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gardener

FALL 2018

N. 'PLANT AMERICA'

**-
THE POPPY PROJECT
-**

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THE COVER

The new PLANT AMERICA Narcissus bulb, N. 'PLANT AMERICA,' was selected especially for National Garden Clubs Inc. Turn to page four in this issue for more information. Photo courtesy of Brent and Becky's Bulbs.

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Nancy L. Hargroves

2017-2019 NGC President

Dear Members,

Fall is the best time for planting – that is the classic mantra of gardeners. This fall, NGC members had the opportunity to plant something no one else in the world had – a new daffodil cultivar chosen for National Garden Clubs Inc. by Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs.

In initial discussions with Brent about selecting a new cultivar, I asked that the name given to it be *N. 'National Garden Clubs'* to give our organization visibility to the public in a new way.

The final decision was made to name it *N. 'Plant America'*, as this name would have more appeal when this daffodil goes on the world market three years from now. More information on the selection and characteristics of *N. 'Plant America'* is included in this issue, as well as its photo on the cover of this magazine.

The bulb is available exclusively to NGC members for three years. Brent and Becky's Bulbs will donate a percentage

of the sales to the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Fund.

NGC members responded enthusiastically to the launch of the first *N. 'Plant America'* ordering opportunity and the bulb currently is sold out. (As is typical in the first year of a new cultivar, there was a limited amount of stock available for purchase.)

For the second and third years, the number of bulbs available for purchase will be much larger. In spring, the bulbs will again be available to order.

A new plant introduction for our organization is very

special. I hope you will take great pride in including this in your garden, in your container gardens, in beautification projects and for exhibiting in flower shows.

Even though fall is the signal that the end of the growing season is near, the topic of growing is still timely in the fall with the young people in our lives. Let the subjects of growing and the life cycle of plants flow into the seasonal activities

“The bulb is available exclusively to NGC members for three years.”

N. 'PLANT AMERICA' a new narcissus cultivar



SELECTED FOR NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. BY BRENT AND BECKY'S BULBS

The plan of this administration was to have some plants available for our members to purchase to help support the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Program.

I began working with Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs to obtain a new daffodil cultivar whose name would have a reference to National Garden Clubs. Besides being a daffodil hybridizer, he and Becky are flower bulb suppliers, garden writers, photographers, lecturers, consultants and educators.

Brent's grandfather began growing daffodils in 1900 in Gloucester, Va., where Brent and Becky's Bulbs is located. Brent's knowledge and credentials in hybridizing and growing daffodils is extensive. Recently Brent was the

...Continued on page 6



of carving pumpkins and planting daffodil bulbs. It's also the perfect time to incorporate reading the NGC youth book, "The Saved Seed," with these endeavors.

Please savor this season of nature's bounty that Denis Waitley, noted motivational speaker and writer, so aptly describes:

"The season for enjoying the fullness of life -- partaking of the harvest, sharing the harvest with others, and reinvesting and saving portions of the harvest for yet another season of growth." ■

Nancy L. Hargroves



Continued from page 5...

advisor to New York Botanical Garden for their “Million Daffodils” project to celebrate its 125th anniversary year in 2016. The 2017 Philadelphia Flower Show named a hybrid daffodil created by Brent and Becky’s Bulbs, “Starlight Sensation,” as the Best Hybrid in the show.

Brent is well-known to the members of National Garden Clubs as an Award of Excellence winner in 2007, and a speaker at the NGC Convention in 2017 in Richmond. He also is an honorary member of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc., for his continued support of the work of garden clubs in that state. Many of NGC’s individual garden clubs are participants in their “Bloomin’ Bucks” program, which donates 25 percent of each member’s purchase from Brent and Becky’s Bulbs back to the garden club.

This new daffodil cultivar was not hybridized by Brent. He selected it on a trip to Holland, the Netherlands, this past April, when he was visiting the Hulsebosch Brothers, friends and colleagues, who specialize in growing

sustainable and organic bulbs. Brent has several criteria for choosing a new cultivar. First, he observes how it looks growing in the field, as that translates to how it looks growing in a garden. Then, he looks for an upward facing blossom that is held above the foliage.

While still standing with Brent in the field in Holland after choosing this cultivar for NGC, the grower received a call on his cell phone from Thompson and Morgan, the company in the United Kingdom that sells English plants and seeds worldwide through their websites and catalogs.

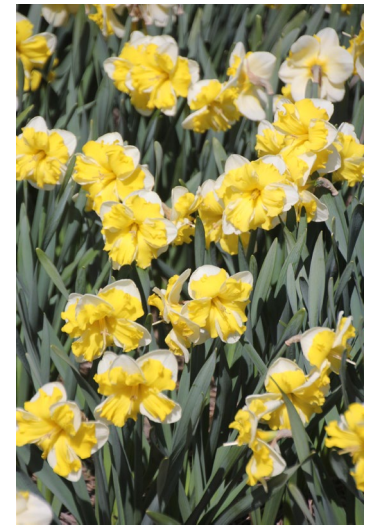
This company wanted to acquire this new daffodil cultivar. The grower told them they were five minutes too late, as Brent Heath had just selected it for his company.

Then, the process began to officially name the daffodil. Even though the initial plan was to name it *N. ‘National Garden Clubs’*, Brent advised that *N. ‘Plant America’* would have more appeal when this daffodil goes on the world market three years from now. A search was done in the database of named daffodils to be sure the name

was not already in use. Then the name, photographs and description were submitted to the Royal Horticultural Society, which is the International Registration Authority for the genus *Narcissus*. The registration was approved in late June.

N. ‘Plant America’ is a split corona daffodil with the Color Code - 11 W-Y. The yellow perianth segments of this mid-season flower fold back smoothly over its white petals. It has a nice thick substance for long-lasting flowers. It has a strong stem and is up-facing. It grows best in full sun to a height of 12 to 16 inches, depending on the richness of the soil.

N. ‘Plant America’ is being sold by Brent and Becky’s Bulbs exclusively to members of National Garden Clubs. The bulb currently is sold out. Please understand that the supply was limited in the first year of a cultivar until the stock of the bulb can sufficiently increase. It will be sold only to our members for two



more years before it is placed on their website and in their catalog for sale to the public. ■

Nancy L. Hargroves

 **Photos courtesy of Brent and Becky’s Bulbs**

Cultivate our Garden Community

WITH GARDENING TIPS, IDEAS AND PROJECTS

Members of National Garden Clubs are a wealth of knowledge and information on all things in the garden.

Do you, or your club, have gardening tips, tricks, ideas or project successes to share?



The National Gardener would like to tap into your skills and talents, as well as showcase your favorite projects.

PLEASE SEND:

- **A brief description** of your idea or how a unique project fostered success.
- **A photo or two** of your project is welcome. Photos must be high resolution 300 dpi with photo credit information provided.

SEND TO:

Patricia Binder, editor
The National Gardener
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the poppy project commemorates soldiers, CENTENNIAL MARKING END OF WORLD WAR I



Poppies in bloom at Hillsborough Town Cemetery.

World War I, known as the First World War or Great War, came to an end on Nov. 11, 1918. The global war, which introduced a new breed of modern weapons, decimated much of Europe and forever changed the future of warfare. Noted historians widely consider World War I one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.

of the ubiquitous red blooms amid the carnage of war, he penned the famous poem "In Flanders Fields," to honor the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war.



WHY POPPIES?
bit.ly/poppyww1

On November 11, church bells will ring in the town of Hillsborough, N.C., to mark the observance of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. The day also recognizes the finale of the World War I Centennial Poppy Project, a year-long community effort by

An enduring symbol and icon of World War I is the brilliant red poppy. In 1915, thousands of poppies were observed blooming on a war-torn battlefield and nearby mass cemetery at the Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium, an area traditionally called Flanders, which had experienced some of the war's heaviest fighting. Lt. Col. John McCrae, M.D., who had been providing surgical and medical care for Allied troops in nearby trenches, was so moved by the sight



LEFT: A gracious Hillsborough residence provides a backdrop for poppies. **RIGHT:** Poppies growing at Eagle Lodge.

members of Hillsborough Garden Club. The ambitious project stemmed from an idea by Marcia Loudon, director, District 9, The Garden Club of North Carolina Inc., for garden clubs to plant thousands of poppy seeds throughout their towns, which would bloom in spring in observance of

the centennial. The project also was done in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs, as well as local organizations. In addition to Hillsborough Garden Club, other garden clubs in the district introduced poppy projects in their



In Flanders Fields

BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

See online: bit.ly/mcraepoem

The "poppy planters" (back row from left): Sue Harris, HGC Member; Sherry Appel, HGC member and project co-chairman; Michael Verville; HGC President Andrea Lewis; Joanne Chenette, HGC member. Front Row, from left: Binnie Davis, HGC member and project co-chairman; Donna Mebane and Linda Petrick, HGC members. Photo by Nancy Espersen.



