



Keeping In Touch

AUGUST 2018



Nancy L. Hargroves
2017-2019 NGC President

Dear Members,

GOOD NEWS! **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grants will be available again during this administration due to the success of fundraising efforts and donations by individuals, clubs and states.

The deadline for applications is **October 15, 2018**. The clubs who received a **PLANT AMERICA** Grant in 2017-2018 will not be eligible to apply this year. Application forms and guidelines for the grants are available on the NGC website: www.gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-community-project-grants.aspx.

Another item that is on the NGC website is NGC's publication, **The National Gardener**. As a benefit of membership, every member of National Garden Clubs can read this publication on the MEMBER section of the website without having a subscription. To access it:

- Go to the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org
- At the top of the homepage, click on [Login Member](#)
- Put the word "member" into the USERNAME box
- Put the word "pumpkin" into the PASSWORD box
- Then click the SIGN IN box that will take you to the NGC MEMBERS SECTION page
- On the left side of the NGC MEMBERS SECTION page, click on the third item, **TNG Online**
- That will take you to the page, **THE NATIONAL GARDENER DIGITAL VERSION**



www.gardenclub.org

[NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.](#)

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From this page you will be able to view every issue of **The National Gardener** from July 2011 through to the most current issue. The **TNG** is posted online as soon as the copies are mailed from St. Louis, so you can actually access it earlier than most members receive it in the mail. Please be sure all of your members know that they have access to the MEMBER section of the NGC website by sharing the Username and Password with them in email blasts that go just to club members or by sharing it verbally at club meetings. It can be included in club newsletters only if the newsletters are not posted on your club's website that the public can view. If the newsletter is posted on a password protected section of the club's website, then the username and password can be included.

A question that many members have asked me in recent months is “can my club use the information on the NGC website on our state or club websites?” The answer is YES, as the website belongs to all NGC members. One method to consider is to use active hyperlinks to certain items of information on the NGC website from the club or state website instead of copying and pasting the information. That way, if NGC makes changes to the NGC website, changes don’t have to be made to the club or state website. An example would be to give just brief information about the Blue Star Memorial Marker program on your website and then have an active hyperlink to that page on the NGC website, <http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/blue-star-memorials.aspx>, telling the visitor to your website to visit that page for more detailed information and marker pricing. When prices change or there are changes to the Blue Star Program, NGC would make the changes on this page. Then anyone referring to it from your website is seeing the most current information, and there would be less updating for your website chairman.

Websites and social media are wonderful new tools that garden clubs have to help us carry out our educational mission. Information can be shared with our members and the public more quickly than ever before. Please take advantage of all the NGC website has to offer.

Nancy

Links to National Garden Clubs

Social Media —



We invite you to explore the NGC information available on the Internet and promote your club, state, region and NGC on social media.

President’s Travel Schedule

- August 6-10, Convention of the International Affiliates of Central America, Panama City, Panama
- September 9-10, Garden Club of North Carolina, Fall Board Meeting, Fayetteville, NC
- September 11-13, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Fall Conference, Coming, NY
- September 26-29, National Garden Clubs, Fall Board Meeting, Orlando, FL
- October 9-12, Texas Garden Clubs, Fall Convention, Dallas, TX
- October 16-17, Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Fall Board Meeting, Starkville, MS
- October 25-26, New Mexico Garden Clubs, Fall Board Meeting, Alto/Ruidoso, NM

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Submissions for KIT are due October 1, 2018

PLANT AMERICA

COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

DEADLINE CHANGED to OCTOBER 15, 2018

Through the generous giving of many organizations and individuals, NGC President Nancy Hargroves is again able to offer **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grants to individual garden clubs across the United States for 2018-2019. If you have not applied or were not funded in the previous year, consider applying. Please note that the deadline has changed and applications are due by **October 15, 2018**.

Due to the tremendous response from individual garden clubs, it is obvious that garden clubs appreciate the opportunity to apply for funding to further their projects. It is a pleasure to read the applications and confirm what an impact garden club activities have in communities across America.



Plum Beach Garden Club in Rhode Island received a **PLANT AMERICA** Community Grant in 2018 to continue installation of daffodil bulbs around the town of New Kingstown.

Point scoring is used in order to judge applications on a level playing field. The difference may be determined by the overall contribution to the individual community, no matter whether the community be large or small or whether the project be large or small. Garden Clubs change communities for the better through education, promotion, beautification and much more. Members of garden clubs see a need and go into action. This NGC Administration's goal is to assist in that action.

