



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

The Communicator

Volume 4 — Spring 2020

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR'S REPORT FROM LINDA LAWSON

Hello SCR Members,

My! My! Springtime! Spring Conventions, Flower Shows, and Spring events. It is almost time for all this and more. Oklahoma has springtime bulbs in bloom. I noticed blooms in Dallas last month. Tulips, daffodils, and early iris were in bloom. Now the whole region is blooming with spring flowers. The SCR Director is happy to see our region blooming.

Later this region will hold conventions in Las Cruces, New Mexico (rescheduled for July 8-10), Galveston, Texas, and Atoka, Oklahoma. Arkansas will hold its convention August 3-4 in Little Rock, back to back with the SCR convention. The 2020 SCR Convention has been rescheduled for August 5-6. I hope as many of you as possible will attend this event. The convention is going to be informative, exciting, and a lot of fun! Please come! The Arkansas members have worked very hard (twice now!) to make this convention wonderful! Please support them. This director has received invitations from Texas vocally, Oklahoma, and a written invitation from Arkansas. Plans have been made to attend each one. I have been invited to New Mexico in 2021 and will attend.

The Flower Show School III in Dallas had to be canceled. We should thank those who worked hard to prepare for the school. It is unfortunate the school could not be held. Many other scheduled events across our region have been cancelled, or rescheduled. Please check the calendar in this *Communicator* issue to see the many NGC Schools that you can attend! Our four SCR states are working hard on holding NGC Schools.

Oklahoma may soon have a new club in the Northwest District. The Norman club is helping to form a new club at Norman High School. Flower shows are planned throughout the region. Please enter, volunteer, and attend events when possible.

This is a great region. We have many zones and environments! Let's celebrate South Central Region with zest and enthusiasm! Happy Springtime. Let's plant trees and Plant America. All those clubs who have entered contests, please come to the 2020 SCR Convention to pick up your clubs' winnings. Continue to support NGC and make plans to attend next year's 2021 NGC Convention in New Jersey!
Keep Planting America, Unite and Plant Trees!
Above all, Be Safe!

Linda Lawson,

SCR Director 2019 - 2021

linda_lawson@cox.net Cell 405-326-4566



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SCR Regional Director’s Project — 2019-2021

“Unite to Plant America”

Linda Lawson’s Theme ***“Unite to Plant America”*** for SCR emphasizes the spirit of the NGC Theme. She would like to see all garden clubs network with other community organizations to accomplish this goal. There are so many organizations that also beautify their communities: Master Gardeners, Civic Development Groups, Plant Societies, Park Departments, Youth Groups, etc., by planting and maintaining gardens around Libraries, Hospitals, Museums, Cemeteries, Parks, churches, adult centers, assisted living/retirement homes; the list can continue to include many public locations.

I hope your club is working towards beautifying your community. Networking within our communities can only impact the awareness of our desire to ***“Unite and Plant America”***. Make plans now to enter your project for a SCR Director’s Project Award. **Oklahoma has already applied! - I look forward to receiving entries from Arkansas, New Mexico and Texas in the very near future!**

Project Qualifications:	Scope of the Project	40 points
	Interaction with Another Group	30 points
	Benefit to the Community	20 points
	Overall Distinction	10 points

The deadline for SCR states to submit their application will be

Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

Each state that submits an application and qualifies for the SCR Regional Director’s Project will receive an achievement Plaque and a \$100 Award.

Send project description and photos to:

Donna Marsheck, 402163 W 2650 Drive, Bartlesville, OK 74006-0555

dmarsheckgardenclub@yahoo.com 918.440.1325

Donna Marsheck, Alternate Director



2017-2019 SCR Director's Project

Winner

The Garden Club of Rogers, Arkansas was awarded the 2017-2019 SCR Director's Project by Director, Isabel Olsen. The club proudly displayed the Bronze marker in Downtown Rogers, Arkansas where they completely refurbished a garden. The garden site had been abandoned for several years and they replanted it with all native plants, including nectar and host plants for butterflies. Their community has greatly benefited from this wonderful "Plant America" project.



Springtime in Mississippi - Debi Harrington

June's Issue of *The Communicator* will be out *before* the SCR Convention and before all of our SCR Award Winners are announced, so I would like to feature more 'Club Happenings' Articles with Photographs, Original Garden Poetry, Garden Photographs, Design Photographs, Simple Summer Recipes, Gardening Hints, and other interesting, worthy items that *you* would want to read. Send items to Debi Harrington @ scrcommunicated201921@gmail.com and I'll try to feature most of them!

2019 - 2021 SCR State President's Reports

Nancy Rana, President
Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs —
*"Promoting The Love Of Gardening,
Floral Design, & Civic And Environmental Responsibility."*



Greetings from Arkansas!

The Arkansas Federation has been very busy this spring! We just completed the State Flower Show, "A Garden Odyssey". The spectacular show, chaired and co-chaired by Teresa Shannon and Terri Waterman, featured 48 designs, 8 Botanical Arts entries, 4 Educational Exhibits, and 292 Horticulture entries! The event was well attended and received rave reviews. Check out the AFGC Facebook page for the numerous photographs of the event posted by Joann Hopper, AFGC Photographer.

