embrace spring and the opportunities that come with it. As I lean against this desert yucca, I realize that now is an extremely busy time for all garden club members. We are planning district meetings, state conventions, organizing or attending schools and symposiums. It certainly is the right time for plant sales, garden tours and flower shows. As we prepare and administer all of these events do we have handouts, brochures or posters with club information? This is our prime opportunity to interact with the public and to invite them to attend a garden club meeting. Certain dates are a great time as well, such as Earth Day on April 22 and National Garden Week is June 3-9, 2018. What does your club have planned? As we study the performance of our gardens and take note of what we want to add for enhancement and beauty, let's do the same for our garden clubs. It's refreshing to share thoughts and new ideas. This is how we keep our meetings fresh, fun and a desire to return.



We have many exciting opportunities available to us from NGC. If your club is looking for a new fund raiser, **Garden Design Magazine** will donate money to your club with each member's subscription. The magazine comes out 4 times a year and has 148 pages with no advertisements. It's a magnificent source of horticulture, floral design and garden landscapes. For more Information you can go to www.gardendesign.com/partner-with-us.html, to get your club set up contact Dayna Springfield at (855)624-5110. The AMES Tool Company is accepting applications for tool Grants for Garden Clubs starting March 1,2018 through April 16,2018. So get your applications in right away!

I hope this issue of *The Communicator*, with its vast amount of information inspires you to pursue the opportunities associated with garden club. As you forge ahead with your projects, know that you are doing great things in your communities as you Plant America. See you in Houston!

Isabel





Message from *Nancy Hargroves,* *National Garden Club President.*

There was an overwhelming response to the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Program. 415 garden clubs applied in the first year of this new NGC program! This is wonderful that so many clubs are active in their communities. This level of response shows the needs of NGC's clubs.

One of our roles as a national organization is to support our clubs in accomplishing our mission. NGC must do all it can to expand the funding for these grants to help clubs all across the country with their projects. In order for this fund to increase so that NGC can give more grants, P. Allen Smith is providing a fundraising opportunity for PLANT AMERICA Grants. He offered his gardening and business advice and expertise for the plant selection, for obtaining the plants and for the method of distribution to our members. He believes in our organization's purpose and mission and has helped develop this promotion in many ways by giving his time, his staff's time and by donating a very generous percentage of the sales. I am very proud to announce that beginning March 1 and ending June 15, 2018 National Garden Clubs will be selling plants selected by P. Allen Smith. This promotion, entitled *Inspiring Gardens Across America*, includes three different collections of plants. Each item was chosen because of a special feature in its hybridization for performance or beauty or for its limited availability in the general marketplace.

1. *Peony Flowering Daylily Collection.*

This collection includes three of the most prolific reblooming double - flowering daylilies.

2. *Sunpatiens® 'Razzle Dazzle' Collection.*

This is not your grandmother's impatiens! SunPatiens® is a hybrid impatiens bred by Sakata. These remarkable plants represent a breakthrough in flower breeding: they are sun loving and bloom from spring through frost.

P. Allen Smith has grown these in containers and on the grounds of Moss Mountain Farm where they survive the hot summers of Arkansas with no wilting. Each of the four cultivars was picked as the one that is the most vigorous in the series.

NGC President Message Continued:

3. Whitewashed Wooden Stand with Succulents.

This selection is for succulent lovers and those who no longer have a garden! The whitewashed wooden stand of reclaimed wood holds three pots of succulents. It's also a great gift item for Mother's Day, Father's Day and other spring occasions.

More detailed descriptions of these plants are included in the brochure/order form found Attached to this newsletter.

Orders can be placed in two ways:

1. NGC Website Online Shopping - www.shopgardenclub.org/shop
2. Mail a check with the order form to NGC headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Ave, St. Louis, MO, 63110.

The order form can be downloaded from the NGC website on the PLANT AMERICA page: www.gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america, Orders will be accepted starting March 1. Please note: some items will be shipped when it is appropriate for your growing zone. Order early while supplies last.

This promotion is not meant to be "We've got a bargain for you." These are quality items chosen by P. Allen Smith that he knows will perform well in your home and garden or as a gift for someone. Allen and NGC share the goal of "Inspiring Gardens Across America" by contributing to the PLANT AMERICA Grant Fund so that we may give as much help as possible to NGC member garden clubs in their projects all across America. Our purchases will help grow the NGC PLANT AMERICA Grant Program.

Thank you for your support, as all of us working together can benefit so many of our garden clubs throughout the country.

Nancy Hargroves



OFFICIAL CALL
South Central Region 89th Annual Convention
“Wonders of the Coastal Prairie”

Marriott Houston North
255 North Sam Houston Pkwy E.
Houston, Texas 77060

April 27-28, 2018

This letter will serve as the official notice to all South Central Region members.

