

September/October 2019

Keeping In Touch



**National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110 314-776-7574 gardenclub.org**

President's Postcard

GAY AUSTIN

Our prolific summer growing season is nearing the end, as we have enjoyed the garden grown floral beauty and delicious vegetable harvests during this rapid growing season. With the fall season just around the corner, we will enjoy cooler temperatures and shorter days but will still benefit from other types of enjoyable garden beauty. Most members have taken some time off from regular garden club meetings and programs but are now anticipating a busy season of activities ahead.

I was honored to participate with the USDA Forest Service's Smokey Bear's 75th Birthday celebration, which was held in Washington DC, on August 9, 2019. Several local garden club leaders also attended. Nationwide, volunteers from our organization invest time outreaching to communities, schools and after-school programs, engaging and encouraging children to participate in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster contest.

Youth participation continues to produce over 18,000 children's posters for this competition. The 2019 NGC grand prizewinner was Penny Atkinson, a 4th grader sponsored by the Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. She was given special recognition by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service at this special event.

As we anticipate future events, please consider attending and participating in the World Association of Floral Artists. The 13th WAFA World Flower Show Grand Floral Affair 2020 is a five-day flower show, featuring a panorama of workshops, competitions, demonstrations and exhibitions.

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Youth in Shows

JAN WARSHAUER

A wonderful part about having an NGC Flower Show is the Youth Division. This division is for young people through age 18 and is described in the Handbook for Flower Shows, Chapter 9. It is a special opportunity for young gardeners and designers to learn and show their special talents.

Their exhibits are judged in a similar manner as the adult divisions. They are eligible to win class awards and Youth Top Exhibitor Awards according to the requirements listed in Chapter 5 of the Handbook.

"Youth can be a part of an adult Flower Show or it can be a Youth Standard Flower Show/Youth Small Standard Flower Show/Youth Specialty Show, sponsored by an NGC Youth garden club, or youth group, or cosponsored with an NGC adult garden club." Handbook page 88.

"Youth Educational Exhibits require a minimum of six square feet and may be created by more than one youth." How about an Educational Exhibit celebrating Smokey Bear's 75th birthday?

Draw our youth toward the enjoyment of being a part of a garden club through the involvement in flower shows.

"Youth can be a part of an adult Flower Show or it can be a Youth Standard Flower Show, Youth Small Standard Flower Show or Youth Specialty Show."



Youth Sculptures

TERRY CRITCHLOW

The NGC Youth Recyclable Sculpture Contest is a fun way to help our youth become aware of the need to reuse and recycle. Every kid loves to build things, do crafts and create their own ideas. Make this contest an activity in your youth groups, complete with a lesson plan focusing on recycling and the reason to recycle. Make the lesson relate to your area. Past contest entries show local interests: from the Deep South – crabs, puffer fish and birds; from the Pacific – robots, planes and boats; from Central comes tractors, windmills and tin men and from Rocky Mountain - race cars, lanterns, falcons and waterfalls - anything goes!

Working with grades 4 – 8, the contest is simple. The only restriction is size. The size of the sculpture base must fit within an 8.5 X 11.5 rectangle = standard letter size paper. The height is unrestricted. Entries must include two 4 X 6 photos with background objects eliminated. Ask the creator to write a short description of the inspiration for the sculpture. Send the entry to your state's Youth Recycled Sculpture Chair for judging by your deadline. For the entry form and more details visit <http://gardenclub.org/youth/youth-sculpture-contest.aspx>

President's Postcard, cont.

Floral artists from over 30 countries will be exhibiting and competing. India is the host country, with the show being held in the beautiful city of Jaipur, from February 26 – March 1, 2020. For more information: www.wafaindia.com

The Website Development Committee has begun its task of creating our new NGC website. They are working with a website development company to redesign our website to modernize the look and feel. We want to improve the user's experience and attract a younger generation of gardening enthusiasts to ensure the NGC legacy continues to grow and strengthen. As this develops, we will share information with you, our members, so that you can take advantage of this new NGC venture. Continue to visit our existing website for all your NGC questions: www.gardenclub.org

As NGC President, the most enjoyable part of my position, is visiting and meeting garden club members from across our nation and world. Our organization is guaranteed future success, due to the dedication of our members. As we PLANT AMERICA with seeds of service, let us maintain an enthusiastic attitude, as this is a key to success. We are "Reconnecting with Nature" through conservation, strengthening our existing membership and reaching out to potential new members, while ensuring our future by involving youth. Thank you for your continued dedication.