We were busy preparing for Flower Show School: Course I which was set for March 24-26. We were thrilled that 14 had registered for credit with an additional 21 attending, but alas it had to be cancelled.

And as you know by now, we were also preparing for our annual convention and the South Central Region Convention. Due to the COVID-19 Virus we have rescheduled both Arkansas and SCR Conventions for August. Holly Bacon, AFGC Convention Chairman, and Teresa Shannon, SCR Convention Chairman, and their teams have been diligently working on the back to back conventions. For those of you who will be attending the SCR Convention, please make plans to come early on Tuesday. Rose Knight, Flower Show School Chairman, is planning a fashion show, "Southern Style", presented by the "Accessory Gallery of Hot Springs" and hosted by the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The event will benefit the AR Judges Council Flower Show Schools and all garden club members and guests are welcome. A registration form is included in this edition, but tickets will be available at the door. Eighteen models, including garden club members, will model the latest fashions from the fashion mecca and they will demonstrate the art of mixing, matching, and accessorizing ensembles. The table centerpieces, featuring a purse, shoe, or jewelry, designed by garden club members will be considered for a People's Choice Award. This is one event you won't want to miss! On Wednesday, we will be treated to a garden tour and luncheon at the beautiful Edgemont Estate and a book signing by homeowner and landscape designer, Chris Olsen. We have wonderful speakers for both conventions. Ronnie Palmer, owner of Azalea Hill Gardens and Nursery, will inform us about azaleas that you can't find at the big box stores. The final night keynote speaker is Chris Norwood, floral designer and VP of Tipton and Hurst Florist. The SCR Convention workshop will be led by Dustin Lane, founder of Central Arkansas Bonsai Society. Each attendee will not only receive instruction on how to form and trim a bonsai tree, but will actually do the work on their own tree. Please make plans to attend this wonderful, fun-filled, and informative convention. We hope to see you soon in Arkansas!

Ya'll come!

Fondly,

Nancy Rana, Arkansas State President 2019-2021



***Christine Longthorp, President
New Mexico State Garden Clubs, Inc.***



Greetings to all SCR members from New Mexico,

As we turn the corner into a new year and a new decade we look back at the successes of 2019. What an amazing year! New Mexico had a splendid finale with a NMJC Symposium held in Albuquerque in early November. We now have four new judges and many others advanced. Congratulations to all.

December was full of socials and happy gatherings to celebrate the season. I was delighted to be invited to many and even hosted an English tea party (truly since I am English) for New Mexico Floral Artists.

Springtime brings travels around the State to each of our District meetings as I hear about their projects and encourage those that are able to attend our NMGC Annual Convention on April 8th through 10th to be held in Las Cruces and hosted by District IV. *(EDITOR'S NOTE: Rescheduled for July 8th-9th)*

Garden club anniversary parties are also on the calendar for the Spring. Desert Daubers celebrated their 52nd in February and Mesilla Valley, in May, celebrates 90 years. I am proud to attend these events and muse about how they dressed in the early days, what did they eat and what were their projects? I remember when I joined Garden Club in 1978 we were much more formal and of course our numbers were larger. The meetings were run according to the book and to be asked to serve was a privilege. My first request was to be chairman of a Holiday Ideas show and having just arrived from the UK I hadn't even been to one but I said yes and the rest is history!

I was looking forward to seeing all my SCR friends in Little Rock in April and even more friends in Milwaukee at the NGC Annual Convention in May.

Now we must wait...

Meanwhile safe travels and happy gardening.

***Christine Longthorp,
New Mexico State President 2019-2021***



A Cascade/Waterfall
by Designer Christine
Longthorp. The design
was created for a
Santa Fe Garden Club
program.

Oklahoma

April Pratt, President



Spring Greetings from all of us in Oklahoma!

Our Spring began early this year. As of this writing, daffodils, pear and peach trees are blooming and most everything is already greening up.

I'm sure we are all doing the same kinds of things right now. We are in the process of rescheduling all of our Spring Conventions. But we are still working hard remotely: Contest chairmen have finished their judging; Scholarships are being awarded; Board meetings are complete; Committee reports are being finalized; and we are keeping everyone informed.



2020 OGC Winter Board Meeting, Mardi Gras theme

I'm looking forward to the rescheduled meetings and can't wait to hear about the District projects that have been completed and those for which they are in the planning stages. I'm excited about what Oklahoma has accomplished, and I'm working on getting the word out to the Region about them.

Four of our clubs have submitted their projects for my President's Project Awards. The latest application detailed a project for planting the beds outside the local school auditorium. Not only did they involve the children in planting seeds and the continued care of the beds, but they generated a lot of interest in their garden club and have added several new, *younger* members.

I can't wait to see all of you at the SCR Convention in Little Rock in August. Stay safe and well.



April Pratt, President

***Texas — Promoting the Love of Gardening
Across the State of Texas
Peggy Moreland, President***



March 2020

Fall and winter has been very business for us all. I have been fortunate to attend our fall convention, two district meetings, a Gardening Study and Environmental School and a wonderful 75th Anniversary Celebration for the Dallas Flower Show Judges Founders Group. The design program for this occasion was given by Gay Austin our NGC, Inc. President, she demonstrated how her design abilities have evolved over time. It is true for everyone, if we practice and practice it does help us improve.