Judging is difficult because the projects are so very worthy and heartfelt. To ensure that projects are judged equally, all applicants are expected to follow the Guidelines listed on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org. Reading and following the guidelines is imperative. Adhering to these Guidelines, that detail the directions for completing the application, enable proper consideration in the judging process for the many worthwhile projects across the country.

It is obvious that garden clubs take pride in the communities in which they live and that communities, in turn, respect garden club objectives and appreciate their involvement.

Visit the website, read the Guidelines, apply by October 15, 2018, and perhaps your garden club can be rewarded with funds to support new or ongoing projects.

Best of luck to all who apply!

- Betsy Steele, **PLANT AMERICA** Community Project Grants Committee

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL UPDATE

The 2017 Edition of Handbook for Flower Shows has been in effect for a year. During that time, many judges have contacted members of the Flower Show Schools Committee expressing concern about the perceived difficulty of gaining sufficient opportunities to earn Exhibiting and Judging Credits. In response to those questions, the parameters have been re-defined. Please refer to Handbook, pages 114-120.

I. The number of Exhibiting Credits and Judging Credits required for each for the first four levels of NGC Judges (Student Judge, Accredited Judge, Accredited Life Judge, Accredited Master Judge) remains unchanged.

II. The definitions of Exhibiting Credit and Judging Credit have been redefined:

- A. **Accredited Life Judge and Accredited Master Judge** may earn a **Horticulture Exhibiting Credit** by exhibiting in Horticulture Division, a Botanical Arts Horticulture Section or the Education Division.
- B. **Accredited Life Judge and Accredited Master Judge** may earn a **Design Exhibiting Credit** by exhibiting in the Design Division, a Botanical Arts Design Section (Exploration designs not included) or the Education Division.
- C. **Judging Credit: Student Judge, Accredited Judge, Accredited Life Judge, Accredited Master Judge**
Defined as one of the following options:
 - 1. 3 classes Horticulture, 3 classes Design in an NGC Standard Flower Show or Small Standard Flower Show.
 - 2. **2 classes Horticulture, 2 classes Design and 1 class in Botanical Arts Horticulture or Botanical Arts Design, Competitive Youth or Competitive Education Divisions as needed to complete the 3 classes each of Horticulture and Design in a Small Standard or Standard Flower Show.**
 - 3. Judging 6 classes in an NGC Specialty Flower Show remains the same.

III. Judging Credits may be accrued over two shows.

- A. **Judges may judge part of the required number of classes in one show and earn the remainder in a second show.** Final tally must fulfill one of the first two options as stated above.
- B. **It is the responsibility of Judges to keep accurate records of their exhibiting and judging credits.** Ribbons and schedules should be kept as proof of fulfilling the exhibiting and judging requirements when applying to the State Credentials Chairman on the proper form to attend a refresher for credit. The Flower Show Chairman is not responsible for keeping those records for you.

IV. Evaluating Panels for NGC Flower Shows with intent to apply for NGC Flower Show Achievement Award. Reminders to all Flower Show Chairmen, Judges Chairmen and Evaluating Judges: Refer to HB, P 48, X and the NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards Document on the NGC website.

- 1. Members of the Evaluation Panel for NGC Flower Shows are to be appointed by an impartial State Chairman, not connected with the local flower show.
- 2. The list of judges for the flower show must be submitted to the proper state chairman six weeks before show date. He/she will randomly select three judges to serve as evaluators.
- 3. The Local Flower Show Judges Chairman decides the extent of the judging assignment. Evaluators may serve exclusively on the Evaluating Panel or may have additional classes and/or sections to judge in the flower show.
- 4. Each Evaluating Judge must remember to write on the reverse side of the evaluation form a complete overall impression of the flower show, independently of the other two evaluators. Every deduction must be explained, as well as outstanding features noted.

- Dorothy Yard, Flower Show Schools Chairman

GARDEN CLUB RENEWAL

Remember the years you lived in your house or apartment with the same decorations and the same old paint on the walls? One day you decide you can't take it any longer. Out come the paintbrush and paint. How exhilarating! A smile spreads over your face, and you think, "Wow! Why didn't I do that years ago!" Steven Hall, the author of *The Raw Shark Texts*, reminds us that every single cell in the human body replaces itself over a period of seven years. That means there's not even the smallest part of us that was there seven years ago. In garden club lives as well, renewal may be chosen or may be inevitable, but sometimes even the smallest changes may eventually add up to invigorate our garden club life.