Please join Texas Garden Clubs, District IV as they host the SCR 89th Annual Convention in Houston, at the Marriott Houston North, Houston, TX on April 27-28,2018. “Wonders of the Coastal Prairie” best describes the beauty of what the area has to offer us. On Friday we will start with a private car trip to Arbor Gate Nursery where you will see many native plants and beautiful horticulture that you can purchase. In the evening, we will be amazed by a design program given by Corrie Ten Have, “Inspiration, Innovation, Imagination” an interpretation of artistry in flowers. On Saturday following lunch will be a program given by Sharon Begnard, “Giving Fields” where she will share with us the garden in Beaumont, which provides vegetables for children and volunteers. After the Awards Presentation a hands on workshop “Petite Design” will be available, and you will keep your beautifully designed container. In the evening, we will have an informative program by Jaime Gonzalez, of the “Katy Prairie Conservancy”.

SCHEDULE

Friday, April 27,2018

8:00am – 6:00pm Registration

9:15am Trip to Arbor Gate Nursery (by private car, lunch on your own)

1:45 – 2:45pm Nominating Committee Meeting

3:00 – 5:00pm Executive Committee Meeting

7:00 pm Dinner and Design Program by Corrie Ten Have, “Inspiration, Innovation, Imagination”

Saturday, April 28,2018

8:00am – 4:00pm Registration

Complimentary Breakfast for hotel guest

9:30am Official Opening of 89th Annual SCR Convention

9:45am General Business Meeting

Noon Luncheon (Honoring SCR Life Members)

1:00 – 2:00pm Program by Sharon Begnard, “The Giving Field”

2:15 – 3:15pm Awards Presentation

3:30 – 4:30pm Workshop “Petite Design”

6:00pm Reception for Regional Director & State Presidents – Cash Bar in Ballroom

7:00pm Banquet, Memorial Service, Program by Jaime Gonzalez, “ Katy Prairie Conservancy”

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SCR CHAIRMEN: Those wishing to report may have three (3) minutes on the agenda. Contact Director, Isabel Olsen no later than April 15,2018.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Friday, April 27,2018, 3:00 pm. All SCR elected and appointed officers are expected to attend.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING: Friday, April 27,2018, 1:45pm. Appointed Nominating Chairmen from our four states are expected to attend.

Isabel Olsen South Central Region Director



85th Spring South Central Region Convention

Houston Marriott

April 27-28, 2018

We are hoping to see you in Houston, this April, because we have planned some interesting speakers, have a special workshop, interesting vendors, meeting other garden club members from other states and finally the business of SCR. I went by Arbor Gate Nursery recently and the multitude of things for the garden that are on display is over whelming. Items from wind chimes to glass flames, and containers of all sorts, and a wide variety plants. Top speaker draw, is Corrie Ten-Have on Inspiration, Imagination, Innovation in floral design. To further advance "Plant America" our lunch speaker is Sharon Begnaud, presenting a program on a local garden maintained by children and adults which feeds the community in Beaumont, Texas. Our Saturday evening presenter is Jaime Gonzalez, who will be speaking on the Katy Prairie and the highlights and how they are managing it with all the changes. We have vendors selling jewelry, representing a local olive oil ranch, lavender from a local lavender farm, and a garden center. of, a wide variety of plants. Kathy Cox and Idalia Aguilar are planning a workshop on keeping up with technology, so bring your laptops, iPads, tablets and phones.

Book your reservation on this link: South Central Region at Marriot.com. Rooms are \$99.00/ night

A shuttle bus is available to and from the airport and hotel.

Nancy Giffhorn, SCR Convention Chairman - rgiffhorn@aol.com

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

89th Annual Convention

"Wonders of the Coastal Prairie"

Hosted by District IV, TGC, Inc.

April 27-28, 2018

Marriott Houston North

255 North Sam Houston Pkwy E, Houston, TX 77060

(281) 875-4000

Deadline for reservations 4/12/18

Please print your name as you would like it to appear on your name tag.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Garden Club _____

Please UNDERLINE (all that apply):

Former NGC President, NGC Officer, NGC Chair, NGC Committee Member, SCR Officer, SCR Chair, State Chair, State Officer, State Chair, District Director, Club President, Club Member, Affiliate President, Flower Show Judge, Environmental Consultant, Landscape Consultant, Gardening Consultant, State Life Member, Regional Life Member, National Life Member, First Time Attendee, Guest

Check payable to: District IV TGC, Inc.

Mail checks and registration form to:
Madeleine Rogers, Treasurer, 2002 Sierra
Kemah, TX. 77565, 281-538-9619

Please mark either a FULL TIME Package or items in Registration area:

Full-time package includes:

Registration fee, Friday night Dinner and Design program; Saturday lunch and program Giving Fields; Awards Presentation; Work shop "Petite Design" Banquet and program from Katy Prairie Conservancy.