One of my goals as president is to increase our membership. I believe that our members are our future and that means we need to grow our number of members, if we want to have a future. New members will bring excitement, ideas, youth and a need for knowledge to our club meetings. We all could use that so remember to keep a look out for new members. Ask friends and acquaintances to come to your meetings and once they are there be friendly and get them involved. New members might bring change and that reminds me of spring.

Spring has begun here in El Paso, the yellow Poppies are blooming on our mountains and it is a very beautiful site. My favorite season is Spring. I look forward to the all the colorful flowers, the warmer weather, our garden club district meetings and the TGC spring convention. I wish you all a wonderful SPRING !

Peggy Moreland, President, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. 2019-2021





AMENDED INVITATION – MARCH 26, 2020

You are cordially invited to attend
ARKANSAS FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Annual Convention to be held August 3-4, 2020
Crowne Plaza, Little Rock, AR

Immediately following that meeting
AFGC's Northeast and Northwest District will host
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION'S
Annual Convention to be held August 5-6, 2020
Crowne Plaza, Little Rock, AR

(Both registration forms are included in this communication).

Many of our SCR friends will be arriving on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

For your entertainment, a style show, "Southern Style",
will begin at 7pm, refreshments will be served.

Find information on your registration form.

Plan to come early and stay late.

The style show and the tour/luncheon are joint activities for all attendees.

Plan to register for as many events as you desire.

We look forward to seeing you in August!



DIRECTIONS: The Crowne Plaza Little Rock is located near Markham and Shackelford Streets. If you are traveling on I-430 or I-630, take the Shackelford exit.

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
(AMENDED, March 26, 2020) "Harmony in Nature"**

**August 5-6, 2020, Hosted by AFGC Northeast and Northwest Districts
Crowne Plaza, 201 S. Shackelford Road, Little Rock, AR 72211
855-590-9987 or 501-223-3000**

(Mention AFGC for convention rate). King: double or single occupancy \$96 + tax.

Traditional: 2 double beds \$96 + tax. **Airport shuttle service is available.**

Optional: Breakfast info—Upon check-in at hotel registration desk you may purchase Breakfast Coupons for needed days. Breakfast is \$6 per day for hotel overnight guests.

Make checks payable to: **NE District** and mail with completed registration form to: Pam Ellis, 271 Lakewood Dr., Horseshoe Lake, AR 72348. Cell # is 901-849-6405, Pamella271@gmail.com

No refunds after July 20.

Registration fee: (postmarked by 7/15) \$35.00 (postmarked after 7/15) \$45.00 \$ _____

If you are attending both conventions, registration fee for each is... \$25.00 \$ _____

(Spouses and guests of members may participate in meals without registration fee. Indicate "guest" on registration fee line).

Tues., 8/4, 7pm, Style Show: "Southern Style Clothing", by Accessory Gallery of Hot Springs

Enjoy refreshments. Pay at the door Tues. evening, \$15.00

Wed., 8/5, 10:30am, Meet in lobby for transportation to "The Edgemont House", home of Chris Olsen;

tour, lunch, and book signing. (Tour will end at approx. 1:30 pm.) \$55.00 \$ _____

11am-5pm, Registration

2-6pm, Ways and Means

3pm, Executive Board Meeting

7pm, Dinner and Program, Speaker: Ronnie Palmer

"Azaleas: Powerful Color for All Seasons" \$40.00 \$ _____

Thur., 8/6, 8am-9am, Registration:

8am-3pm, Ways & Means

9am, Business Meeting:

12-2pm, Luncheon & Program: Speaker - Dusty Lane, Bonsai Society \$40.00 \$ _____

2:15pm, Bonsai Workshop (Bring your clippers - trim and take home a bonsai for additional fee of \$10.00)

\$10.00 \$ _____

7pm, Dinner and Program, Speaker: Chris Norwood, Tipton & Hurst - designer and industry leader

\$45.00 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Garden Club: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Allergies: _____

CIRCLE CLASSIFICATIONS: Local Club: (President) (Member) (1st Timer) (Guest) **Council:** (President)

State: (Pres.) (Officer) (Chairman) (District Director) (Flower Show Judge)

South Central Region: (Director) (Officer) (Chairman) (Life Member)

National Garden Clubs, Inc: (President) (Board Member)

AFGC 89th Annual Convention Registration Form ~ August 3-4, 2020 ~ (AMENDED March 26, 2020)

“SOIL” - The Connector of Life

Hosted by Northeast and Northwest Districts

Crowne Plaza, 201 S. Shackelford Road, Little Rock, AR 72211

855-590-9987 or 501-223-3000. Mention AFGC for special room rates

Room Rates: King: double or single occupancy \$96 + tax. Traditional: 2 double \$96 + tax.

Optional: Breakfast info—Upon check-in at hotel registration desk you may purchase breakfast coupons for needed days. Breakfast is \$6 per day for hotel overnight guests.

Registration info: Make checks to NE District and mail with completed form to Pam Ellis, 271 Lakewood Dr., Horseshoe Lake, AR 72348. Cell # is 901-849-6405, Pamella271@gmail.com

No refunds after July 20.