Has your garden club experienced renewal? If you're not sure, ask yourselves the following questions. Are your garden club meetings the same tried and true but boring events? Are you experiencing less attendance? Are members balking at volunteering for the same "ho-hum" project that was in existence when they joined? If so, then I see renewal as critical to your garden club's future.

Club collects, better known as invocations, often are used at the beginning of a club meeting. If you have used the same one for years, it may be time to change it or enlist members to offer an inspirational short story or poem. This simple change may bring more needed variety and interest to this aspect of almost every club's agenda. **But remember**, club collects or invocations with religious or political fervor may "turn off" prospective or current members!

Review current projects and remove ones that no longer have value or fail to excite your membership. Perhaps a few smaller projects may be welcomed by the membership instead of one large laborious project.

Creative members may enjoy the botanical arts such as making jewelry, decorating birdhouses or constructing kokedamas. You may enter your creative projects in a flower show or take them to a local nursing home for the residents to enjoy.

Tours to unusual or out of the ordinary places are always thrilling. Since you are a garden club, don't forget visits to a local plant nursery or farm. Many clubs have a speaker, but instead of the topic always being educational, try a speaker that is inspirational or humorous. We all need to laugh a little more! Renewal may take baby steps or giant steps. The

secret is to focus your energy on conducting new exhilarating club meetings with projects that inspire and invigorate your membership.

- Donna Rouch, Membership Chairman

NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWER AWARDS - LET'S PLANT AMERICA!

From coast to coast, gardeners are using native plants and wildflowers in their gardening projects! From Alaska, New Mexico, Florida, and Maine -- and many of the states in between, gardeners realize the value of using native plants in gardening projects. Native plants adapt well to local environmental conditions. They require far less water and maintenance, which is always a consideration for any garden project. In addition, they provide vital habitat for birds and butterflies.

This past award year, this chairman received 22 Award applications for some beautiful projects using native plants and wildflowers as part of their plan. Many of the projects included signage and other opportunities to educate the values of using these plants. Eighteen of the worthy projects received financial awards and certificates.

Awards are offered in categories for small, medium and large clubs and states. Complete a worthy project and apply for one of the following Awards:

NPW-1: Roadside Award: for the enhancement of roadside areas, entrances to towns and cities, etc.

NPW-2: Civic Projects: establishing wildflower gardens, memorial gardens, or historic garden restorations.

NPW-3: Outdoor Classrooms: creating nature trails, outdoor classrooms, wildflower walks.

Find complete information for applying for one of the Awards on the NGC website. The application should include before and after photos, educational value as well as aesthetic beauty, unique aspects and/or unusual features, and a brief financial statement. It is to be sent to the State Awards Chairman by the State deadline.

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Let's **PLANT AMERICA!** This chairman would like to receive many applications for these awards from all 50 states! Let's do our part as gardeners to beautify our communities, educate our neighbors and strive to improve the environment.

Marsha Alexander, Wildflower Plantings Awards Chairman



For over 70 years, Michigan Garden Clubs have partnered with the U.S. Forest Service in the management of the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary, located near White Cloud, Michigan. It is the only wildflower sanctuary in the entire U. S. Forest Service system. MGC recently received a substantial grant to improve infrastructure and increase accessibility at the site. These improvements allow for expanded educational and recreational use.



Lanceleaf *Coreopsis* at the entrance to the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary (above) and a pink Lady Slipper in the sanctuary. Photos by Karen Motawi, Loda Lake Project Chairman for the Michigan Garden Club.

GARDENING SCHOOL

NGC Gardening School chairmen may wish to consider Native Plants and Wildflowers as a topic for their Supplemental Subject in one of their four courses. Additional information in this area would provide not only an educational opportunity for students but also would support projects eligible for one of the newest categories of NGC Awards and Grants (see the previous article). "Native Plants and Wildflower Awards offer opportunities for clubs, groups of clubs and states to receive monetary awards for projects that include some native plants and/or wildflowers." Find descriptions of Awards NPW- 1, 2 and 3 under Awards on the NGC website. For instructors in this area, our NGC website is very helpful. Look under Projects-Horticulture—Liaisons to Plant Societies and click on Native Plant Society. Contact information for every state is listed. Find more information, such as Planting Pollinator Gardens, on the website. **PLANT AMERICA WITH NATIVES!**

- Barbara Hadsell, Gardening School Chairman

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Here are some ideas from Kathy Wolverton, 1st VP of the Kent Garden Club on how they marked the event.