Bookworm Gardens, Sheboygan WI



2018 Youth Sculpture Winner: Coral Jacques



2018 Youth Sculpture 2nd: Jacob Hagin

Youth Contests

TRICIA MITCHELL

National Garden Clubs provides many educational opportunities through competitions for the youth at the pre-school, elementary, middle, and high school levels. We encourage all clubs to invest in our Youth. Current contests are listed below and individual contest rules can be found on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. site at <http://gardenclub.org/youth/youth-contests.aspx>

- ★ **Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl:** Grades 1-5 students create original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl to show their understanding of fire prevention and basic environmental principles.
- ★ **High School Essay:** *Challenges in Preserving our Natural Habitats* is this year's theme. This contest is open to all high school students.
- ★ **Poetry:** *Adventure in the Garden*, NGC's Poetry Contest, is open to students in kindergarten - ninth grade to enable youth to embrace their creativity through writing.
- ★ **High School Distinguished Service Project:** Students in grades 9-12 create an outstanding civic project with a significant improvement for public benefit, e.g. environment, conservation, landscape, horticulture, recycling, horticulture therapy, etc.
- ★ **Youth Sculpture:** Children in grades 4 – 8 are eligible to enter this contest that encourages students to keep our planet green and get involved with saving the environment.
- ★ **Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant:** Open to all garden clubs working with youth clubs or groups planning and planting Pollinator Gardens. Grants, up to \$200, are available for projects that include educational materials on the vital role pollinators play in nature and youth involvement in planning and planting gardens providing nesting and food sources for pollinators.



Bookworm Gardens, Sheboygan WI





PLANT AMERICA

DAVID ROBSON

Not all PLANT AMERICA grants are for a physical presence such as a hard-scape, garden renovation, landscaping or Blue Star Memorial plantings. One of the aspects of the grants is “a horticultural or environmental event for the public.”

The Town and Country Garden Club of Libertyville (Illinois) is using the grant to bring Mike MacDonald, a nationally acclaimed nature author, conservationist, photographer and humorist to an event in November 2019. MacDonald is well-known in the Chicagoland area, focusing more on the wilderness areas in the vast suburban landscape. His goals are to increase the gardener’s awareness of the beauty of native flowers and natural gardens. Town and Country Garden Club of Libertyville is prominently promoting the event as part of the PLANT AMERICA program, using the logo in their printed and online publicity.

Remember, PLANT AMERICA grant application deadline is OCTOBER 15, 2019. Application information can be found at: <http://gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-community-project-grants.aspx>

Germantown GC & Espoma Product



PLANT AMERICA - ESPOMA GRANTS - JUDY BINNS

Espoma has partnered with National Garden Clubs to provide grants for \$250 of Espoma products for up to 20 NGC clubs annually. Since its inception, over 35 grants have been awarded to clubs in 22 states. These creative NGC clubs have used this resource to beautify their local communities and improve the quality of life for their friends and neighbors. Plan now to apply for the Espoma - PLANT AMERICA Grants this year. Applications are accepted from October 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020. Complete information on how to apply is available on <http://gardenclub.org/projects/espoma.aspx>

Congratulations to the following NGC clubs who were awarded Espoma - PLANT AMERICA Grants from 2017-2019: Palos Park Garden Guild I-IL, Hobart Garden Club-IN, Huntington Beach Tree Society, Inc.-CA, Ayr Hill Garden Club-VA, Camellia Garden Club of Greater Charleston-SC, Azalea Garden Club Enterprise-AL, Thomas Jefferson Garden Club-VA, Wall Township Garden Club-NJ, Cadillac Garden Club-MI, Wellington Garden Club-FL, Garden Club of Clarion County-PA, Roselle Park District Garden Club-IL, Bow Garden Club-NH, Cress Creek Garden Club-IL, Kerrville Garden Club-TX, Garden Lovers Club-TN, Camden Garden Club-AR, Bellmere Garden Club-GA, Schaumburg Community Garden Club-IL, Mountain Laurel Garden Club-MD, Big Rapids Garden Club-MI, Lake Bloomers Garden Club-MO, Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club-MO, Garden Club of Garden County-NE, Garden Club of Long Valley-NJ, Dix Hills Garden Club-NY, Germantown Garden Club-TN, Oshkosh Garden Club-WI, O'Fallon Garden-IL, Bay Shore Garden Club-NY, Hearthstone Garden Club-TX, Dekalb Federation of Garden Clubs (Morning Glories-local club)-GA, Garden Gate Study Club-LA, Ramblers Garden Club-KY, Naperville Garden Club-IL, Butler Garden Club-PA, Grow & Show Garden Club-NJ

Out and About

INFORMATION FROM AROUND NGC, INC.