Registration fee: (Postmarked by 7/15, attending AFGC only)	\$35.00	\$ _____
(Postmarked after 7/15, attending AFGC only)	\$45.00	\$ _____
(If you are attending both conventions, registration fee for <u>each</u> is ...)	\$25.00	\$ _____

(Spouses and guests of members may participate in meals without registration fee. Indicate “guest” on registration fee line).

Mon., 8/3, 11am-5pm, Registration

1-2pm, Finance Committee Meeting

1-5pm, Way & Means

2-4pm, Executive Committee Meeting

4pm, District Directors Meeting

5:30-6:30pm, Champagne Reception honoring AFGC President, NGC President,

& SCR Director,

\$ 5.00

\$ _____

7pm, Judges Council Dinner & Program (ALL INVITED)

\$35.00

\$ _____

Speaker: Barbara Armstrong, NGC Flower Show Judge, “Leaf Manipulation Workshop”

(bring tape and scissors)

Tues., 8/4, 8am-9am, Registration

8am-3pm, Ways & Means

9am, Business Meeting

12-1:45pm, Lunch and program, Speaker, Dr. Larry Jernigan,

Published Photographer, “Natural Awareness”

\$30.00

\$ _____

2pm, Make and Take Workshop, “Kokedama Balls” by Pam Ellis, AFGC 2nd V-P, \$5.00

\$ _____

7pm, Style Show: “Southern Style Clothing”, by Accessory Gallery of Hot Springs,

Enjoy refreshments. Pay at the door Tues. evening, \$15.00 (Registration fee not required)

Wed., 8/5, 10:30am, Meet in lobby for transportation to “The Edgemont House”, home of Chris Olsen;

tour, lunch, and book signing. (Tour will end at approx. 1:30pm.)

\$55.00

\$ _____

TOTAL

\$ _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Garden Club: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ Food Allergies: _____

(Cell) _____

CIRCLE CLASSIFICATIONS: Local Club: (President) (Member) (First timer) (Guest) Council: (President)

State: (Pres.) (Officer) (Chairman) (District Director) (Former State Pres.) (Flower Show Judge) (Circle of Roses) (Life Member)

South Central Region: (Director) (Officer) (Chairman) National Garden Clubs, Inc: (President) (Committee Chairman)

A Fashion Show "Southern Style"
Presented by the "Accessory Gallery of Hot Springs"
Hosted by the Crown Plaza in the Jackson Room
7:00 PM August 4, 2020
Will Benefit AR Judges Council Flower Show Schools
Garden Club members and guests are welcome!

\$15 per person
You may pay at the door
Pre-registration is requested so that we can prepare!

Please send registration to:
Rose Knight
110 Maple Ct.
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923
501-519-3505
jkknight@suddenlink.net

Eighteen models, including many garden club members, will model the latest
Fall fashions from the fashion mecca
"Accessory Gallery"
A capsule wardrobe presentation will inspire us in mixing, matching
and accessorizing our outfits

“SOIL” - Successful Opportunities Include Learning - Meet the Experts!



Landscape designer, Chris H. Olsen, attended Oxford University in England, studying landscape architecture, principles, and philosophy. He graduated from the University of San Diego with a degree in Business. He is a nationally known home and garden guru, lifestyle expert, designer, author, TV personality, and public speaker. This owner of Botanica Gardens and Plantopia Home and Garden Center has taken The Edgemont House from “Drab to Fab”! Enjoy the tour and lunch.



Ronnie Palmer, owner of Azalea Hill Gardens and Nursery near Pine Bluff has been in business since 1972. He grows azaleas that cannot be found in the big box stores. The gardens are an arboretum for azaleas and rhododendrons. There are at least 1000 varieties on display, both evergreen and deciduous. Bloom time is from late March through early June. Ronnie currently serves as President of the Arkansas Azalea Society.



Chris Norwood is a floral design genius, serving as Vice President of Tipton & Hurst. He has served as the National President of the American Institute of Floral Designers and as past CEO and Chairman of the AIFD Foundation. A frequent supporter of the Little Rock community, Chris has worked with the Arkansas Cancer Research Foundation, the American Heart Association, Alzheimer's Arkansas, and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.



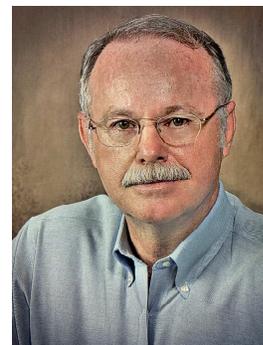
Barbara Armstrong is an NGC Flower Show Judge living in Germantown, TN. She is an outstanding designer and her workshops are both interesting and entertaining. Attend the Judges Council Dinner, August 3, at 7pm, and enjoy the Leaf Manipulation Workshop. Bring scissors and some tape. You will enjoy this hands-on activity. You will receive more information concerning the supplies. It is our hope that this program will help you as you prepare for Flower Shows in the Future.