Pictured in front of the visitor's center from left: Michael Verville; Sherry Appel, HGC member and project co-chairman; Jessica Bandel, Sarah DeGennaro, executive director, Alliance for Historic Hillsborough and Binnie Davis, HGC member and project co-chairman. Photo by Nancy Espersen.

FAR RIGHT: Digging in! HGC members Sue Harris (foreground) and Linda Petrick. Photo by Nancy Espersen.



respective communities.

The plethora of poppy seeds planted in Hillsborough – at the visitor's center, town hall, town cemetery, Eagle Lodge (Masonic Hall), historic sites, public parks and private homes – resulted in a riot of color in May. Companion projects included a special exhibit at the visitors center, an appearance and lecture by Jessica A. Bandel, author of "North Carolina and The Great War, 1914 to 1918," at the local library, and colorful displays of poppies at local businesses. "We thought that the poppies blooming in town would be a reminder of the sacrifice and hardship our ancestors made during World War I," said Andrea Lewis, president, Hillsborough Garden Club. "Many people know very little about the war. The events we planned are helping to generate a better understanding."

Working with the Alliance for Historic Hillsborough, the World War I Centennial Poppy Project committee also created

The World War I-Era Living Room at the visitors center, which included period furniture, vintage jewelry, clothes, photographs, battlefield stereoscopes, and artifacts that offered a vision of what it was like to live in Hillsborough in 1918. The exhibit also featured short essays about ancestors of area residents who fought in the Great War.


To learn more, visit <http://www.hillsboroughgardenclubnc.com/the-living-room/> and <https://www.historichillsborough.org/www-centennial/>

Sherry Appel

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 **Photos by Phyllis Simon/Art by TaggART**

hooray for hydrangeas!

Hydrangeas are known, grown and loved by gardeners. They reside in the family Hydrangeaceae. There is no common vegetative characteristic that readily links all the species together. Hydrangeas usually have eight-to-10 stamens and two-to-five styles, which persist as woody "antennae" on the ripened fruit. It is estimated the fruit contains many seeds. Flowers vary from all fertile, lacecap, to largely sterile, mophead or Hortensia types.

The inflorescence, or flower, is a corymb. A corymb is a compound inflorescence with many flowers, typically indeterminate, meaning it can continue to elongate with age and the outer flowers open first, or flowers open from base to apex.

Flowers are borne in conical to broad-conical panicles; the central axis is a peduncle, with flowers attached.

The showy portions of the flower are the sepals, or petals, which are grouped in clusters of three to five. The individual sepal may be entire or serrated, elliptical, oval to round. Sepal colors in some species change in response to the amount of aluminum in the soil – typically pink in non-aluminum soil or blue/purple in aluminum-based soil.

Sepals of other species change from white and pink to rose, burgundy or red, regardless of aluminum availability. When the sepals are arranged in a ring around the outside of flowers, the term lacecap applies. When the sepals are dominant in the flowers and the form is more or less a solid head, dome or mass of color, the result is called the mophead or Hortensia. The leaves of hydrangeas are simple, evergreen,

deciduous, serrate, entire, glabrous, or woolly pubescent.

Hydrangeas grow as vines, shrubs and small trees with their flower buds either formed on the growth of previous season, or in a few species, on the current year's shoots. Here are some of the best known species and



cultivars of hydrangeas:

- If accolades were afforded to vines, the species *Hydrangea anomala petiolaris* would be crowned queen. Somewhat shy and unassuming in youth, it develops rather slowly, then suddenly rockets skyward; climbing over, along and next to the structure by which it is placed. Climbing hydrangea is a true climbing vine, attaching to structures with root-like holdfasts. The multi-branched



adult stage also produces abundant white flowers on beautiful cinnamon brown branches. Dark green foliage turns into a magnificent golden yellow in the fall. There are many cultivars. Some are more shrub-like; some feature variegated foliage; and some have purple fall foliage. All are eye-catching additions to any landscape. Popular cultivars include Winter Glow, Firefly, Kasai, Cordifolia and Tillaefolia.

- In the wild, *Hydrangea arborescens*, or smooth-leaved hydrangeas, meld into the shadows of eastern

North American forests. They are loose and open in habit, but in a fertile garden setting, the plants become impressive specimens. The most notable cultivars are Annabelle and Grandiflora. This species is adaptable to higher pH soils, but prefer acidic soils and dappled shade. Sterile types, like Annabelle, have inflorescence covering the entire structure with snowball-type flowers. Sepals undergo a transformation of color and remain attached through fall and winter. Stems are stout, gray/brown with older exfoliating stems. Other cultivars include Chestatee, Frosty, Emerald Lace, Green Knight, Hayes Starburst, Mary Nell, Picadilly, Samantha, Silver Flash, Snow Cone, White Dome and Terry Greer.

- Bigleaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea macrophylla*, is the species most familiar to gardeners. No other species of woody shrub produces a wider range of blue flowers. Flowers will be pink in non-aluminum soils. Flowers occur in corymbs, in domes or lacecaps of white, pink, rose, red, blue and purple. Outstanding cultivars include All Summer Beauty, Ami Pasquier, Endless Summer, Europa, Lanarth White, Nikko Blue and Wave Hill.
- *Hydrangea serrata*, in singles, doubles, lace caps, mopheads; colored and contorted stems, with green to variegated leaves make this species as diverse as its big sister, *H. macrophylla*, but cultivars feature more delicate leaves and flowers. Cultivars include Amagiamacha, Benigaku, Tokyo Delight, Miranda, Blue Bird, Geisha Girl and Chrishima.
- Panicle hydrangea, *Hydrangea paniculata*, is easily cultivated and flowers from June to frost. They make great container specimens.

The number of cultivars has increased in recent years. Full sun produces the most floriferous specimens. Cultivars include Barbara, Bridal Veil, Brussels Lace, Chantilly Lace, Floribunda, Limelight and Mount Everest.

- *Hydrangea quercifolia*, or Oak leaf hydrangea, is a handsome plant that offers great landscape potential. Its full, round-mounded outline, lobe-shaped leaves and magnificent white flowers provide full measure for the landscape dollar. Popular cultivars include Alice, Allison, Pee Wee, Snowflake and Snow Queen.

HYDRANGEA GARDEN CARE AND CULTURE

The secret's in the soil

H. macrophylla and *H. serrata* demand moist, well-drained, acidic soils with an abundance of enriched organic matter. Plants should be mulched at a depth of 2 inches. If the soil is acidic, flowers are typically pink, rose or red. If the soil is alkaline, flowers will be in shades of blue. Gardeners can influence the color of hydrangea blooms by adjusting the measure of acidity or alkalinity in the soil.

Moisture

The drooping leaves of *H. macrophylla*, more than any other hydrangea species, are a signal the plant is stressed by drought. Excessive sun and heat also may stress plants. Some species perform better in semi-shade.

Prudent pruning

To understand the best pruning technique, examine the flower buds. Typically, *H. macrophylla* flower buds develop on old (mature) wood of the previous year and open in late spring and summer of the following year. However, additional buds also are present along the entire length of the stem. Growers take advantage of flower bud

development by pruning the upper 50 percent of the stems. Lower buds then develop shoots with flowers resulting in a more compact plant. Check your cultivar to see if flowers are on old or new wood. Old flowers can be pruned by making the cut below the inflorescence. Avoid hard pruning in August and later, as new growth may occur. Prudent pruning produces more inflorescences. As long as flower buds are not totally eliminated by the onset of cold weather, flowers will be expressed, even when plants are severely pruned.

Propagation

Propagation can be done by seed, but the easiest way is by root cuttings. Most species root readily from softwood cuttings, in April through July. Roots develop from internodal and nodal areas and single-node and multiple-node cuttings are suitable for rooting. Rooted cuttings grow enthusiastically and by the end of summer, become robust plants that are ready for transplanting to larger containers or over-wintering as dormant rooted cuttings. Layering is an old technique often used for propagation. In early fall, while still attached to the parent plant, a stem is placed in a small hole/trench, covered with loose soil and held in place. Roots form on the covered parts and can be severed from the parent plant the following spring.