EARLY FULL- TIME PACKAGE

(post marked on or before 4/12/18 \$140.00 _____)

LATE FULL TIME PACKAGE

(post marked after 4/12/18 \$150.00 _____)

NOTE: No refunds on registration after 4/12/18

PART-TIME REGISTRATION

Registration fee \$35.00 _____

Friday, April 27, 2018

Garden tour Arbor Gate Nursery- private cars; Lunch on your own.
Dinner & Design Program \$35.00 _____

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Luncheon/Program/Awards \$ 30.00 _____

"Petite Design" Workshop \$ 10.00 _____

Banquet & Program \$40.00 _____

TOTAL: _____

SPECIAL DIETARY

NEEDS: _____

HOTEL:

255 North Sam Houston Pkwy E, Houston, TX 77060,
(281) 875-4000

Single or Double Rate: \$99.00 (plus tax).

Make reservations using the name: SCR or
South Central Region Conference.

Deadline for special rate reservations is 4/12/2018

Complimentary Breakfast for hotel guest

TIMES AND EVENTS

Friday, April 27, 2018

8am-6pm Registration

9:15am Trip to The Arbor Gate Nursery(by private cars, Lunch on your own)

1:45-2:45pm Nominating Committee

3:00-5:00pm Executive Committee Meeting

7:00pm Dinner and Design Program by Corrie Ten-Have

Saturday, April 28, 2018

8am-4pm Registration

Complimentary Breakfast for hotel guest.

9:30am Official Opening of Convention

Noon Luncheon (Honoring SCR Life Members)

1:00-2pm Program- The Giving Field, by Sharon Begnard

2:15-3:15pm Awards Presentation

3:30-4:30pm Workshop "Petite Design"

6:00pm Reception for Regional Director & State Presidents

7:00pm Banquet and Program-The Katy Prairie Conservancy, by Jaime Gonzalez



Liatris spicata 'Gay feather'

OKLAHOMA STATE PRESIDENT, Linda Lawson

"Planting Oklahoma for Growth and Beauty"

Greetings from Oklahoma!

Oklahoma has been doing more than Ok when it comes to Planting America! Clubs are planting school yard gardens. This not only plants seeds of plants but also shows students the power of planting. The children learn what fun it is to work with garden club members.



Oklahoma garden club members have been revamping public gardens with new plantings. The plant societies have been raising funds for replacing roses for the rose gardens in both Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Smaller cities are also working on planting and networking with the master gardeners.

Butterfly gardens featuring plants for all stages of the life of the butterfly are being promoted. Programs and events on butterflies are being presented. Oklahoma members are selling pins as a fundraiser.

Spring is on the way. Small buds are appearing on the trees. Bulbs are showing greenery popping up from the earth. Districts are getting ready for their spring conventions. Spring is the time of new growth and new life. Time to celebrate plants, butterflies, bees.



TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT, Betty Edwards

"Plant America, "Sowing Seeds the Texas Way"

As we see a glimmer of spring coming around the corner we realize it's time to get out and start cleaning up and replanting our gardens. After receiving Presidents Reports I realize that our clubs and members have to be the busiest and hardworking people. We are in our gardens and yards getting ready for spring to bloom and come alive, going to District conventions and sharing our knowledge with those around us. It's so nice to see spring coming.

In District VII Hunt Garden Club rededicated their Blue Star Marker located outside the grounds of the Kerrville VA hospital. The dedication was held on Veteran's Day 2017. They had the marker refurbished, replanted the landscape and rededicated the marker. The whole community got involved in this endeavor to honor our Vet's. The Blue Star Memorial is so important to have so we never forget to thank our Veterans for their service.

Southwest Amarillo Garden Club in District I was honored in the Amarillo Living Magazine for the work they do for their community and what they do for the Amarillo Botanical Gardens. They created a Monet Garden at the gardens. They have classes for youth after school and in the summer at the Gardens teaching them how to grow and maintain gardens.

Upcoming conventions include South Central Region Spring Convention, TGC Spring Convention and NGC Convention. All kinds of fun and educational activities have been planned. See you there.



NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT, Barbara Vance

Plant America – Grow New Mexico!

Now that spring is almost officially here, along with some warmer weather, we can once again “play” in the gardens. During the winter – gardeners spend time looking through the many catalogs, ordering items to grow in the upcoming months. Spring is a time of renewal and clubs start the year off with special occasions. Maintaining and expanding membership is an ongoing effort. Some clubs had – “tea” parties and invited people who might be interested in joining a garden club. What fun – everyone dressed up and many wore flower decorated hats. The invitations, decorations, “goodies bags” related to the theme. There was an assortment of teas – teapots – and a bountiful table of delicious snacks. Lots of “tea” related gifts for those in attendance. Los Alamos GC celebrated their 70th Anniversary at the Memorial Rose Garden in Los Alamos and Desert Daubers GC celebrated 50 years of existence with a luncheon where two of its charter members, Fern Gold and Nora Crisp were given Presidential Citations for their 50 years as members.