This amended invitation is being sent to our SCR members as adjustments had to be made during Social Distancing due to the Coronavirus. Please note the change in dates for both the AFGC and the SCR 2020 Conventions. We are thrilled that all but one of our speakers were able to adjust to the new schedule. The AFGC Judges Council Dinner program will be presented by Barbara Armstrong. She will conduct a Leaf Manipulation Workshop as noted above. We appreciate your patience and ability to the changes printed in this invitation. We hope that you will make a note of the new dates on your calendar.

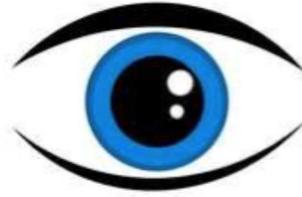
We look forward to seeing you in August!



Dustin Lane is an Arkansas born and raised Bonsai artist. He has been practicing and teaching the living art of Bonsai for the past 11 years. He founded the Central Arkansas Bonsai Society, won multiple awards, and has given seminars and classes on this beautiful art form. “Anyone willing to learn has the potential to be a great Bonsai artist.” Find the balance between nature and humanity.



Dr. Larry Jernigan was a chiropractor in Pine Bluff for 20 years and owned a photography studio for 10 years. He now lives in Heber Springs and loves standing on his patio to take pictures of wildlife. He recently retired from the Cleburne County Extension Service where he coordinated 4-H Club activities. His goal has been to pass along two things: knowledge and practical experience. “Today’s youth do not understand the environment. My goal has been to teach about wildlife so students understand what needs to be preserved,” said Dr. Jernigan.



TEST YOUR VISION
2020 SCR ANNUAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 5 & 6, 2020
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

**Did the information above appear slightly blurry?
Is the information not as sharp and clear as it should be?
Let us help you sharpen your vision!**

2020 VISION SHOPPING EXPERIENCE
Brought to you by your
SCR Ways & Means Committee

The invitation to help your Ways and Means Committee deliver a 20/20 Vision Shopping Experience is still open. *WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS* to ensure we provide that 20/20 Vision Shopping Experience for everyone. We will have some independent vendors displaying their wares, but we would also like for our members to share their horticulture talents, personal arts & crafts, or a forgotten treasure from the storage closet. It is not too late to take a cutting from your rare or special plant and allow us to share it with other members at the Ways and Means booth. Just email and let us know what treasures you will be bringing to help us deliver that 20/20 Vision Shopping Experience at the 2020 SCR Convention.

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Joann Hopper
mail4jo40@yahoo.com

Glenda Tolson
glendatolson@gmail.com

Venita Womble

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” - Helen Keller



Petit Jean Garden Club Sowing Seeds Civic Duty Blooms into Acts of Love

After attending the AFGC State Convention at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Little Rock, April 2019, Petit Jean Garden Club Members, Dee Curry, Paula Scaife, and Deborah Williams, left the meeting bursting with excitement learning they could write a check for \$500 to the Arkansas Department of Transportation (DOT) and the DOT would plant an acre of wildflowers on the highway. Sounds too good to be true? It almost was!!! They eagerly took the idea to the PJGC and quickly got the \$500, then the fun began. Little did they know this would become a very intensive and time-consuming project. First on the agenda was to call the DOT to set it up. Imagine the surprise when they found out the DOT did not have seeds, purchase seeds, nor could they take the money. Thus, began the tedious process of internet searches for wildflower seeds, calling different garden clubs for information and tracking down any individuals who might have knowledge on wildflowers native to Arkansas.

In the midst of this process, a conversation was held with the mayor explaining the plan to beautify Morrilton. The vision was to plant an acre of wildflowers on the 107 and 108 exits. He agreed this was a great project. Club members were blessed and amazed that the city was willing to more than match their efforts. With the gracious support of the city they were able to expand from 1 acre to 4 acres, to plant in 12 different sections on and between exits 107 and 108. This project also included 4 signs: "This Wildflower Project is sponsored by the PJGC and the City of Morrilton."

Late October, PJGC members Dee Curry, Don Hamilton and Sue Mourot, met with Mayor Lipsmeyer, State Botanist Joe Lidvina and 2 representatives from the DOT to discuss the areas to be planted. It was determined the areas should be lightly scalped to ensure growth of flowers, cut down on weeds and avoid erosion of the soil. Dee Curry assumed the responsibility of procuring the seeds. They were to be native to Arkansas, some pollinators, colorful, continuous, bloom from spring to fall with a heavy mixture of annuals and perennials. After much labor and intensive research for the wildflower seeds, it was narrowed down to getting them from Texas or North Carolina (unable to find a supplier in Arkansas who could supply enough seeds for 4 acres).

The Wildseed Farms Company in Texas was chosen because the botanist of 37 years, Tom Kramer, has a working history with Katie Ewing of the Arkansas DOT planting roadside wildflowers. He was very informative on the soil in the Morrilton area and the wildflowers most likely to succeed. November 2019, the DOT commenced scalping the Bermuda grass on the 12 areas selected for planting. Nine members of the PJGC gathered to toss out seeds signifying the beginning of the journey.