Pests and diseases

Hydrangeas are remarkably free of disease and insects, with the exception of powdery mildew. In greenhouses, spider mites and aphids can become a nuisance. Unfortunately, to many gardeners, deer are a constant nemesis.

Cutting Hydrangeas for Fresh Cut Display and Enjoyment

- Water plants thoroughly the day before cutting.
- Cut flowers when 90 percent of the florets are open. Plunge stems into

- warm water immediately.
- Maintain water at 100 degrees for best hydration.
- If wilting occurs, use a commercial ready-to-use hydrating solution, or totally submerge stem and flowers under water until hydrated.
- Store in a cool location.

Hydrangeas serve as strong anchors in landscape design and are fundamental assets to gardens in all seasons. They are statement flowers that bring a “wow factor” to any floral design. ■

Gail S. Corle
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maine's native plant EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Members of The Garden Club Federation of Maine Inc. champion sustainable home gardening and like many gardeners, share a love of wildflowers. An idea to combine both of these passions, bolstered by the state club's receipt of a grant from NGC's Native Plants and Wildflower Awards: Native Plant Educational Symposiums or Workshops, the club had the opportunity to sponsor two educational native plant events in one year.

The first event at McLaughlin Garden and Homestead, a two-acre garden in South Paris, Maine, was held in late summer when wildflowers were in bloom. The garden features

Photos by Gail Corle

References: "HYDRANGEAS for American Gardens" Michael A. Dirr; "Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs" Michael A. Dirr; "Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs" Michael A. Dirr; "Complete Trees, Shrubs and Hedges" Jacqueline Heriteau; "Taylor's Guide to Shrubs" Kathleen Fisher; "400 Trees and Shrubs for Small Spaces" Diana M. Miller.

Visit The American Hydrangea Society
www.americanhydrangeasociety.org

For more information, resources and helpful links on plant societies, visit the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org

mature collections of hostas, daylilies, astilbes, iris, phlox, sedum, cimicifuga, sempervivums and over 200 lilacs – the largest collection in New England, situated among mature deciduous and coniferous trees. The garden, which was started in 1936, is listed as a cultural landscape on the National Register of Historic Places.

Garden club members and the public attended the one day sold-out event. The curriculum, based on criteria outlined in the NGC grant, included lectures on endangered species, plants for special habitats, identification using keys and a tour of the garden that featured a discussion of invasive species.



▲ TOP: The invasive plant display at McLaughlin Garden and Homestead. **CENTER:** Foothills Garden Club members Jean Potuchek talks about a herbarium image held by Donna Anderson, executive director, McLaughlin Garden and Homestead. **BOTTOM:** Speaker Shaun Jalbert explains native plant propagation. Photos by Jana Kibbe.

Additional lectures included propagation of wildflowers/native plants; designing home gardens with native plants; replacing invasive plants with native plants in public and private gardens, with brief discussions on herbaria and the preservation of community natural areas and nature trails.

Displays included wildflower guidebooks and cuttings of invasive plants displayed in pails, so attendees could examine them up close.

The garden's herbarium, collected by a local private botanist beginning in the early 1900s, also was available to see.

The symposium was such a resounding success that it was decided to hold a similar event in a different part of the state – during the spring blooming season. Partnering with Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, Maine, the club presented a Native Plant Forum that included a general overview of native plants and native plants in home gardens, tools for plant identification, the propagation of ferns and a session about Maine botanist Kate Furbish's herbarium and watercolors. A docent-led tour of the botanical gardens followed the indoor program. Situated on 270 acres, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens opened to the public in 2007, and is noted for a rhododendron garden,

which features a multi-level waterfall, children's garden, themed gardens and the LEED-Platinum Bosarge Family Education Center.

The NGC grant made it possible for the club to focus on the curriculum and offer both programs at an affordable price. We encourage other state garden clubs to research the NGC grant to offer this type of event. There were no exams, but plenty of enrichment for life-long learners. ■

Harriet Robinson and Nancy Atwell

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For more information, visit McLaughlin Garden and Homestead <https://mclaughlingarden.com/about/> or Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens <http://www.maine gardens.org/>



◀ Tour at McLaughlin Garden and Homestead. Photo by Suzanne Bushnell.

MILKWEED FOR monarchs

Milkweed for Monarchs is a national initiative by the National Wildlife Federation. The organization and National Garden Clubs Inc. have collaborated on a number of efforts and programs throughout the years, particularly those that provide education on and support the power of pollinators. Visit bit.ly/milkweedformonarchs

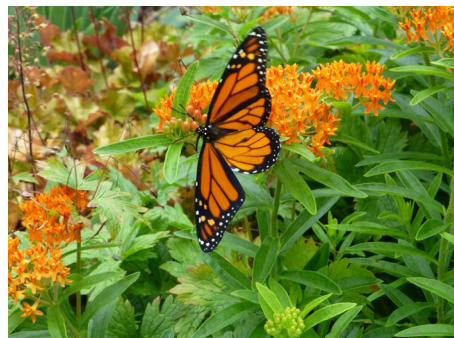
The Milkweed for Monarchs program in Illinois by The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc. was designed to help bring monarch butterflies back to the Midwest.

The program begins with talking to friends, garden club members and neighbors about the declining numbers of monarchs. We share information, plants and seeds. Handouts, posters, seed offers and YouTube videos were designed for use by members of garden clubs in The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc. However, garden clubs in other states in the Central Region and in the Midwest, can customize all materials.



If your garden club is interested in starting a milkweed project for monarch butterflies, here are some helpful ideas:

- The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc. is a great source for milkweed seed. For more information and to order samples of three different kinds of milkweed seed, send a stamped self-addressed business size envelope and \$2 cash to: The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc., Milkweed for Monarchs Chairman Kay MacNeil, 689 Golf Club Ln., Frankfort, IL 60423.
- Consider planning a garden club public education program. Packets of milkweed seeds can be used by your garden club as promotional giveaways, or sold for \$1 each. One-hundred packets of seed are \$25, with \$5 for shipping. Seed packets are shipped with copies of 9 different educational fliers, including coloring sheets for children. The materials may be customized,



copied and distributed to the public. Please note The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc. does not profit from any of these materials or activities.

- Garden clubs may use the Milkweed for Monarchs YouTube free videos as a club activity or in a public information program. Visit bit.ly/monarchvideo1 or bit.ly/monarchvideo2
- Each fall, I ask members of The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc. to harvest milkweed pods and send them to me. Once they are dried, milkweed heads are offered free to anyone who owns a large acreage. The milkweed seeds also are shared with the Illinois Department of Transportation for use in planting public prairies on the state's toll highways. Milkweed seed heads may be picked up from me, or I will ship them to you (shipping charges may apply). The kits include all educational materials.

Thank you for your efforts to save our monarchs! ■

Kay MacNeil

*Chairman, Milkweed for Monarchs
The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc.
kaymac60423@yahoo.com*

 **Photos by Kay MacNeil**



A total of **949,884** pollinator gardens have been registered! This leaves only a little over 50,000 pollinator gardens to go to meet the goal. Congratulations!

Pollinator gardens should

- use plants that provide nectar and pollen sources
- provide a water source
- be situated in sunny areas with wind breaks
- create large "pollinator targets" of native or non-invasive plants
- establish continuous bloom throughout the growing season
- eliminate or minimize the impact of pesticides

Visit www.gardenclub.org/projects/million-pollinator-challenge.aspx and go to pollinator.org/mpgcmmap/ to register now!

Becky Hassebroek

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'project monarch'

SPRING GREEN GARDEN CLUB



MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUB youth project

Spring Green Garden Club of Carmel, Ind., The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc., hosted a monarch education booth as part of its "Project Monarch" initiative at Carmel Farmers Market in June, to encourage residents of Hamilton County to plant milkweed and nectar plants native to the state. The booth featured a set of monarch caterpillars, raised by hand, by members of the garden club.



The club's main goal was to provide education about the plight of monarch butterflies. More than 100 people of all ages visited the booth to learn about the life cycle of monarch butterflies and habitat needs. The club provided packets of common milkweed seeds, as well as information on how to establish

monarch-friendly areas in yards or on decks.