It is time to start visiting all Five Districts during the month of March. Club Presidents present reports of their activities for the past 6 months. Clubs choose a variety of projects and programs tailored for their area. An opportunity to learn more each time about the very different plants and vegetation around the state. These reports are the basis for the District Director report given at our State Convention or Fall Board Meeting. Many clubs are active in their local communities helping to plant and maintain gardens in parks – schools- and maintain gardens around the Blue Star Memorial Markers or By-Way Markers with flowers and wreaths as the seasons change. The series of Flowers Show Schools continues March through the summer and early fall. We encourage all members to attend even if they are not interested in becoming a flower show judge.

Many of our members are active in South Central Region and National Garden Clubs and are planning to attend the conventions to learn and share information about projects and activities that support our organizations. Opportunities abound to share ideas and learn many things to take back to our state.



**Sherrie Eoff of Rogers Arkansas
was the 2017 SCR Member Award
of Honor recipient.
Who will receive the honor
this year?!!**

Shirley Tetreault, Alternate Director

SCR Award #22, Director's Project

2017-2018 "Beautifying Our Communities"

We are almost half way through this administration and we want to make our Region Director, Isabel Olsen proud! We need to be thinking about our community gardens. Each state will be eligible to receive \$100 for the most outstanding community project. One club will receive a marker with their club name to be posted where the project is located. The objectives and goals of the SCR Director must be evident during judging. Applications should be sent to Shirley Tetreault by December 1, 2018 via email ammasangels@comcast.net. Please include before and after pictures. There are so many wonderful opportunities here without remaking the wheel. Revisiting a Blue Star Memorial, reactivating a school garden, a local library, nursing home, or helping someone needing assistance in their own property. All of these places make our communities a more attractive, comfortable place to be. When we all pull together for a common goal we can do anything.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB HAS A GRANT PROGRAM FOR TOOLS!

The **AMES Tool Company** partnered with National Garden Club to provide tool Grants for Garden Clubs. Are you doing a community project or another project that you need tools for? Apply for a AMES TOOL GRANT!



The application process for grants from AMES tools has started, as of March 1, 2018. The application form, guidelines and list of tools available can be found on the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools.aspx.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 16, 2018

SEND APPLICATION TO: AMES Tool Grant Program Chairman, Nancy Lambert Fulk at nfulk@comcast.net

Gardener's Market General Store

South Central Region 89th Annual Convention

"Wonders of the Costal Prairie"

April 27-28, 2018

Houston, TX

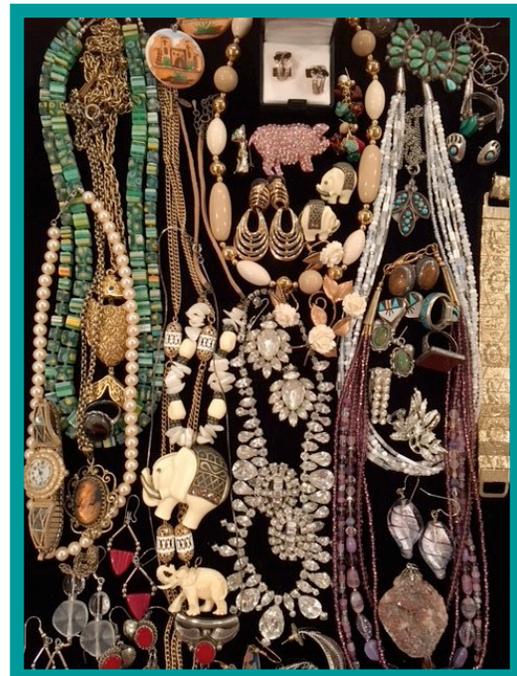


Visit our store for lots of "shopportunity" of gardening related items, home décor and beautiful jewels to be worn! We have collected many items that were donated or purchased for the purpose of raising funds for the SCR Scholarship and the Director's Project. If you have any quality items for our store, please bring them to the convention or get them to Isabel Olsen or a committee member. We appreciate your support!