CAUTION: MAD SCIENTISTS AT WORK

Sheryl Perkins

Beyond the Spectrum, a non-profit therapeutic clinic and education center for children with autism and other disabilities, invited the Lakewood Ranch Garden Club (LWRGC) to host several classes on July 16, 2019 at their Education Center in Lakewood Ranch for Summer Camp. Their theme for the week was "Mad Scientist."

The mad science theme, Apollo 11, provided students with awareness of recycling plastic, soil, watering, plant care and building a themed rocket planter. Sheryl Perkins, NGC Gardening and Landscape Design Consultant, facilitated the classes supported by members of LWRGC working one on one with the students.

The members collected recyclable items: soda bottles, milk jugs, paper towel and toilet paper rolls. Once all items were collected, they met to make the rockets. They cut out the patterns for the rocket design, started coloring and assembling the rockets by pasting and taping. The members placed a large rock in the bottom of the container to provide weight. They inserted twine in the soil draping it into the water, so twine would act like roots of the plants to absorb the water. They then placed the plant on the top of the container.

The class began with an overview picture presentation of Apollo 11 mission taking off from earth, in space, landing on the moon, and Neil Armstrong walking on the moon. Following the presentation, the students placed the wired ribbon into the plant to stimulate fire from the rocket, and then placed the rocket on top of the plant. Students, who further customized their own rocket, received stars. After all children were finished with the rocket planter, LWRGC members gave each student a paper straw and a paper rocket. When all were ready, we had a countdown, 3, 2, 1, BLAST-OFF! Students blew into their paper straw and their rockets launched into the air.

In addition to launching their own paper rockets into the air, the 30 students were included in the Global Rocket Launch Program, held on July 16, helping to break a Guinness World Record, of over 5,000 rockets being launched, worldwide. <https://www.space.com/apollo-11-model-rocket-launch-world-record-video.html> It was a very successful day and the students were all smiles and delighted as they left the classroom with their new knowledge of the space program and joys of taking care of their rocket planter.



Beyond the Spectrum Mad Scientist Class

Out and About

INFORMATION FROM AROUND NGC, INC.

AMES TO PLEASE...AND THEY SURELY DID!

Flossie Narducci

Two-hundred and four garden clubs applied for the 2019 Ames Tool Grant Program...close to twice the number that had applied the previous year. Twenty-one clubs from sixteen states were awarded a grant. The Garden Club projects are impressive using these much-needed tools to beautify their local communities. They have installed plantings at historic sites, maintained a healing garden at a local hospital, revitalized a walking trail, established a community garden to provide fresh produce for a local food pantry, installed a wetland garden as a demonstration for a solution for storm water management, planted school gardens and served as mentors to youngsters..... just to name a few. Once again, our heartfelt thanks to Ames whose generosity has provided a "win-win" situation for Ames, NGC, Inc. and member clubs.

The Charleston's Magnolia Garden Club in MS was one of the recipients of the 2019 Ames Tool Grant Program. The Club has collaborated with the James C. Kennedy Wellness Center to build a healing garden. CMGC had recently established a youth garden club to involve young people in the planting of this garden as well as other of the Club's gardening projects. Here are some of the youngsters showing a "Two Thumbs Up" after receiving their Ames tools.



Charleston's Magnolia Garden Club, MS

Tips & Tricks

Tips & Tricks is a new feature of KIT featuring practical information from members to members. Please **send your** special tip for gardening, landscaping, helping the environment, showing or judging at flower shows, improving club meetings, etc. We will use your tips as space permits. Photos of your tip or trick are welcomed and encouraged.