The garden club is collecting signatures to petition the city's mayor to participate in The National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/National-Initiatives/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge>, which outlines initiatives to

restore habitat for the monarch butterfly in communities and encourages citizens on how they can support monarchs. ■

Cathy Weber

*Project Monarch Chair
Spring Green Garden Club
sggc1972@gmail.com*

Spring Green Garden Club in Carmel, Ind., hosted a monarch education booth at a local farmer's market. Garden club members Kate Mosher (left), Cathy Weber (right) and Rosie Springer (far right), provided community education and information. Photos courtesy of Spring Green Garden Club.



Kent Garden Club of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. has a history of community service that dates back more than 100 years. In recent years, members added Discover! Millennium Park, an event along the Hansen Nature Trail in Grand Rapids, Mich., to its long list of volunteer projects.

At the event in May, the garden club introduced a curriculum it developed for area youth on how native plants impact flora and fauna. This effort included garden club members, members of Michigan Garden Clubs Inc., and representatives of Kent County Parks and Discover! Millennium Park. The collaboration culminated in the creation of a state Native Plant patch for the Girl Scouts of Michigan. The focus of the patch is:

- To promote interaction and discussion between scouts and adults about the partnership and initiatives of Michigan Garden Clubs Inc.
- To encourage scouts to seek expert advice while working toward a patch.

- To show scouts a way to focus their earned awards when working toward higher awards.

Fifty scouts registered for the event. Under cloudy skies, they spent the afternoon with garden club mentors, some of whom are Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, who provided



▲ Girl Scout Amy Crapsey with Kent Garden Club member Kathryn Bultman at the "Discover! Millennium Park," event.

instruction on native plants, how to preserve and protect them and how to rid the area of invasive plants. The scouts and mentors also established a native beauty spot in a designated public planting area. Scouts will share their new knowledge about

native plants, bolstered by posters, fliers and booklets, with other area Girl Scout troops and community groups. ■

Karin Maupin

President, Kent Garden Club

Kathy Wolverton

Fourth Vice President, Kent Garden Club

kentgardenclub1913@gmail.com

 **Photos by Kathy Wolverton**

GARDEN CLUBS HONOR, CELEBRATE national garden week

Hilliard Park Garden Club of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc., in Richmond, Va., completed a landscaping project at Elizabeth Adam Crump Health and Rehab, a 180-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in Glen Allen, Va., to honor National Garden Week.

The focus of the 11-member garden club was a large stone block courtyard at the center for patients, visitors and staff. The club received grants from the Piedmont District and Richmond Council of Garden Clubs Inc. to cover the costs for the landscaping budget.

The four-month project began in February with a cleanup day. Club members, along with the help of their spouses, pruned bushes and trees and cleared the area of broken tree limbs and debris. In April, outdoor furniture was washed or repaired, pots that once held plants were cleaned and a brick wall that served as a backdrop



▲ Hilliard Park Garden Club members refurbished an outdoor courtyard at a local skilled nursing and rehab center in Virginia. The four-month project was done in honor of National Garden Week.

“The focus of the 11-member garden club was a large stone block courtyard...”

for holly bushes was power washed. An existing raised bed was cleared with the intention to turn it into an herb garden. The club purchased large, colorful pots and planted pollinator-friendly plants.



Furniture was rearranged for improved patient mobility.

In May, club members returned to the courtyard, armed with enthusiasm as well as spring annuals, perennials, herbs for the herb garden, and bags of potting soil and mulch. In addition, the club purchased a garden flag and birdfeeder, as well as umbrellas and stands to provide outdoor color and shade. All plants were labeled for ease of identification. The scope of work was completed just prior to Mother’s Day weekend.

In early June, club members added a few final touches to the courtyard, including the addition of more plants, a new blue ceramic birdbath, a trellis and new water hose and nozzle. A dedication ceremony for the refurbished courtyard was held on June 8. ■

Jean Fender

*First Vice President
Hilliard Park Garden Club
jean.fender@comcast.net*

Dardanelle Garden Club of the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs Inc., in Dardanelle, Ark., held its annual flower show at the Dardanelle Library, Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System, during National Garden Week.

This year, members presented a “Horticultural Specialty Show,” instead of traditional floral designs. The library was filled with nearly 60 exhibits comprised of individual plant cuttings, collections and displays. The show was a wonderful way for members to share their love of gardening, and visitors were delighted with the quality of exhibits on the varieties of plants grown in the community. ■

Nan Brown

*Dardanelle Garden Club
Nanettebrown1948@gmail.com*



NGC Calendar

National Conventions

2019	Biloxi, Miss., Apr. 30-May 5 (Installation)
2020	Milwaukee, Wis., May 11-14
2021	East Rutherford, N.J., May 17-20

Fall Board Meetings

2019	St. Louis, Mo., Sept 18-20
2020	Fargo, N.D., Sept. 24-26
2021	St. Louis, Mo., Dates TBD

GARDEN CLUB OF CRANFORD marks 91 years

The 26-member Garden Club of Cranford, Cranford, N.J., The Garden Club of New Jersey Inc., was organized in 1927. Members promote a love for the art of gardening, horticulture and floral design and support local civic, environmental, educational and charitable efforts.

Among the club's community projects include ongoing maintenance to the entrance of Cranford Public Library, the creation and maintenance of a water feature at a local community center, and providing fresh floral arrangements to accompany trays

Members of Garden Club of Cranford at the 90th anniversary celebration in 2017.



▲ The Butterfly Meadow in Hanson Park was created and is maintained by Garden Club of Cranford.

distributed to recipients of the Mobile Meals program, as well as for an annual academy prom. In addition to hosting flower shows and field trips, the club provides decorations for the annual holiday house tour and a party for a faith-based community outreach center. Members also collaborate on projects with the local park and library and raise funds for the club's annual scholarship program to support a local student pursuing a higher education degree in an environmental or horticultural field of study. ■

Rosemarie Cappucci

Chairman, Publicity
Garden Club of Cranford
cappuccisix@aol.com

Photos courtesy of Garden Club of Cranford

◀ Members maintain raised garden beds at Cranford Community Center.



ORGANIC
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ESPOMA ORGANIC AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS ARE PARTNERING TO HELP COMMUNITIES

Plant America!

Your local garden projects and programs provide inspiring opportunities that bring neighbors, cultures and generations together to share the experience and joy of gardening. As recognition of the valuable resource that your club contributes to your community, 20 local garden clubs across America will be awarded grants. Recipients will earn up to \$250 of Espoma Organic Plant Foods & Potting Soils. So be inspired America! Join our effort to Plant America Together. Register your garden club today! Sign up at: www.espoma.com/garden-clubs.



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Creative Floral Arrangers of America
Invites you to attend “*Art and Design*” at
CFAA SEMINAR 2019

February 21st – 24th
Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside

Featuring International Designer
CRAIG BULLOCK

Plus Programs by Designers

Lois and Friends
Andrea Little
Patricia Bowman
Sandra Nielsen



Craig Bullock, MA, International Floral Designer and Artist, is the youngest person to become a National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) demonstrator at age 24. He earned bachelors and master degrees from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2007 and is a judge of floral art. His creativity and showmanship have been featured in many books and magazines, most notably the NAFAS magazine, *The Flower Arranger*.

He enjoys working with natural materials and sees his floral work as an extension of his art work. Craig enjoys challenging ideas while respecting tradition. He has been awarded several Gold and Best in Show Awards at RHS Chelsea, UK National Competitions and International WFA Shows in New Zealand and Glasgow, and served as Area Chairman of the NAFAS North West Area. He was included in the organizing team for shows and exhibitions at Chicheley, Oxford, Canterbury and Southwark Cathedrals in 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Over the last 36 years, Craig has demonstrated and taught around the globe in Australia, Barbados, Belgium, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Kenya, Malta, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Spain, and the United States. CFAA is delighted to feature this amazing designer at Seminar 2019!

“Art and Design” with CRAIG BULLOCK
CFAA SEMINAR 2019

February 21st – 24th
Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside

5 Fantastic Design Programs
60+ Kaleidoscope Designs
Exciting Hands-on Workshops*
Networking with Top Designers
Fabulous Vendors!