How Colombia Got Its Hippos

In the 1980s, leader of the Medellin drug cartel, Pablo Escobar smuggled 4 hippos into Colombia for his personal zoo. The hippos smuggled in were one male and three female. They were fed and taken care of in a bayou on the estate. But when the drug cartel leader was killed, everything fell to ruin on the estate, the Hippos had to fend for themselves, so they escaped eventually and situated themselves in the nearby Magdalena River. Now, the escaped hippos and their 80 descendants are wreaking havoc on northern Colombia's ecosystem.

When Escobar died while on the run from Colombian authorities in 1993, he left behind a legacy of drugs, violence, and unrest – and four hippopotamuses. He'd smuggled them into the country along with antelopes, elephants, giraffes, ostriches, rhinoceroses, zebras, and other animals for a private zoo on the 20-square-kilometer (12.4-square-mile) grounds of his hacienda east of Medellin.

When the Colombian government seized the hacienda in 1993, they rounded up most of the smuggled animals and donated them to zoos, but the hippos were deemed too large and hard to handle, even compared to the elephants and the rhinos. And so they stayed: one male and three female hippos in a lake amid the crumbling remains of a drug dealer's palace. No one wanted to move them.

The Hippos learned to fend for themselves, so now the escaped hippos and their 80 descendants are wreaking havoc on northern Colombia's ecosystem. And ecologists say the oversized problem is only going to get bigger. In Africa their native land, their populations are checked by periods of drought. And there many competitors for food and competition for bodies of water.

At first, residents along northern Colombia's Magdalena River didn't know what they were seeing. In the early 1990s, gargantuan creatures with gaping mouths, and comically tiny ears had appeared in the area's lakes and wetlands, where they terrified the fishermen, but they fascinated the school children.

The large, territorial newcomers turned out to be hippopotamuses, which had wandered away from the neglected ruins of the late Escobar's compound.

A new study suggests their impact on the ecosystem is profound. The hippos have changed the balance of nutrients in several local lakes, contributing to algal blooms that harm many of the lakes' native species. The manatees have mostly disappeared. It turns out that Escobar's escaped hippos are reworking whole freshwater ecosystems just by eating and eliminating.

An average hippopotamus weighs about 1.5 tons and spends its nights on land eating vegetation by the bushel, and its days in the water, trying to stay cool and occasionally relieving itself. In the process, each hippo dumps nutrients and organic material from the land into the water. Now imagine 80 hippos: they're capable of moving nutrients and material around on a large scale.

That organic material acts as fertilizer for bacteria and algae in the lakes – sometimes changing the types of algae. Too much algae growth can drain all the oxygen from the water or prevent sunlight from reaching deeper layers, which can cause problems for other organisms.

A few hippos (3) have been captured and neutered. It is expensive and dangerous, so there seems to be no answer in sight. The local people are attached, children often bring the baby hippos home, so shooting them is out of the question. The Colombian officials are challenged on what the answer is. It seems the conditions in Columbia are ideal for hippos and there is nothing to stop the spiral growth of these creatures misplaced from their homes in Africa. There are 80 plus hippos roaming the area. Some still stick mostly to the old hacienda, but others have been spotted up to 250km (155 miles) away.

Sarah McReynolds, Environmental Concerns Chairman



Container Gardening - *The Time is Now!*

Container Gardening is one of the fastest growing segments of gardening. Containers can be used where traditional gardens are not practical, including apartment balconies, rooftops, decks, courtyards, patios and in areas with poor soil. It is an ideal gardening solution for people in townhomes or patio homes, those in rental locations, assisted living homes where residents may have limited mobility, or those with limited time to care for a large landscape area.

Container Gardening is a perfect activity for beginning gardeners who may be intimidated by large landscape projects. Container gardening is also a great solution for advanced gardeners for showcasing particular plants or gardening skills.

Container Gardening can be much more than beautiful flowers in pots at an entryway or patio. More people are discovering that they can grow herbs, fruits and vegetables in containers, thus feeding their families healthy food and having produce to share. Growing vegetable and ornamental flowers together provides additional beauty and practicality and is trending. In today's market, there is a plethora of pots available - from inexpensive and recycled plastic buckets and wooden pallets, to more expensive wood or pottery pieces, which come in an abundance of sizes, shapes, and colors. There are also many commercially available specialty containers for balcony railings, tiered gardens and vertical gardens.

Almost every aspect of container gardening is simpler than traditional or raised bed gardening. Benefits include:

- ◆ Container gardening allows creative expression in small spaces and adds beauty
- ◆ Container gardening allows portability for lighting reasons, aesthetic reasons, and a gardener's move
- ◆ Container gardens can be planted in themes: flower color, fragrance, pollinators, culinary...
- ◆ Container gardens allow for a smaller, more manageable project
- ◆ Container gardens require less soil prep – just use a prepackaged mix
- ◆ Container gardens encounter less soil borne disease, less weeds and less pests
- ◆ Container gardens are easier on the back – deep digging of beds isn't needed
- ◆ Container gardeners are less likely to over plant
- ◆ Container gardens require fewer and smaller tools
- ◆ Container gardeners can easily make use of unused vertical space with trellises and obelisks.
- ◆ Container gardens require less water. HOWEVER, the one downside - gardeners may need to water twice a day, or more, during the summer growing months. Water conscience gardeners can install drip systems for containers.