★ **A number of years ago, Mound Vue Garden Club partnered with the local grocery store, Millers, to reduce the amount of plastic bags in the environment. When customers bring in their own bag, Millers will refund or donate a dime per bag to our Save a Tree, Plant a Tree program to benefit the Mount Horeb community. Once a month Millers sends a check, which is placed in a restricted fund meant to buy or replace trees in the village. Mound Vue Garden Club, annually, transfers this money to the village for tree planting. To date, we have donated over \$20,000!**

Sylvia Lowell, Wisconsin



Awards

PAT YOUNG

Are you one of those club members whose state president came home from the national convention with an armload of national awards, and you have no idea what a first place in "Award MP-4 (a)(ii) (6)" means? It is not as difficult and you might think. The terminology above means your club won first place in **M**embership and **P**romotion (the "MP"), for a Video/CD/DVD/Flash Drive (the "4"), for a single member (the "a"), medium club (the "ii"), for a project (the "6").

NGC awards are broken down in several different ways: single member club, group of clubs, state garden club or national affiliate, size of the organization, focus of a project and type of project within an award category. NGC awards information is available on the NGC web site. Reading the information over once, or twice, helps to familiarize the terminology.

All applications begin at the local level, the correct spelling of club and individual names on applications is extremely important. Member clubs send their applications to their state awards chair. Only the state awards chair may submit applications to NGC on a club's behalf. Applications for general awards must be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2020. (The website lists any exceptions to this rule.) State awards chairs note: the NGC Award Application is now to be used as a cover sheet, with three printed pages to follow. This fillable form is user-friendly, allowing more space for pertinent information. The form is on the website, along with an example.

We have many new sponsors for monetary awards, and we are looking for more. If an individual or club would like to sponsor an award, please contact Debby Cooper coopcooper@aol.com. The awards process begins soon, and the Awards Committee members are here to help. Good luck!

Perfect Vision Flower Show

DAVID ROBSON

The draft schedule for the Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show *Perfect Vision* is posted on the NGC webpage in the members section. The sections and classes are set. The flower show will be held in conjunction with the NGC Annual Convention in Milwaukee next May. Reading the schedule, now, gives you a chance to go through catalogs and order petite spring bulbs and plants, getting them in the ground this fall. You may want to start planning on your combination planters including Kokodama balls. Maybe you want to start selecting and grooming your woody ornamentals so that central leader is strong, and the form balanced. Check back in early January 2020 for the final schedule.



MEMBERSHIP-SHARE THE NEED

- Becky Hassebrook
Why Join?

- ★ Invitation by a friend
- ★ Desire to learn
- ★ Participate in community projects
- ★ Heard it was FUN!

If your members don't feel needed, though, you may eventually lose them. Show your members you need them!

New Members

- ★ Give them a welcome packet so they know what you're about
- ★ Assign them a mentor
- ★ Get them involved

Current Members

- ★ Recognize their accomplishments
- ★ Ask for and respect their opinion
- ★ Let them know the importance of their knowledge
- ★ Say thank you
- ★ Keep them involved

Members Drifted Away

- ★ Reach out to them
- ★ Let them know how much they are needed and missed
- ★ Praise their past accomplishments
- ★ Get them involved again

Everyone needs to know they're needed. Remember that *Members Matter Most!* For assistance, please contact your NGC Membership Committee NGCMemberships@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PRESIDENT GAY?

Sept 5 - 8	Nebraska State Meeting	Gering, NE
Sept 17 - 20	NGC Fall Board Meeting	St. Louis, MO
Sept 24 - 26	New Hampshire State Meeting	Lee, NH
Oct 6 - 9	Central Region Meeting	St. Louis, MO
Oct 15 - 16	Mississippi Fall Board Meeting	Starkville, MS
Oct 20 - 26	International Flower Show	Santiago, Chili
Nov 2 - 5	New Jersey Fall Board Meeting	Bridgewater, NJ

SCHOOLS THROUGH OCTOBER- START DATES

Environmental School

Sept 16	CR 3	Leanna McRill	IL
Sept 30	CR 1	Gwen Lanoux	LA
Oct 2	CR 2	Gwen Lanoux	LA
Oct 15	CR 2	Judy Page	MI
Oct 18	CR 3	Gerianne Holzman	WI