Thursday, February 21st

Thelma Shoneman Workshop* “*Arranging Techniques*”
Craig Bullock Workshop* “*Canvas*”

Friday, February 22nd

Craig Bullock Workshop* “*Sculptural Forms*”
Barbara Jacobson Workshop* “*Drip, Drop and Discover*”
Dinner

Lois and Friends Design Program
“*Getting to Know You*”

Saturday, February 23rd

Andrea Little Design Program
“*The Art and Soul of Flowers*”
Lunch and Annual Meeting
Patricia Bowman Design Program
“*Contemporary Freestyle Ikebana*”
Dinner

Sandra Nielsen Design Program
“*Creativity in Floral Techniques*”

Sunday, February 24th

Craig Bullock Design Program
“*Art and Design*”
Lunch

Registration begins October 1, 2018

Full Seminar Registration \$325 (All programs and 4 meals)
Saturday 1-Day Registration \$225 (3 programs, lunch and dinner)
Seminar open to CFAA members only

For membership forms and seminar information, visit www.creativefloral.org or contact Maureen Tuber (407) 844-2882.

Registration forms will be available on the website October 1, 2018
*Advanced registration and additional fees are required for **ALL workshops**

'habitat forming'

GRANTS HELP GARDEN CLUB TRANSFORM LIBRARY HILLSIDE

Members of Shaler Garden Club in Glenshaw, Pa., Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania have collaborated with Shaler North Hills Library on many projects, including maintaining the gardens that surround the library and co-sponsoring a local community contest and garden tour.

This year, the garden club received an NGC Plant America Community Project Grant to revamp a steep, overgrown 1,000-square-foot hillside, within full view of the library's children's section, into a pollinator-friendly garden. In addition, the club received a grant to select garden tools toward the project as part of The Ames Companies Tool Grant partnership with NGC.

The project to clear the hillside, which contained compacted, nutrient-poor soil, weeds and aggressive groundcovers that choked out struggling perennials, began in May. The massive effort was undertaken by more than 25 Shaler Garden Club members and their spouses, as well as staff members of Shaler Township Parks and Recreation, who used a rototiller to clear the area. Volunteers then anchored layers of cardboard into place to suppress the regrowth of weeds and worked eight yards of organic matter into the soil before planting began. The Township also provided mulch. In addition, the project received donations of landscape rocks and bricks for edging the

foundation planting and a decorative bird bath. In all, a total of 275 hours of physical labor was required for this phase of the project. Club members unable to handle the physical demands of the project generously donated plants from their home gardens.

Nearly 300 new plants were added to the hillside. Designed for early, mid and late-season blooming, the plants include pollinator favorites, such as baptisia, penstemon, anise hyssop, bee balm, purple coneflowers, blue mist



▲ Funding from an NGC Plant America Community Project Grant and The Ames Companies Tool Grant helped Shaler Garden Club transform an overgrown hillside at Shaler North Hills Library in Glenshaw, Pa., into a pollinator-friendly garden.



flowers, goldenrod, liatris, Joe-Pye weed and milkweed. Annuals were placed as accents and for season-long flowering. Even a "puddling area" was added to provide a water supply for native pollinators.

The new area invites education and exploration. Signage and discovery stations identify plants (and the pollinators they attract), insects and provide information on composting. Garden club members will assist the library to host children's programs on topics such as beekeeping, tree and plant identification and the garden at night. As the hillside garden matures, educational programming will feature pruning, deadheading and the propagation of plants. In addition, the garden club recently applied for the project to be certified as a pollinator-friendly garden by Penn State Extension.

As project chairperson, and on behalf of Shaler Garden Club, I am thankful for the support of NGC and The Ames Tools Companies, which provided grants that made the library hillside transformation possible. ■

Claudia Bernardo

Co-president, Shaler Garden Club
claudiajbernardo@yahoo.com



Photos by Claudia Bernardo



PLANT AMERICA

National Garden Clubs

GROW YOUR PROJECT!

Do you have a community gardening project just waiting to get off – or out of – the ground?

Apply for an NGC Plant America Grant!

For guidelines and application form, visit www.gardenclubs.org

The deadline to apply for grants is October 15, 2018 for 2018-2019.

gardening SCHOOLS

As a recent transplant from the foothills in Northern California to the Ozarks in South Central Missouri, I was asked to compare my previous gardening experience to experiences in my new yard and how I put my Gardening Schools education to use.

We moved in December, 2017, from a Zone 7 to a Zone 6 growing environment.

And, as we gardeners are prone to do, I brought with me lots of seeds, bulbs and small up-rooted plants hastily dug up from my yard.

As winter deepened and local temperatures fell to zero degrees, I realized that the attached garage at my new home was not insulated, and many of the plants that were put in there for safe-keeping until warmer weather, had frozen solid. Among them, a water lily, which had been sitting in a large tub of water, became encased in a giant ice cube! Fortunately, I stored dahlia tubers along with bulbs, and other frost-sensitive plants, in the basement. Most came through the winter just fine, and I was excited to see perennials and self-seeded annuals coming up in the yard in spring.

According to conventional wisdom, one should delay planting after the first year in a new home, but of course

I had to plant what I had brought with me! Fortunately, our new home came with an established yard, so the bones of the garden already were in place. I carefully planted all the survivors of the move, taking into consideration sun and wind exposure and locations of sprinkler heads. I added more mulch to keep the roots cool, the soil moist and to help

control the weeds that I knew were coming soon.

As I walked through the yard, I pulled out weeds that I easily recognized, but there were other plants I couldn't identify.

Scouring gardening books and performing research online was not

productive. A friend mentioned that a native plant society was meeting in my town, so I attended a meeting, toting my samples and pictures of unidentified plants. Members were very informative and described which plants had to go—and I pulled enough to fill a large garbage bag! Now I could start to enjoy my new yard.

Of course, I was unprepared for an encounter with and invasion by Japanese beetles in my yard. This pervasive insect has been in the area over 20 years, but arrived and has flourished in the town just four years ago. There are no natural

A box turtle stops to enjoy a tomato as it explores the garden. ▶



predators for these beetles in the U.S., but I've learned some wasps are efficient killers of these critters. Other treatments include applications of "Milky Spore," which was developed in the 1940s by the United States Department of Agriculture. It can last up to 15 years in the soil and is safe to use around people and pets and will not harm the environment. Other beneficial guests in the garden are local box turtles, which eat Japanese beetles. Unfortunately, they also love to consume immature gourds and vine-ripened tomatoes!

As we learn in NGC Gardening Schools, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an extremely effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management. A diversity of plants attracts a wide range of beneficial insects, which usually appear in the garden right before pests do. Many beneficial insects supplement their diet with pollen and nectar, so planting plenty of pollinator-friendly flowers encourages the "good" bugs to stick around to eat the "bad" bugs. In addition, early-blooming plants, especially those with tiny blossoms, such as carrots and parsley, attract beneficial insects to the yard in early spring. Later, beneficial insects will be attracted to plants with compound blossoms, such as yarrow and

Queen Anne's lace, as well as flowering herbs like lavender, sage, dill and fennel.

Blossoms of chrysanthemums contain pyrethrum, which frequently is used in natural insect repellents and can kill or repel many insects, including Japanese beetles. Several of these hardy plants thrived in our cold winter climate. In fact, I divided a clump, and now have many plants in different areas of the flower beds. I enjoy being able to grow new plants from the propagation methods learned in a Gardening School course. What could be better than a free plant that repels insects?! Other effective plants include petunias, which have sticky, hairy foliage that captures insects, including Japanese beetles. An added benefit is as the insect decomposes, the plant uses the nutrients released.

If you discover unwanted insects in your garden, please consider incorporating Integrated Pest Management solutions!

Josephine Goodenow

Master Gardening Consultant
Gardening Schools Accrediting Chairman for
Pacific and South Central Regions
josephinegoodenow@gmail.com

Barbara Hadsell

Chairman, Gardening Schools
barbarahadsell@cs.com

landscape DESIGN SCHOOLS

Many students derive satisfaction from attending NGC's Landscape Design Schools. Let us know what you think! Twenty-one upcoming courses in 14 states currently are registered. Additional states are considering planning courses.

Landscape Design Schools Course 1 in the state of Kentucky was held at The Baker Arboretum and Downing Museum in Bowling Green. The course offered engaging speakers on topics that prompted questions and comments from eager students. The students expressed they can't wait for Course 2!

Forty-six people registered two weeks prior to an upcoming Course 2 in North Carolina. Linda McLendon, LDS state chairman, aggressively markets to members, district and state committees, the state Master Gardener official, posts information at church, carries extra registration forms with her at all times, and shares information with those involved in all of her other activities. Her efforts are a great example of "if you get the word out, they will come"! In addition, wonderful instructors who interact with students are another positive.