The Ways & Means Committee,

Kathy Brown, Phyllis Byrum

& April Pratt



Water Conservation, *Keith Jones, Chairman*



Fertilizers and Pesticides And How They Can Impact You and The Environment

Information taken from the "Stormwater 101 with Stormy the Fish" presentation on Conway EcoFest website.
Original information and concept created by the City of Wilmington, NC StormwaterServices

There are many ways that your household activities can impact your local environment and even further reaching areas. You should take the time to see where storm water runoff and excess yard water travel and where things from your yard may end up. Among other things, improperly applying fertilizer or applying too much causes nutrient pollution in our waterways. Nutrient pollution is when nutrients found in fertilizers (nitrogen and phosphorous) cause aquatic weed growth and algal blooms in water. Excessive aquatic weeds and algal blooms take oxygen out of the water, which suffocates fish and other aquatic organisms that need oxygen to survive. Invasive aquatic weeds and algal blooms can also choke out other plants in the waterways. There are many examples of waterways and water collection areas that have seen algal blooms, low oxygen levels, and fish kills in the many areas.

But how can you help keep fertilizer out of our waterways? It is very simple! The following tips can save you time and money, too:

- Grasscycle! - Leave grass clippings and leaves on the lawn. They act as a natural fertilizer and soil conditioner;
- Get a FREE soil test! Save time and money by learning the exact nutrients and application rates needed for your particular lawn. County Extension offices often will provide free soils tests. Call your local office for details.
- Use an environmentally-friendlier alternative, like organic fertilizer;
- When applying fertilizer, always follow the label directions and apply the correct type and amount for your lawn (more is not better!);
- Never fertilize just before it rains. It will just wash away;
- Keep fertilizer off the street, sidewalk, and driveway. Don't let it wash away.

Pesticides can also cause problems. Pesticides (known as insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides) are used to kill insects, weeds, and fungi. The problem with pesticides, as with fertilizers, is that stormwater runoff can wash these chemicals into our waterways when used improperly. These chemicals are poisonous and pose a danger to humans, animals, birds, plants, and beneficial insects. Pesticides not only affect the "pests" they are meant for, but quite often, they harm birds, insects, and other animals that actually help

Fertilizers & Pesticides, continued from page 11.

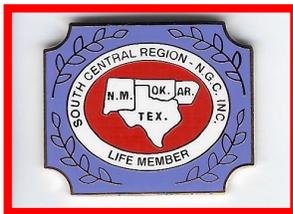
keep unwanted pests in check. Improperly applied pesticides can make their way into waterways and impact the entire food chain.

You can help keep pesticides out of our waterways by using pesticides as a last resort and use the following tips as a guide:

- Landscape with native plants. They are pest-resistant and disease-resistant, and usually don't need pesticides;
- Weed by hand or use natural predators like ladybugs to control pests naturally;
- If you must use pesticides, be sure to follow the directions on the label;
- *(More is not necessarily better; you can only kill that pest one time, and weeds can only suck up so much at one time!! The excess will likely run off into various waterways).*
- Spot treat! Don't spray the entire landscape if only one plant needs treatment; and
- Never apply pesticides just before it rains. They will just wash away.
- Use disease-resistant/ drought-tolerant plants, and native plants will reduce your need for harsh chemicals, encourage butterflies, and more!

Many locations have municipal codes and regulations relating to fertilizer and pesticide use. You should visit your city website or contact local officials to find out more.

SCR LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, Doris Jackson



ARE YOU A SOUTH CENTRAL REGION LIFE MEMBER?

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

Flower Show School Design Instructors of SCR...



If you haven't met these two ladies yet, you will want to get to know them. Jo Krallman of Benton, Arkansas and Shirley Tetreault of Albuquerque, New Mexico, are both National Garden Club Accredited Flower Show School Design Instructors from our South Central Region. They both enjoy teaching and sharing their techniques of floral design to garden club members, and they encourage those interested to become NGC Accredited Flower Show Judges. Not only do they teach Flower Show Schools in our four states, they also travel and teach throughout the United States.

Being an instructor is a very rewarding experience. I know that we have many qualified and knowledgeable Flower Show Judges throughout our region that would be outstanding instructors! If you are interested in learning more of the requirements of becoming an instructor contact

David Robson, FSS Horticulture Instructor Chairman
drobson@illinois.edu or
 Barbara May, FSS Design Instructor Chairman
maydesign4521@comcast.net .
 They would love to hear from you!



Isabel Olsen, Director



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

It is that time of year again to get excited about what civic project your club will participate in. Just remember *Plant It Pink* and 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!” To encourage clubs to get excited about the *Plant It Pink-Planet Pink* initiative, I incorporated an article from Gardening Know How, “Tips for Planning a Pink Garden Design.” This may assist in deciding what to plant and to remember to incorporate pink plants for the different seasons since Breast Cancer Awareness month is October 1-31.

Pink Plants in Gardens: Tips for Planning a Pink Garden Design

Image by David Masters, written by Susan Patterson

Master Gardener Shades of pink make up a massive family of colors ranging from ultra-vivid magenta to the palest of baby pinks. Cool pinks have a little blue hint while warm pinks lean a bit towards yellow. Depending on the shade of pink that you use, this color can bring boldness or softness to the pink garden design. Let’s learn more about using pink plants in gardens.