Since most of us find ourselves staying home right now, it's an ideal time to pot up some containers that you might have laying around. Fill with annuals, biennials and even some perennials. Don't forget to recycle items into creative containers! Create drama with color or themes!

For Container Gardening Information feel free to contact:
 NGC Container Gardening Chairman: Debi Harrington
 Email: photodebi@gmail.com phone: 505-206-0930

Debi's Favorite Books on Container Gardening -
The Container Expert by D. G. Hessayon (1995 Edition)
Bountiful Container by McGee and Stuckey
R.H.S. The Urban Gardener by Matt James
Vegetable Gardener's Container Bible by Edward C. Smith



Our Children...Our Future

2020 Youth Contests

It is necessary to educate the children about the importance of protecting our valuable resources. Encouraging them to participate in environmental posters such as Woodsy Owl - who says "Lend a Hand-Care for the Land" and Smokey Bear - who says "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" is just the beginning.

When the children create sculptures using recycled, reused, and reduced materials they are being taught how to keep our environment free of litter and still find useful ways to use such litter.

We encourage high school students to get involved with the High School Essay Contest "Adapting Our Actions to Protect Our Natural Habitats." We also ask our Kindergarten through 9th graders to compete in the poetry contest, "Exploring Backyard Mysteries." These are very useful in helping the children to further their education in reading and writing.

Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. President, Peggy Moreland's environmental poster contest, "Sea Turtles" was selected for our youth to draw for competition.

SCR Bird Contest - "Male Downy Woodpecker" will be the bird for the 2020 year.

If we don't teach our children at a young age the importance of our precious Earth and its inhabitants, then we have missed a valuable opportunity.

We need to continue to teach our youth of tomorrow the importance of making our planet Earth a better and cleaner place to live in today. Let's invest in all of our youth!

Linda Jean Brown

SCR Youth Activities & Programs 2019-2021



Attention All NGC Schools Chairmen: **IMPORTANT>>>IMPORTANT>>>IMPORTANT>>>**

As Coordinator of NGC Schools for SCR, I would like to have your cooperation in getting all of the starting or on-going schools data so that they can be posted on the SCR website, as well as appear in *The Communicator*. This includes Flower Show Schools, Environmental Schools, Landscape Schools and Gardening Schools.

Please send any pertinent data to me and I'll pass it along to Debi Harrington for inclusion in *The Communicator*.



Jo Krallman
witchnfamous@sbcglobal.net
501-847-9171



SCR Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman Report

Dear SCR Members,

Thanks to all of you for helping this year's Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest by getting the word out in your communities! This year, there was an equal mix of both Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl posters that were submitted, and they were all very colorful and very beautiful! Many thanks go out to the Garden Clubs and the volunteers that helped them for their outstanding work with these young artists, and for helping to supporting the poster contest!

All of the 1st place posters will go on to compete at the National level for the contest, and the National winners will be announced in May. Congratulations to all of the SCR winners of the contest! They will now be announced in August at the SCR Convention! As we look ahead to next year, please help us spread the words of Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl: **Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!** And: **Lend a Hand Care for the Land.**



Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Moreno, NM State and SCR SBWO Chairman

SCR Youth Activities

South Central Region is doing their part in keeping our youth involved by offering



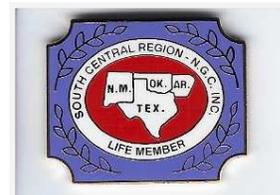
contests, providing youth clubs, activities and workshops. Questions? Ideas?

Contact Linda Jean Brown
SCR Youth Activities & Programs 2019-21

ljbrown3264@windstream.net
(903)478-3264 (h) (903) 724-2656 (c)



Life Membership ~ South Central Region



Spring is here and also lots of celebrations - Mother's Day, Father's Day, Garden Club installations and probably many more events special to each Club, District and State. A gift for that special occasion is on your mind. Think about a SCR life membership for that someone special this Spring. A membership may be purchased anytime. Information is listed below.

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 go to the \$1000 SCR Scholarship given in the second year of a term. (That will be 2021, and it's fast approaching.)



Order from:

MaryAnn Holman, SCR Life Membership Chairman

505 South First St.

Walters, OK 73572

Hm phone: 580-875-3720

Email: mholmanoklahomagardenclubs@aol.com

Just Imagine - Your Local or State Club

could have been featured in this Communicator Issue!

SCR's members would love to see and hear about

all of the wonderful things that your group is accomplishing!

PLEASE send your jpeg photo files and some informative copy!

Email: scrcommunicator201921@gmail.com



*A day comes in the springtime
When Earth puts forth her powers,
Casts off the bonds of winter
And lights him hence with flowers...
-Dora Read Goodale*



ESPOMA & NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC. WANT TO PLANT AMERICA!

Members of National Garden Clubs (NGC) are passionate about growing with a purpose and The Espoma Company wants to help. We're looking for local clubs with vision that we can help bring to life. We're selecting up to 20 clubs with projects in 2020 to receive a \$250 grant for Espoma plant foods and potting soils.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Grant applications for 2020 are accepted October 1, 2019 **through May 31, 2020**.
- Simply complete the form online.
- Be sure to attach 'before' photos and your plan AND...Tell us when your project is scheduled to begin.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- NGC / Espoma will select grant awards.