Isn't it time for your club, district or state to plan a Landscape Design School? For support and assistance, enlist the help of local LDS consultants who are knowledgeable about the school, curriculum and administration.

“if you get the word out, they will come!”

News and reminders:

- Linda McLendon joined the NGC LDS Committee as a Reading Exam Chairman.
- The directory of the NGC LD Schools Committee and LD Schools and Council Chairmen recently was updated, distributed and posted on the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org
- Submit event registration forms as soon as you know the date and location of your event. This gets it posted to the NGC website.

- Consultants should be familiar with their Good Standing Dates, the date to which consultant status remains in force. Refresh or request an extension before that date (December 31 of whatever year), so

that your status does not lapse.

- Use the fillable forms on the NGC website for all school administration and transmit forms by email. This eliminates the need for copies and postage, gets the required information to the appropriate people, and facilitates the tracking of information.

Read and share LDS news in The National Gardener and Newscape, the LDS newsletter. We welcome your news and photos to be shared with others.

Greg Pokorski

Chairman
Landscape Design Schools News
GregPokorski@earthlink.net

Flower Show

SCHOOLS NEWS

“At any season, one only sees part of the symphony, just one movement. Flower gardening is an ephemeral art, like music and dance..”

- JIM VAN SWEDEN

Q The Scale of Points for Evaluating a Flower Show assigns four points to the inclusion of Youth/Sponsored Groups and Botanical Arts. If either of these is not present, should Evaluating Judges penalize the show by subtracting either 2 or 4 points because one or both was omitted?

No, no, definitely not! The Scales of Points for Evaluating Flower Shows are listed on the NGC website under Flower Show Schools and Forms: 30S, 30D and 30H. The Education Division MUST be included, but the other two Divisions are optional. If the show has met requirements by choosing to include only Educational exhibits, the points assigned the optional divisions should be absorbed in the total score or the final score could be prorated and based on a percentage of the remaining points. Either way, Judges must not penalize for omitting something that is not required.

Q It's great that any level of Accredited Judge can easily earn a judging credit by serving on the Master Panel at a school or symposium. Does he/she need to serve on both the Horticulture and

Design panels, or just one or the other?

No, one or the other is sufficient. (As many as four judges may earn Judging credits at any one school or symposium.) However, to assume this is an easy task could be self-defeating. The written point scoring exams of the Master Panel Judges come under scrutiny of the Instructor, just as the students' exams do. The comments of Master Panel Judges must be clear, concise, complete and correct. The Instructor expects the Master Panel Judges' comments to be just as carefully written as those of the students. It is possible for a Master Panel Judge to fail the exam if comments are not appropriate. The Instructor will sign and date the Master Panel Point Scoring Exams, indicating when the exams passed with 75 points or more. These signed exams serve as proof of a judging credit.

Q Must Master Judges take the point scoring exams when auditing a symposium?

No, Master Judges are not required to take the point scoring exams when refreshing. It is important to remember that auditing Judges MUST be present

and attentive during the practice point scoring. The instructor may even invite participation from them!

Q As a Flower Show School Chairman, I get feedback from the students about the tremendous amount of material there is to learn for each course. How can I help my students be better prepared and less anxious?

If you follow the Checklist for Chairmen, posted on the NGC website under Flower Show Schools, you will note that the study guides for the students are to be in your hands for distribution to the students six weeks prior to the dates of the school. If you have not received them from the instructor by that time, contact the instructor and request they be sent immediately. Then, be sure to send them on to the students as soon as possible and when you do, emphasize that they are to be read and studied. The student has the responsibility to research the topics by doing the outside reading as well as consulting the Handbook pages indicated in the outlines. Advise students to sign up for the classes early so they receive their outlines in time for sufficient preparation. Having a pre-session, an informal gathering of registered students, may be beneficial to

familiarize them with terminology, and to make sure everyone has a current Handbook. Having a used book sale of required and recommended books on the reading lists is helpful.

Q I am a Student Judge, getting ready to take the next Handbook Exam. Personal circumstances made it necessary for me to interrupt for two years my journey to become a judge. Now, I am confused as to which exhibiting and judging credits "count." Help!

Refer to Handbook, Pp 113-116. All work must be completed within seven years from the time you take the first class until you pass the Handbook Exam. Exhibiting credits (blue ribbons or 90+ designations) earned after you have passed all parts of Course I and one other Course may be counted. Judging credits may be counted after all parts of Course I and two other Courses are passed. Because your time frame covers the years of two Handbooks being effective, the definition of a valid judging credit is based on which Handbook was current at the time.

Q I was fortunate last year and had the opportunity to earn several judging credits that I did not need to meet requirements

for refreshing this fall. How many of those "extra" credits may be applied towards the number needed for the next refresher?

HB, P 117, V. a. 4. For Accredited Judges, Level Two, only one excess judging credit earned in the year prior to refreshing (previous or current) may be used to fill the requirements for the next refresher which may be taken during any one of the following three years. If you earned credits in 2017 and Spring, 2018 and refreshed in Fall, 2018, you can use one judging credit from either 2017 or 2018 for the next refresher taken in 2019, 2020 or 2021. Note: Because in some areas judging opportunities are scarce, Judges, after meeting their number of credits for refreshing, should defer to other Judges, giving them opportunities to earn Judging Credits. The former group of Judges can judge parts of the show where needed, but that do not necessarily meet the number of classes required to count it as a judging credit. Accredited Life and Accredited Master Judges, because they need only one judging credit for each time they refresh, may not carry over any credits earned prior to the previous refresher.

Please note: The 2018 fall issue of The National Gardener is the last issue that will list dates of upcoming

schools and symposiums. Instead, the pages will be devoted to articles about educational events. In the future, the **information about planned schools and symposiums will be posted on the NGC website.** This way, the listings can be kept current and posted immediately upon receipt of the registrations.

I hear daily from all parts of the country. It is encouraging and rewarding to learn how NGC Judges and Student Judges strive to follow the Handbook's directives. A familiar statement is, "We want to do what's right, but sometimes need clarification on one item or another." That's fine. If you have a question, please feel free to contact me by e-mail, letter or phone anytime. If your message is somehow not received or overlooked and not answered within a reasonable time, please try again. Better to ask than to be unsure of correct procedure.

Enjoy the next movement of the "symphony!"

Dorothy Yard

*Chairman, Flower Show Schools
dotyard@verizon.net*

The National Gardener Schedule

WINTER

January, February, March
Articles due: November 1
Advertising due:
November 15

SPRING

April, May, June
Articles due: February 1
Advertising due:
February 15

SUMMER

July, August, September
Articles due: May 1
Advertising due: May 15

FALL

October, November,
December
Articles due: August 1
Advertising due: August 15

Environmental Schools

COURSE I

Enola, Pa.

March 14-15, 2019

Randy Layton,
gcfpweb@gmail.com,
570-454-7877

New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

March 19-20, 2019

Nancy Richards,
NancyRRichards@gmail.com

COURSE III

Columbia, Md.

April 3-4, 2019

Linda Harris,
lindaharris355@aol.com,
443-695-2071

Gardening Schools

COURSE I

Bradenton, Fla.

Jan. 28-29, 2019

Sheryl Perkins,
sl_perkins@hotmail.com,
941-744-7356

Houston, Texas

Feb. 12-13, 2019

Cheryl Lenert, lenert@flash.net,
281-255-9004

COURSE II

Raleigh, N.C.

Oct. 22-23

Linda McLendon,
McLendonL@aol.com,
919-736-1255

Jacksonville, Fla.

Oct. 29-30

Carolyn Stevens,
carolynhstevens@gmail.com,
904-247-8269

Griffin, Ga.

Jan. 18-19, 2019

Emily Wilbert,
themomemw@gmail.com,
770-502-8381

Bradenton, Fla.

Jan. 30-31, 2019

Sheryl Perkins,
sl_perkins@hotmail.com,
941-744-7356

Albuquerque, N.M.

Feb. 2-3, 2019

Debi Harrington,
photodebi@gmail.com,
505-206-0930

Boylston, Mass.

April 11-12, 2019

Linda Jean Smith,
lindajeane.smith@comcast.net,
978-256-3101

COURSE III

Griffin, Ga.