Planning a Pink Garden Design: If you are planning a pink garden, there are many ways to achieve diversity:

Mix deep pink flowers with mid and pale pinks to bring about breathtaking color contrast. Using all one color in a garden is termed monochromatic and it can be quite eye stopping if done well. When you use all pink flowers in a small space, it will lift up the space and make it appear large and bright. Include a variety of pink shades in your all pink garden.

Consider bloom times, as well. Choose different shades that will bloom throughout the season so that there is always a mixture of pink hues during the entire growing season. Plant annual flowers between long-lasting perennials, or use them as part of a mixed border. When gardening with pink plants, always choose plants that are hardy in your region and appropriate for your growing space.

Mixing Pink Plants in Gardens:

Pink flowers mix beautifully with green and white and look stunning beside foliage only plants.

Hot pink and violet pair together to bring radiance to any space.

Shade loving, pink flowering perennials lighten up garden space that might go otherwise unnoticed. These include: bleeding hearts foxgloves astilbes.

Soften the ground with beautiful pink flowering ground covers including: creeping thyme heather sedum.

Plant It Pink, Continued from page 14.

If you want a shocking contrast partner, then place scarlet, pink and orange plants together. This eye-popping combination is sure to draw attention not only from butterflies and hummingbirds, but also from everyone who visits your garden. Pink varieties of Echinacea mixed with salvia and orange poppies are a striking mix. If you are unsure how colors will look together, visit a greenhouse and place your pink plants together with plants of different shades to get an idea of how they may look in your garden. You can even make a sketch of your garden in full color to help you with planning your pink color scheme.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Pink Plants In Gardens: Tips For Planning Pink Garden Design

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/spaces/pink-garden-design.htm>

Recycling - Carol Moore, Chairman

A Growing Campaign to Stop the Use of Drinking Straws

Going through the drive-thru at McDonald's, a worker hands the customer a drink with a plastic lid to avoid spilling the drink and a straw to extract the liquid from the covered cup. Who hasn't experienced this American ritual? It is so ubiquitous that most American's do not realize that the average American is using 1.6 straws per day. Well, that does not seem too bad until Wait Americans as a whole use 500 Million straws a day. THAT'S A LOT – AT LEAST ENOUGH TO GO 2.5 TIMES AROUND THE EARTH OR ENOUGH TO FILL OVER 127 SCHOOL BUSES. But, can they can be recycled, right? WRONG! They are so light that they fall off there-cycling conveyor belts while being sorted and end up in landfills or never make it to a trash can and end up littering areas that others have to clean. **So, do your part and say "NO" to a straw!**





National Garden Clubs 2018 Tour will be in the South Central Region!

ARKANSAS GARDENS AND ART
WITH A DAY AT MOSS MOUNTAIN FARMS

October 8-13, 2018

Lodging: 3 nights at the Capital Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas

2 nights at 21 C Museum Hotel, Bentonville, Arkansas

Meals: Included meals are breakfast each day, 4 dinners, and 2 lunches

Transportation: The group will travel in a motor coach of suitable size for the group. Transportation from the airport to the hotel on October 8 will NOT be provided due to varying flight schedules of tour participants. The hotel is easily accessible by taxi.

Itinerary:

October 8 – Tour participants arrive independently and check into the Capital Hotel in downtown Little Rock. Those arriving earlier in the day can easily visit Little Rock sights such as the Clinton Presidential Library, the Arkansas State Capitol, the Old State House Museum, and more. Tour participants will gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

October 9 – Visit Garvin Woodland Gardens and Hot Springs National Park. A guided tour of the Fordyce Bath House Museum. In the evening, a tour Marlsgate Plantation and its garden (designed by P. Allen Smith for a former owner) and have dinner at Marlsgate Plantation.

October 10 – Travel to Moss Mountain Farms for lunch, a tour of the gardens, and a workshop. Dinner at Moss Mountain Farms before returning to the hotel is also included.

October 11- Depart Little Rock for Bentonville. Lunch and tram tour of historic Eureka Springs and Thorncrown Chapel and some free time in the historic town. In Bentonville, the group will be on their own in the evening to enjoy the Walmart Museum, shopping, and dinner at one of the many restaurants in the quaint town center.

October 12- The entire day is devoted to touring Crystal Bridges Art Museum and tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright House at the museum, also options for touring the artwork and the gardens. A farewell dinner is included.

October 13 – The coach will return to the Little Rock Airport. For member preferring to fly out of Fayetteville rather than Little Rock, the coach can take them to the Fayetteville airport.