Flower Show School

Sept 6	CR 4	Lynnette Rakun	WI
Sept 9	CR 1	Pat Carswell	VA
Sept 16	CR 4	Jody Rogers	TX
Sept 17	CR 4	Reba Mackey	LA
Sept 23	CR 2	Susie Middleton	MD
Sept 25	CR 2	Jean Englemann	NV
Sept 26	CR 2	Wanda Copley	TN
Oct 1	CR 1	Carol Ullerich	KY
Oct 8	CR 2	Joyce Cochran	TX
Oct 8	CR 2	Carole Whited	TN
Oct 12	CR 2	Carol Norquist	AK
Oct 14	CR 4	Sharon Vasquez	NY
Oct 16	CR 1	Jill D. Malcolm	MA
Oct 16	CR 4	Deborah Osborne	CT

Gardening School

Sept 3	CR 1	Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	OH
Sept 3	CR 2	Cheryl Cappiali	CT
Sept 4	CR 4	Linda Harris	MD
Sept 12	CR 2	Ada Mae Lewis	IA
Sept 24	CR 1	Linda Broussard	LA
Sept 24	CR 4	Jo Jean Scott	KY
Sept 30	CR 2	Debbie Angel	WA
Oct 1	CR 2	Beverly Kazickas	NJ
Oct 17	CR 1	Mary Jane Schlomann	PA
Oct 21	CR 4	Linda McLendon	NC
Oct 22	CR 4	Marilyn Hartley-Kik	MI



VP Donna, President Gay, VP's Mary & Brenda

Landscape Design School

Sept 10	CR 3	Josie Raborar	MO
Sept 23	CR 3	Michele Wehrheim	TX
Sept 30	CR 2	Glenda Knowles	VA
Oct 9	CR 2	Roberta S. Dubeshter	NY
Oct 9	CR 3	Jim Mullen	KY
Oct 21	CR 2	Dorie Lederer	IL
Oct 24	CR 2	Georgia Papvasiliou	MA
Oct 25	CR 3	Vicki Williamson	FL
Oct 29	CR 1	Debbie Sickmiller	OH

Multiple Refreshers

None listed through October.

Flower Show Symposium

Sept 9	Rose Knight	AR
Sept 13	Barbara Mikkelsen	MN
Sept 15	Jinny Marino	NC
Sept 23	Lynn Dinvald	MI
Sept 24	Laurel DeBoer	IL
Oct 7	Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich	OH
Oct 26	Poss Tarpley	VA
Oct 27	Christy Linke	FL

See [NGC website](#) for more information on all schools, refreshers and symposiums.

Acknowledgements

CONTRIBUTORS

Gay Austin, NGC President
 Terry Critchlow, Youth Recyclable Sculpture Contest
 Barbara Hadsell, Gardening School Chair
 Becky Hassebroek, Membership Chair
 Tricia Mitchell, Youth Awards Chair
 Sylvia Lowell, Mound Vue Garden Club
 Flossie Narducci, Ames Tools Sponsorship Vice-Chair
 Sheryl Perkins, Lakewood Ranch Garden Club
 David Robson, PLANT AMERICA Chair/*Perfect Vision* FS Chair
 Jan Warshauer, Flower Show Schools Chair
 Pat Young, Awards Chair

STAFF

[Gerianne Holzman](#), Editor

[Ann Fiel](#), Assistant Editor

Gerry St. Peters, Joyce Bulington & Jan Sillik, Editorial Review

Coming in November/December: NGC Headquarters and staff profiles plus scholarships, horticulture, environment and special meeting tips.

YOUR contributions to KIT are always welcome. Please send interesting articles about your club and activities along with special tips & tricks.

Deadline: October 1, 2019. Send articles to geriannewgcf@gmail.com

Sitting on the Porch

GERIANNE HOLZMAN

Harvest time is when we can look back at all of our hard work over the spring and summer and enjoy the fruits of our labor. It may be canning and freezing the last of the vegetables or picking one last bouquet of flowers to dry for fall and winter designs.

As garden club members, we can also look back at what we have accomplished in our clubs and communities. As highlighted in this issue of *Keeping in Touch*, members continue to engage the young folks in their communities with school gardens, special hands-on projects and our wonderful NGC contests for artists, poets and writers. President Gay encour-

ages all of us to work with those younger than us to help keep our garden clubs thriving. It's not just youth who are our future, it is also the Millennials who are dedicated to the environment and are looking for a better world for their young children. Take time to harvest new members during this down time in the garden season. Please Keep in Touch!

***What are you planting today to
 harvest tomorrow?
 Lailah Gifty Akita***

Carrots, Dane County Farmers' Market