Nov. 2-3

Emily Wilbert,
themomemw@gmail.com,
770-502-8381

Hammond, La.

Nov. 6-7

Linda Brashier,
940frame@gmail.com,
985-293-7660

New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

Nov. 8-9

Sally Flanagan,
sfflan@aol.com,
386-428-3170

Jacksonville, Fla.

Feb. 4-5, 2019

Carolyn Stevens,
carolynhstevens@gmail.com,
904-247-8269

Bowling Green, Ky.

March 12-13, 2019

Jo Jean Scott,
jojogarden.34@gmail.com,
270-781-2089

Bradenton, Fla.

April 1-2, 2019

Sheryl Perkins,
sl_perkins@hotmail.com,
941-744-7356

Monroe, Mich.

May 7-8, 2019

Elizabeth Bohland,
lbohland@hotmail.com,
734-242-6313

Raleigh, N.C.

June 10-11, 2019

Linda McLendon,
McLendonL@aol.com,
919-736-1255

COURSE IV

Griffin, Ga.

Feb. 8-9, 2019

Emily Wilbert,
themomemw@gmail.com,
770-502-8381

New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

Feb. 12-13, 2019

Sally Flanagan,
sfflan@aol.com,
386-428-3170

Jacksonville, Fla.

March 4-5, 2019

Carolyn Stevens,
carolynhstevens@gmail.com,
904-247-8269

Exton, Pa.

March 25-26, 2019

Mary Jo Schломann,
mrsrags11@gmail.com,
610-269-8450

Bradenton, Fla.

April 3-4, 2019

Sheryl Perkins,
sl_perkins@hotmail.com,
941-744-7356

Columbia, Md.

Sept. 4-5, 2019

Linda Harris,
lindaharris355@aol.com,
443-695-2071

Raleigh, N.C.

Oct. 21-22, 2019

Linda McLendon,
McLendonL@aol.com,
919-736-1255

Monroe, Mich.

Oct. 22-23, 2019

Elizabeth Bohland,
lbohland@hotmail.com,
734-242-6313

Landscape Design Schools

COURSE I

Randolph, Mass.

Oct. 25-27

Sheila Swanwick,
Sheila.swanwick@outlook.com,
781-963-9152

Fort Myers, Fla.

Oct. 26-27

Pat Richardson,
ograpmat42@yahoo.com,
407-469-7082

Phoenix, Ariz.

Jan. 19-20, 2019

Judy Tolbert,
tolbertjl10@gmail.com,
602-421-5290

New Haven, Conn.

March 26-27, 2019

Susan Laursen,
sklaursen@aol.com,
203-415-2077

Richmond, Va.

April 8-9, 2019

Glenda Knowles, ggknowles@cox.net,
757-651-0401

COURSE II

Denver, Colo.

Nov. 16-17

Gail Fischer,
gailf_designs@yahoo.com,
303-809-7094

College Station, Texas

Feb. 25-26, 2019

Michele Wehrheim,
texaslandscapedesignschool@gmail.com,
313-649-1067

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College Station, Texas

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combining resources FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRI-REFRESHER

Augusta Council of Garden Clubs, of the Garden Club of Georgia Inc., held a Tri-Refresher in Augusta, Ga. The ACGC, comprised of 17 garden clubs with approximately 550 members, combined three events to maximize resources.

The ACGC Recollections of Augusta Standard Flower Show at historic Enterprise Mill provided the perfect setting for a scheduled dinner. Guests enjoyed a presentation by Tonya Bonitatibus, executive director of Savannah Riverkeeper, a nonprofit organization that provides education about clean water and works to restore the quality of the Savannah River in South Carolina and Georgia. Bonitatibus also addressed the environmental impact



▼ A garden on the Sacred Heart Garden Festival tour (right) and a landscape design exhibit.



of changing the natural course of a river and the importance of maintaining a river's natural bends to filter out impurities. In addition, she introduced a new program in which local U.S. veterans perform weekly water testing at multiple sites during the summer swimming season. ACGC also will sponsor testing at the Savannah River site next to a perennial garden the club maintains, which features heritage plants.

The flower show featured horticulture, floor, pedestal and petite designs, as well as educational exhibits about the history of the perennial garden. Other activities included an opportunity to make Kokedama moss balls and conservation

projects that promoted the use of recycled materials.

The third event was the two-day Sacred Heart Garden Festival, which featured indoor and outdoor exhibits, engaging speakers and tours of city gardens and a historic church.

In utilizing the resources offered through the festival, ACGC was able to keep Tri-Refresher registration fees reasonable to members. ■

Virginia Allen
 Tri-Refresher Chairman, Augusta Council of Garden Clubs
 vallenotr@aol.com

 **Photos by Virginia Allen**

THE *Happy* GARDENER'S *Guide*

- LEAVES + GRASS = GOLD? -

Each autumn, the leaves fall and the grass must be mowed one more time. It's a chore to rake, stow and tote those lawn and leaf bags to the curb or dump. Here's some good news: mix the chopped leaves and clipped grass and place the mixture in a simple four-foot by four-foot wire bin. By next spring, it will turn into "gold"—that is, "black gold," commonly known as compost. This nutrient rich by-product of microorganisms improves soil structure and helps retain moisture. Thankfully, bacteria and fungi do all this work for free!

Having "free" compost is in itself a boon, but the part I also value about having a compost bin is the role it plays in the winter: it's an excellent excuse to go outdoors and do something related to gardening. Aerating the organic matter aids in the decomposition. This is accomplished by turning/stirring the compost, which is mild work on a cold day that warms the body and reminds the gardener that when spring comes, the "black gold" will be ready for awakening perennials and for annuals that are yet to be.

I remember the first time I stuck my hand into a compost pile that was "cooking," and felt the warmth as the



steam escaped. What a wonder that small organisms that I can't even see were breaking down grass and leaves that are no longer beautiful. The transformation was the stuff my plants dream about—dark rich, crumbly earth that is easy on roots.

I should probably warn prospective "rot-managers," that once you try it, you may always be a composter. In fact, your composting habit may influence others in your circle. For example, my husband now supports my habit with donations from his annual chore of cleaning out

the rain gutters on the house. While this is not his favorite task, he now does so with a little more gusto, knowing that I appreciate his contribution to my pile. Once, a stalk of corn grew in the rain gutter—that speaks of its nutrient level!

Last, but not least, when my grandchildren come for a visit, they like to check out my compost bin to see if anything is "cooking." A

science lesson soon follows.

To compost, or not to compost? I urge the former! Don't let this opportunity to make gold for the garden slip away! ■

Charlotte A. Swanson

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'THE SAVED SEED' sows seeds of learning

“The Saved Seed,” NGC’s early-reader book, provides educators with the tools to introduce children to gardening.

Douglas County Garden Club, Castle Rock, Colo., donated “The Saved Seed,” to 22 Douglas County elementary

schools. The garden club received funding to purchase the books from the Tetta Johnson Foundation. Johnson was a founding member of the garden club in 1985. ■

Carol Grant
carolynjgrant@msn.com
Douglas County Garden Club,
Castle Rock, Colo.
Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

Photo courtesy of
Douglas County Garden Club



▲ Students in Misty Durante’s first-grade class at Sand Elementary School in Highlands Ranch, Colo., display their copy of “The Saved Seed.”

Copies of NGC’s “The Saved Seed” were purchased by Luray Garden Club in the Shenandoah District of Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc., and presented to area public libraries, as well as to each of four Page County elementary schools. ■

Loree Fisher
President, Luray Garden Club
lgfisherart@gmail.com

Photos courtesy of Luray Garden Club



▲ Courtney Dudley, an aspiring educator, reads the book to kindergarten students at Luray Elementary School.

Linda Dudley, a former elementary school educator and counselor, reads to fourth and fifth-grade students at Springfield Elementary School.



Students participated in planned hands-on learning activities and tasted “pepitás,” roasted pumpkin seeds. ▶

◀ Luray Garden Club member Linda Dudley presents a copy of “The Saved Seed” to Wendy Reid, librarian, Luray Elementary School.



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“The Saved Seed” was written by Brenda Moore, third vice president, National Garden Clubs Inc., and illustrated by Emily Lackey.

For more information, visit
www.gardenclub.org/projects/the-saved-seed.aspx

Landscape DESIGN

A GLORIOUS LAST HURRAH!