Price: \$2050, including \$100 donation to NGC

Contact Tour Chairman: Mary Ann Bryant for further information, [maryannbryant1@ gmail.com](mailto:maryannbryant1@gmail.com) or the NGC website, gardenclubs.org

Wildflowers.

Elizabeth O'Brien Chairman

Wildflower beds are probably the most misunderstood designed plot in a Gardeners Yard. The beauty of a Wildflower bed in your yard



is Breath taking! You can plant a raised bed in any size from a 4X4 or 12X12 in your landscape or plant Wildflowers directly in the soil. Either way you will be awarded by the joy Wildflowers will bring to your yard. Seeds are available for all types of soils. Wildflowers can be planted in various areas other than your yard. You can propagate areas in fields left as a green space. Most of these spaces have drainage ditches where you can drop the seed and after a rain, the water flowing in the ditches will scatter the seeds in the fields. Golf Courses, known as the rough is ideal to scatter Wildflower seeds. Most large areas are under the jurisdiction of Parks and Wildlife, Highway Departments or dedicated land left for Green Space in Subdivisions govern by the Property owners. We need to add to the ECO system seeds for the Birds, nectar for the Butterflies, Bees and all other pollinators to help in production of our food source.

There are numerous sources for Wildflower seeds. My favorite source is Native American Seed. They have categories for your location. The mixes are formulated for Blackland Prairie, Caliche, Coastal Prairie, Scorched Earth Recovery and Southeast Recovery. Their address is 3791 N US Hwy 377 Junction, Texas 76849 Phone 800-728-4043 and website www.seedsource.com.

Do not be afraid of Milkweed. You can control Milkweed if you have a plot or if planted in a large planter. If you live in a Migration route for the Monarch Butterfly, please plant Milkweed. There are six types of Native Milkweed, Antelope Horns, Butterfly, Common, Green, Showy, and Swamp. To control Milkweed, cut the blooms before the seed forms. To beautify your Wildflower Flower area, plant Little Bluestem. Seed Source has 3 types of Bluestem Grasses. Piney Woods, Central Texas, and Gulf States. Little Bluestem is absolutely beautiful in a Landscapes. Colors vary from red, green to chalky blue. You can Plant Wildflowers in Spring or Fall. My favorite time is fall because of Winter rains. I live in the Coastal Area.

YOUTH PROJECTS. Linda Jean Brown, Chairman

The Simplicity of a child's mind and the way they think is a beautiful thing. The projects you choose should always be age appropriate. One thing I can tell you with confidence is children love for garden club members to visit their schools.



One garden club I am a member of has a youth garden club of 40 preschoolers. We do shifts with them so all children are able to be involved in the project. We constructed a miniature garden in the shape of the face of a flower using donated materials. We have the kids plant multiple flowers and vegetables throughout the school year. They are so proud of the "Youth Garden". They can't wait to brag to their parents that this is their own identified space. The garden club members discuss all the concepts of growing plants and how to make them grow as we work the flower bed together. We encourage the children to participate in this discussion and they do so excitedly. This is an ongoing project which takes around one hour of your time.



Another garden club that I am a member of has "Adopted a Street Project". This program is one our city started in 2009. We have a stretch of road with signs that have our garden club name on them where we pick up litter. The older children are able to help with this "litter project". We teach the about our environment and why it is so important to keep it clean. As a small reward for their hard work we take them to our town park and give them

pizza and soft drinks. There are wonderful rock and other climbing structures, swings, and etc. In the summer time the park has a water theme with neat fountains and water equipment for all kids to splash around and play in.

In the wintertime there are several projects that take little effort, but bring bright smiles on their faces. Bring a bag of potting soil, seeds, a jug of water and cups to the classroom. Give each child a cup and let them add potting soil and plant and water the seed. They then place it in on the window sill and as time goes by they watch their seed sprout and become a plant. They are then encouraged to take their plant home and find a sunny spot in their yard to plant it and watch it grow.

Try to plan fun things to do inside the classroom one or two times a year. Christmas and Valentine Day are common times to bring crafts and let the children create things. However, you may prefer other times to spend quality time with your youth. Preparation is the key to making these projects successful. Be sure all the crafts are assorted by items and put in stacks and ready for the kids to pick out what they want to use. These projects should only be around 10-15 minutes.

On a larger scale with the approval of the school administration you may want to plan a "real" garden and let the kids help with the planting of the materials we use for our area.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK, Dina Atnip, Chairman

Garden Clubs, start planning now on how you will be celebrating National Garden Week

June 3-9, 2018

Share the value and efforts of Garden Clubs with your community! Promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, and gardening. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be a part of those efforts.

You can download a poster for use in publicity (two versions - one you can put in your club name). <http://gardenclub.org/projects/national-garden-week>.

Ideas to consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing, while sharing ideas.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.

I would love to hear what your club does to celebrate!

Youth Projects Continued from Page 18.