Selected winning projects will be directed to a local retailer for their product grant.

WHEN PROJECT IS COMPLETE

- Send photos of your project site with work completed.
- Forward local press information so we can send a press release about your good work!

WHAT WE WILL DO WITH YOUR SUBMISSIONS

- Share on social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.).
- Release to press for publication.

If you experience problems with the Espoma application page please email **John Harrison** from the web page.

The Grant Program

Espoma's 'Plant America' Grant Program was announced at the 2017 NGC Annual Convention in Richmond. Grants for \$250 of Espoma products can be awarded to up to 20 NGC clubs annually. Since that time, over 30 grants have been awarded to clubs in 22 states. These creative NGC clubs have used this resource to beautify their local surroundings and improve the quality of life for their friends and neighbors.

APPLY NOW!

Applying for the Espoma Plant America grant is easy. Simply click on the link to the Espoma Grant Program Application, complete the form, add any 'before' photos, and click 'submit.' *We look forward to receiving your application by the May 31, 2019 deadline!* Go to <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/> to fill out an application for your club's qualifying project!

Contact Debi Harrington if you have questions about the grant program: photodebi@gmail.com or 505-206-0930



OKLAHOMA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL



SAVE THESE DATES

September 28, 29, 30, 2020

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.

Hosted by Southwest District

In the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

2 field trips on the refuge & in the mountains

(A hike in the mountains if interested)

Lodging will be in the Medicine Park area

Curriculum

Course 3

Ecology – Air
Plants – The Rain Forest
Environmental Ethics
Environmental Science Pollution
Endangered Plants & Wildlife
Initiating School Programs
Earth Stewardship
Info Sources
Citizen Education Programs
Field Trip

Course 4

Ecology
Plants – Aquatic Plants
Wetlands
Science Sustainability
Wildlife - Aquatic Animals
Youth Programs –
Education
Earth Stewardship
Effective Citizenship
Field Trip

For more information contact: MaryAnn Holman @ 580-875-3720

or Melanie Spence @ 580-483-9712

REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Flower Show School Course I: October 10-12, 2020 Little Rock, AR
Registrar: Glenda Tolson | Phone: (870) 357-2039
Instructors: FSP & Horticulture: Sue Kirkman | *Orchids and Daffodils*
Design: Frances Thrash



Flower Show School Course II: September 14-17, 2020 Houston, TX
Registrar: Regena Williamson | Phone: 361-550-1485
Instructors: FSP & Horticulture: Pam Braun | *Salvia and Magnolia*
Design: Frances Thrash

Flower Show School Course III: October 13-15, 2020 Dallas, TX
Contact Person: Sarah Andry | Phone: 214-543-3621



Flower Show School Course III: January 25-28, 2021 Houston, TX
Registrar: Regena Williamson | Phone: 361-550-1485

Environmental School II: July 17-19, 2020 Old Fort Parker Mexia, TX
Contact Person: Sara McReynolds | Phone: 254-747-1144



Environmental School III & IV: September 28-30, 2020 Lawton, OK
Contact Person: Melanie Spence | Phone: 580-483-9712

Environmental School III: January 22-24, 2021 Old Fort Parker Mexia, TX
Contact Person: Sara McReynolds | Phone: 254-747-1144

Gardening School I: Summer 2020 Albuquerque, NM
Contact Person: Debi Harrington | Phone: (505) 206-0930

Gardening School II: Fall 2020 Albuquerque, NM
Contact Person: Debi Harrington | Phone: (505) 206-0930

Gardening School III: August 3-4, 2020 San Antonio, TX
Contact Person: Cecilia Lussen | Phone: 830-837-5262



Gardening School IV: February 19-21, 2021 San Antonio, TX
Contact Person: Cecilia Lussen | Phone: 830-837-5262

Landscape Design School II: February 21-22, 2020 College Station, TX

Landscape Design School III: September 27-28, 2021 College Station, TX





SCR Garden Clubs Mission Statement

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic & environmental responsibility.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SCR AND NGC BY VISITING THEIR WEBSITES

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION website is www.scrgardenclubs.org

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. website is www.arkansasfgc.com

New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. website is www.newmexicogardenclubs.org

Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. website is www.oklahomagardenclubs.com

Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. website is www.texasgardenclubs.org

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. website is www.gardenclub.org

The South Central Region Website address: scrgardenclubs.org



Isabel Olsen — Webmaster
isabelolsen.nmgc@gmail.com



To access the Members Section use the password - GROW!
(Don't forget the exclamation point)

South Central Region is also on Facebook (SCR Garden Clubs) and Twitter!



South Central *Communicator* Editor

Debi Harrington

Communicator Email address: scrcommunicator201921@gmail.com

COMMUNICATOR ARTICLE DUE DATE	COMMUNICATOR PUBLISH DATE
March 1	March 15
June 1	June 15
September 1	September 15
December 1	December 15

Please note that articles may be sent anytime *before* the above due dates in the left column. We need articles from all SCR State Presidents and Chairpersons. We need school dates, as well as important and fun event dates. We'd love jpg. photos and news articles from our busy SCR clubs.