Kent Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week with a schedule of exceptional events. The first event honoring our 105-year-old club was a feature article in *Grand Rapids Magazine*. We were very proud to share our purpose and service with our community. In addition to the print was a photo of several of our members working in the Kent Garden Club Memorial Rose Garden at the Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM). The club's community involvement is evident throughout the city and has remained constant throughout the years. Next, several club members created a "Butterfly as Pollinators" display exhibit at our local library. We offered pertinent literature as well as exhibiting and donating four butterfly/pollinator books to the library, including a copy of NGC's *The Saved Seed*.

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PLANT IT PINK GARDENS

On June 5th as members gathered at the GRP Museum to prune, weed, and plant. They do this twice per month from April through November. In honor of our club and the week, members planted two purple Siberian bearded irises as it is the city's and the club's official flower.



At the end of the week, three club members were honored to visit the mayor to receive a Proclamation from Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss. The Proclamation contained seven articles acknowledging the club's service to the community, past and present, ending with Mayor Bliss proclaiming that "during National Garden Club Week, June 5, 2018, will be known as Kent Garden Club Day in the City of Grand Rapids."

Kent Garden Club is very actively involved in our local community supporting varied interests and supplying many helping hands.

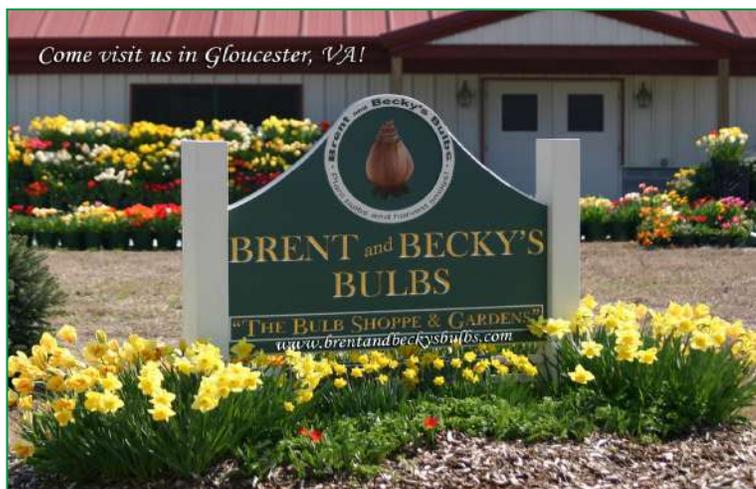
Below, KGC members receive a city proclamation from Mayor Bliss for service and dedication to the Grand Rapids community.



Pictured above is the Cottage Garden Society of Vinton, Iowa's Plant It Pink project. They plant and place 80 containers with pink flowers, in this case dragon wing begonias, in front of the downtown businesses. The begonias will bloom in either sun or shade and need no deadheading.

The 20-member club was established in 2003 and has used the downtown container idea as a fundraiser every year since. Each business pays the club for placing a planted container in front of their business. The business is responsible for the watering, but the members keep an eye on the pots and help out if needed. Club President Jeanne Mann notes the success of the perfect marriage of fundraiser and breast cancer awareness project.

If your club installs Plant It Pink or sensory gardens, please send pictures to [Carcille Burchette](#), [Healing Gardens for Hope & Awareness Chairman](#). The pictures will be used in NGC publications and on social media.



***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 the knowledgeable hybridizer Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs to obtain a new daffodil cultivar whose name would have a reference to National Garden Clubs.

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 is also an honorary member of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs 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% of each member's purchase from Brent and Becky's Bulbs back to the garden club.

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.

N. 'Plant America' is 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"-16", depending on the richness of the soil.

N. 'Plant America' is being sold by Brent and Becky's Bulbs this fall *exclusively to members of National*



Garden Clubs. Please understand that the supply is 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 catalogue for sale to the public.

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.