Throughout the school year you can have a work time to weed eat, replant according to the season and mulch the garden.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. offer students the opportunity to participate in Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl poster contest for 1st through 5th grades. To get this project started you may want to provide the **paper (11"x17") this is the required size of paper** for the children to use. This is a good way to educate the kids on wildfires and the environmental conservation principles. This takes very little effort from the members yet a huge impact on the children. For their efforts, if their poster wins they are given a certificate and awarded cash prizes. For more information on this worthwhile project go to www.symbols.gov where you are able to purchase promotional and educational products.



***The simply things bring the best results when working with our youth.
Making a difference one child at a time!***

PENNY PINES REFORESTATION PROGRAM,

Larry Layden, Chairman

The Penny Pines program continues to grow in the South Central Region. The Reforestation Project has been part of the National Garden Club along with the United States Forest Service since 1941. This year I am happy to report that every state in the South Central Region has participated in the program. The total number of plantations donated in our region was 29. Each plantation consists of 200 tree seedlings with a total donation from all four states of \$1,972. The numbers for each state in the region are:



<u>State</u>	<u>Number of Plantations</u>	<u>Total Dollar Donation</u>
Arkansas	3	\$204
New Mexico	13	\$884
Oklahoma	9	\$612
Texas	4	\$272

Thank you so much to all the clubs that participated in the Penny Pines Reforestation Program. As garden club members we enjoy working with nature trying to improve our environment. Maybe this year your club will decide to improve **natures garden** and donate to Penny Pines. A plantation of 200 tree seedlings at \$68 in the name of a friend or relative is a unique gift that will literally last a lifetime. For additional information and to download the form, go to www.gardenclub.org and click on projects. You can also contact me by email at laydenlarry@gmail.com or call (575) 377-2743. I look forward to hearing from you.



Flower Show School II - Midwest City, OK July 11-13,

2018 For More Information Contact:

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MaryAnn Holman, FSS Chairman

mholmanoklahomagardenclubs@aol.com C 512.917.3349 OR

Donna Marsheck, Registrar

dmarsheckgardenclub@yahoo.com C 918.440.1325

SCHOOLS OFFERED IN OUR REGION

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL II

March 23-25, 2018

Albuquerque, NM

**Darlene Newell from West Virginia will teach Horticulture
(Daffodils & Flowering Trees)**

&

**Trece Chancellor of Alabama will teach Design.
School II covers tables and we know how everyone loves tables!**

FOR DETAILS or to REGISTER, Contact Suzy Andrego,
New Mexico State Flower Show Schools Chairman
Sandrego@qwest.net or (505) 259-3318

Arkansas Judges

Council is sponsoring

FSS II

in Little Rock, AR

on June 7-9, 2018.

Instructor's are:

David Robson, Horticulture & FSP
(studying Hollies &

Hosta's) &

Jo Krallman teaching design

(Petite Designs and Tables.)

**Registration Chairman is Jo Krallman
and for more information contact
her at witchnfamous@sbcglobal.net**

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL III

July 20-22, 2018

Albuquerque, NM

**David Robson from
Illinois will teach
Horticulture (Daylilies &
Roses)**

&

**Mary Huntoon of
Massachusetts will teach
Design.**

School III covers Creative Designs

FOR DETAILS or to REGISTER,
Contact Suzy
Andrego, New Mexico
State

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

- ◆ **MARCH 23-25, 2018** Flower Show School II—ABQ, NM
- **APRIL 2-3, 2018** AFGC Spring Annual Convention, Hot Springs, AR
- **APRIL 4-6, 2018** NMGC 69th Annual Convention, Santa Fe, NM
- **APRIL 9-12, 2018** TGC 90th Spring Convention, Forth Worth, TX
- **APRIL 27 & 28, 2018** ***SCR 2018 Convention, Houston, Texas***
- **MAY 4-5, 2018** OGC 89th Annual Convention, Alva, OK
- **MAY 21-24, 2018** NGC Convention , Philadelphia, PA
- **JUNE 7-9, 2018** Flower Show School II, Little Rock, AR
- **JULY 11-13, 2018** Flower Show School II - Midwest City, OK
- **JULY 20-22, 2018** Flower Show School III, ABQ, NM
- **NOVEMBER 14-16, 2018** Flower Show School III - Midwest City, OK
- **NOVEMBER 16-18, 2018** Flower Show School IV, ABQ, NM
- **APRIL 3-5, 2019** Flower Show School IV - Midwest City, OK

**The South Central Region Website address:
scrgardenclubs.org**

To access the Members Section use the password -
GROW! (Don't forget the exclamation point)
South Central Region is also on Facebook and

South Central Communicator Editorial Team

Suzy Andrego & Pam Grotts
Communicator Email address: scr.communicator@yahoo.com

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