BY RUTH ROGERS CLAUSEN

The gardening season is winding down in many parts of the country, but that is no reason to put the tools and enthusiasm away. You might want to do a little trimming and cleaning up, but there are still plenty of late-blooming perennials and berry producing shrubs to decorate your landscape.

Flowers

Montauk or Nippon daisy (*Nipponanthemum nipponicum*) is one that really waits almost to the last minute to bloom. It is woody at the base, and if you don't prune it in spring, it can become quite tall with unsightly legs. The accompanying cinnamon-colored

YOUR GARDEN FROM LABOR DAY AND BEYOND

heads of sedum 'Autumn Joy' will hold up well for several months depending upon zone and weather conditions. It may be well into the new year before you need to finally clean it up. In some regions, by then, you will already see new young shoots at the crown. Another fall winner is ajania, *Ajania pacifica* [*syn. Chrysanthemum pacificum*] with its frosty-rimmed foliage and bright yellow, button flower heads of bloom. These are attractive alongside late chrysanthemums well into fall. They also are good companions for hostas and echo the color of their dying foliage. Ornamental onions have become all the



LEFT: Low-growing cyclamen; RIGHT: 'Lilac Wonder'

rage recently. *Allium thunbergii* 'Ozawa' and A. t. 'Album' start to bud in late August in Zone 6, and by early September start to show color. By this time, the triangular grassy leaves have started to turn orange. The purplish flowers dry and remain on the plant through cold weather and even light snow; they have decorated my holiday table on more than one occasion. The white form is less robust, but equally beautiful.

Bulbs

We are all familiar with the bulbs of spring, but fall blooming ones often bring a new dimension to autumn gardens. Low growing cyclamen, both *C. hederifolium* and *C. coum* bring color to shaded areas, especially under deciduous trees, and decorate the ground for several months with their intricately marked leaves. Try colchicums, too.

Sometimes mistakenly called autumn crocus, they bloom at the same time and are often called "naked ladies," since their foliage appears in spring. *Colchicum* 'Lilac Wonder' is popular, as is white *Colchicum speciosum* 'Album.'

Seed heads

When cleaning up in fall, don't be too diligent. Many seed heads not only offer architectural interest, but provide food for seed-eating birds and cover for those who spend the winter. Purple coneflowers bloom from mid-summer through fall and provide pollen and nectar for numerous butterfly species including red admirals, black swallowtails and silver-spotted red skippers. Hummers and plenty of insects are frequent visitors. The prickly gray heads of sea holly provide an architectural foil for the late flower clusters of native blue mistflower or perennial ageratum (*Conoclinium coelestinum*). It is a source of nectar for many insects, but especially for late migrating butterflies including monarchs.

Ornamental grasses

Ornamental grasses come into their own as nights cool. Bold *Miscanthus* plumes play off against rusty smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria*) foliage in Central Park, New York City, N.Y. Be aware that *Miscanthus* species, sometimes called eulalia grass, garner a bad reputation for seeding about and becoming invasive. Check with your local co-op extension office to determine if these beauties are



LEFT: Ajania; TOP CENTER: Montauk or Nippon daisy; BOTTOM CENTER: Allium 'Album'; RIGHT: Allium 'Ozawa'



▲ Miscanthus with Rusty smokebush

a problem in your area. When planning your garden, it is wise to think about how your design will play later in the year, after bloom time. Always consider possible shrubs and perennials. Arkansas bluestar (*Amsonia hubrechtii*) with its fine, delicate foliage and golden fall finery, creates a striking picture when combined with dwarf blue spruce. Later, the brilliant gold bluestar leaves darken, but provide an effective background for the cottony seed heads of Japanese anemones.

Fruiting shrubs

Beach rose (*Rosa rugosa*), is found growing wild on many beaches around the U.S., but also is grown as an ornamental, especially as its perfume is sublime, and it is seldom browsed by deer. Bloom may continue during mild

weather well into fall, at which time it is also laden with brightly colored fruits or hips. These are not only attractive, but provide needed food for birds and mammals. It has good disease resistance, but tends to sucker, which may not work well in small gardens. Beach roses are excellent as a spiny screen or hedge plant, especially in coastal regions.

Native Eastern winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is certainly a star of the fall and winter scene. Even before it drops leaves, the berries are bright and shiny to attract birds. Since the plants are separate male and female, you will need at least a single male to pollinate a dozen or so females to enjoy a crop of berries. Cultivars often are named to indicate their sex as in 'Rhett Butler,' that pollinates 'Scarlett O'Hara!' There are many cultivars available, some with yellow berries. Cut, berried branches have become popular items for holiday pots and indoor decorations. Pruning will result in the loss of flowering and berries, so only do so to shape a specimen. At the front of the bed, late-blooming smooth asters *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* 'October Skies' remain colorful.

In late summer going into fall, deciduous tea viburnum (*Viburnum*

setigerum) carries heavy drooping clusters of orange red fruit. Among the best of the viburnums for fruiting, it grows to 12 feet or so tall when mature. The bluish-green foliage colors pale orange in fall. Formerly it was made into a tea. It is always a surprise when the berries of beauty bush (*Callicarpa dichotoma*) from Asia color up. Small, brilliant purple berries follow rather insignificant pink flowers earlier in the year. Unfortunately, deer are quite fond of both this species, and its handsome cousin American beauty bush (*C. americana*).

Combos

Combinations of plants that are good-looking during the waning of the year attract attention even when there is little color from flowers or berries. The gray, twisted stems of Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) act as a veil

for the reddish oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) behind. Miscanthus grass provides height and its plumes provide a color echo for the Russian sage.

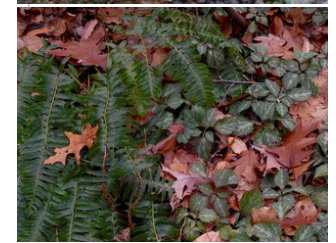
Even in winter, there are interesting vignettes that amuse the diligent gardener. In December at the United States National Arboretum in Washington D.C., evergreen native Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) makes a fine contrast and companion for Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*). The latter is not evergreen except in mild zones, but is an underused herbaceous perennial groundcover, perfect for native plant or wild gardens. It spreads by rhizomes. Young foliage is mottled. In spring, it blooms with showy spikes of fragrant, pinkish white flowers.

So, remember that gardens need tending from New Year's Day to New Year's Eve. You'll benefit from every moment of it. ■

Photos by Ruth Rogers Clausen



Ruth Rogers Clausen was trained in horticulture in the U.K, and has been in the in-



▲ TOP: Russian sage with oakleaf hydrangea; BOTTOM: Christmas fern and Allegheny spurge

dustry for more than 60 years. She is the author of several gardening books, including the 2015 "Essential Perennials," co-authored with Thomas Christopher. She also is a popular lecturer. Clausen served as horticulture editor for "Country Living Gardener" for more than seven years. Currently, she writes the "Plantings" column for "Country Gardens" magazine. In 2017, Clausen received the Garden Media Award from the Perennial Plant Association. She is a member of the Corporation for the New York Botanical Garden and is on the Board of Directors for Delaware Botanic Gardens @ Pepper Creek in southern Delaware.



◀ LEFT TO RIGHT: Beauty Bush, Deciduous tea viburnum, Eastern native winterberry, Beach Rose.

2018 SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL poster contest

Congratulations to Rylee Jackson, winner of the 2018 NGC Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Rylee was sponsored by Southern California Garden Club, Encino, Calif. In addition to the national winning poster, the club also sponsored first-place winning posters in the first, second and fourth-grade categories. The garden club, a member of California Garden Clubs Inc., recently celebrated the 91st anniversary of its founding.

The NGC Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest is offered each year to elementary school students in first through fifth grade. The contest marks the collaboration of NGC and the United States Forest Service, a partnership that has spanned over 50 years. The contest encourages budding artists to express their talents and understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles in a colorful poster that features Smokey Bear, America's icon for fire prevention or Woodsy Owl, which promotes environmental conservation. ■

Southern California Garden Club members greet Woodsy Owl at NGC's 89th Annual Convention in May in Philadelphia, Pa. From left to right: Robin Pokorski, Gail Vanderhorst, Greg Pokorski, Carol Vallens and Alexis Slafer. Photo courtesy SCGC.



▲ TOP: Rylee Jackson displays her winning poster for the 2018 NGC Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Joining Rylee are members of her family, Harriett Vallens SCGC youth chairman, and Greg Pokorski, club president. Photo by Diana Eishakhanian.



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