- Nancy



Brent and Becky's Bulbs
Introduces a
New Narcissus Cultivar
for
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
N. 'Plant America'



N. 'Plant America'
Item # 01-1135

- Named for and available **ONLY** to NGC Members for three years
- Please order EARLY – Only a limited number available in 2018 in the first year of production.

N. 'Plant America' – A split corona daffodil - 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, which is why its flowers last so long. It has a strong stem and is up-facing. It grows best in full sun to a height of 12"-16", depending on the richness of the soil.

1. Sold only in quantities of 5 bulbs; \$7.50 per bag of 5 bulbs.
2. May be ordered individually, with friends or as a club; club orders are encouraged in order to save on shipping.
3. If they are being shipped to Virginia, add 5.3% sales tax (\$0.40/bag).
4. Purchase of this bulb is **NOT** eligible for *Bloomin' Bucks* Program orders.

5. Shipping Charges:

East of the Mississippi	10% of Total or \$7.00 minimum
West of the Mississippi	15% of Total or \$9.00 minimum
Alaska, Hawaii	Actual cost of UPS/FedEx 2nd Day Air or \$15.00 minimum

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Physical Ship-to address if different from above:

Phone # _____ Email for order confirmation: _____

Approximate Shipping Schedule	
Zones 3-4	Sept 15 - Oct 1
Zone 5	Oct 1 – Oct 15
Zone 6	Oct 15 – Oct 30
Zone 7	Oct 30 – Nov 15
Zones 8-9	Nov 15 – Nov 30

Item #	Number of bags	Price per bag	Total
01-1135		\$7.50	
+ Sales Tax (5.3% for Virginia shipments only)			
+ Shipping East of MS River: 10% of order total or \$7 minimum			
+Shipping West of MS River: 15% of order total or \$9 minimum			
+Shipping to Alaska, Hawaii: Actual cost of UPS/FedEx 2nd Day Air or \$15.00 minimum			
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			

Check payable to: Brent and Becky's Bulbs **Mail to:** 7900 Daffodil Lane - Gloucester, VA 23061

Credit card orders: Call 877/661-2852 (toll-free) – 804/693-3966 (local)

COMMUNITY GARDENS – A SOLUTION TO BLIGHT, CRIME, AND HUNGER

There are some experiences in life that you just never forget. You know, the kind of experiences that will affect decisions you make as an adult. That happened to me when I was ten years old. In the fourth grade, I had the opportunity to experience a program called, “Every Child Outdoors.” During this year-long program, my classmates and I were part of a community garden. There were almost one hundred kids participating. We prepared the soil, planted the seeds, weeded, and harvested our garden. We were able to prepare and eat some of the bounty. The rest was used at our school for snacks, salad bars and to be distributed to families in the area. This is when I realized how fulfilling it could be to grow the food I eat.

So many things changed for this group of students. New friendships emerged as kids were grouped together for jobs. Bonds formed that created mutual respect among each other. Kids learned that they had things in common with peers who had previously seemed to be in a different league. Life-long friendships were grown during that school year. Healthy lifestyle changes were cultivated, as well. All of the kids tried new foods and learned to like some vegetables that they would never have tried under other circumstances. There were kids who had never played in the dirt and learned to love the feeling of having soil between their fingers. Big changes happened in the most unlikely places.

Consequently, I believe community gardens can do this on a much larger scale. When people garden together, they naturally bond together. Friendships blossom, and kindness spreads like weeds and wildfire. People learn to appreciate each other and understand the importance of making a difference in the community. In elementary school, our teachers would often say, “sharing is caring.” A community garden is the epitome of sharing and caring.

Being part of the solution gives people a sense of empowerment. Crime will lessen when people learn to love their neighbors. Furthermore, when everyone has plenty, there is no need to steal. Self-worth grows among the insecure when they are able to contribute on an equal playing field. A person’s bank account

is irrelevant when he or she rolls the sleeves up and tends a garden.

Grocery shopping can be very discouraging when you see the excessive prices for fresh produce. People are disheartened when junk food is substantially cheaper than healthy alternatives. It is costly to eat healthy, but healthier food choices make everyone happier. Community gardens can alleviate the strain of expensive produce costs on a family budget.

Most community gardens encourage composting and water conservation. Composting will help the nutrition of the soil. This has a great impact on the reduction of waste and garbage in a community. Landfill usage may slow, and less gas emissions are emitted when trucks have less waste. Air quality may improve. Water is a natural resource that is at a premium in most areas. By conserving water runoff, communities can reuse that water in the community garden. A small amount of planning can reap huge benefits from which everyone can benefit.

When an area becomes a true community, everyone benefits. This is why community gardens work. The benefits can be felt as crime decreases, people become healthier physically and mentally, citizens help each other, and natural resources are conserved. It is a win-win for everyone involved!

**- Clay Durham, Winner of the
2017-2018 NGC Essay Contest**

Clay attends Henry County High School in Paris, Tennessee and was sponsored by the Paris Garden Club, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Deep South Region. He is a member of the 4-H Honor Club, Varsity Tennis Team, French Club, and other groups.

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

ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO KEEP OUR PLANET GREEN – 2018 SCULPTURE CONTEST WINNERS



PEREGRINE FALCON by Akshay Lath
1st place, 4th grade, Pennsylvania



MARS ROBOT by Benjamin Crook
1st Place, 7th grade,
California Garden Clubs



ROBOT TROLL
by John Godwin
1st place, 5th grade,
Alabama

TRIGGER FISH
by Jad Alsaghah
1st place, 6th grade,
Florida



DOG by Trystan Erickson
1st Place, 8th grade ,
Nebraska

Around the Town

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Headquarters St. Louis, Missouri



Through the support and generosity of June Kummer, NGC Headquarters has a new design for the front landscaping and parking lot to better inform visitors as to the mission and identity of NGC. All aspects of the garden area are in keeping with the 1959 Mid-Century Modern Headquarters building.

A new, bold landscape provided an opportunity to use both Midwestern native plant material and non-native plants that adapt well to the local environment. The design focused on simple broad massing of shrubs and perennials that together provide a four-season landscape. Weaving a traditional landscape palette that is familiar to NGC members while introducing new and possibly unfamiliar plant material provides an opportunity to educate and inspire those who visit.

The western terminus to the garden court features a small seating terrace and a garden wall featuring a stone bas relief sculpture (right). Local artist Abraham Mohler was commissioned to create the relief depicting eight different Columbine flower forms that represent native species found in each geographic region of the NGC. The *Aquilegia* genus (Columbine) can be found in all 50 states.



A central piece of the garden is the transformation of the parking lot into a structural lawn (right). The NGC is the first in St. Louis to install the Checker Block Lawn Paver system that will serve as a multifunctional space for people and cars. The structural soil system and sandy soil mix will act as a sponge absorbing water runoff. This, along with the permeable paver driveway and entry rain garden, demonstrates the NGC's commitment to sustainability by surpassing the local requirements for maintaining storm water on site.



Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden

The Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.

The Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden features a unique collection of native plants that surround the Residence, a 1925 Jacobean Revival-style home. The Heritage Garden was started by former Ohio First Lady Hope Taft in 2000 to represent the diverse geographic regions of Ohio. Notable areas of the garden include an alvar containing the federally-endangered Lakeside Daisy, a prairie containing Royal Catchfly and a sphagnum moss cranberry bog. The three-acre garden is maintained by volunteers including Central Ohio garden club members. The Garden Club of Ohio, Inc. has generously supported the gardens by donations of tools, equipment, containers, and trees.



Garden Club of Ohio President Deanna Stearns and former Ohio First Lady Hope Taft (above).
Below are rare Lakeside Daisies in flower in May.



Friendship Garden at the Reading Museum

The Garden Club of Reading, Pennsylvania

The club maintains the award winning Friendship Garden and the Garden of Remembrance at the Reading Public Museum. In 1983, the Reading Museum contacted the Garden Club of Reading and asked the members to plan and install a garden on museum property on the site of what had once been a peony garden. Both gardens were installed by our club members in 1984 and 1996, respectively. The positive response we receive from people walking the grounds of the museum inspires us to continue our work.

These gardens are enjoyed by visitors to the museum, by walkers and joggers, and by visitors from the Reading Hospital just across the street. Communion, confirmation, baptismal, birthday and wedding parties take pictures here weekly, and on many occasions, the marriage or commitment ceremonies are performed in front of the shell fountain in the stone wall. Club members tending the gardens often answer visitor questions about plants and use this opportunity to promote garden clubs and their mission as well as our own up-coming fund raising activities.

The gardens and members have won many contests and awards from The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, and National Garden Clubs, Inc. for our work here. The club has been in existence for over 50 years.

