

May/June 2020

# KEEPING IN TOUCH



**National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110 314•776•7574 [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)**

## President's Postcard

### **GAY AUSTIN**

Postcard from home: As gardeners, we are always excited about the spring season. As the days started to become longer and warmer, dormant plants began to show life, and migratory birds appear in our gardens. We anticipate enjoyable time outside in our natural landscapes. It is time to plant summer annuals and seeds for our home food gardens. Anticipation for growth is something we all look forward to. With very little warning, events occur that abruptly cause us to readjust our well-planned activities. The historic COVID-19 threat caused us to HALT all spring garden club events, such as flower shows, public garden plans and even annual garden club meetings. As we follow mandates to keep us home and safe, deadly spring storms move across our nation, destroying property and taking lives along the way.

This spring, the life altering chain of events has forced us to PAUSE – to rethink how we should function as a national volunteer organization. Let me encourage you to have confidence in the NGC leadership, as we are exploring avenues to help us continue to provide worthwhile projects in our communities.

A garden club friend recently emailed me this statement - *Gardeners are known to be planners, dreamers, and believers, who think in terms of seasons—not days or weeks. So let's add some plants to our gardens, prep those veggie beds, read a good gardening book, and keep doing what we do best: planning and planting for beautiful days ahead.*

Due to circumstance beyond our control, we are being forced to change our method of volunteering as garden club members. Let us be strong, stay focused and move forward to continue our good deeds. Thank you for your continued dedication and service to NGC.

Please READ and SHARE this issue of *Keeping in Touch*. It's full of enjoyable information that will benefit our members.



President Gay taking a break in her garden.

## **KNOW YOUR OFFICERS!**

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Officers

OFFICER INTERVIEWS

NGC Executive Committee 2019 - 2021



**Gay Austin, NGC President**

- + Environmental Consultant - Provisional
- + Flower Show Judge
- + Flower Show School Instructor
- ★ Home state and garden club: Mississippi, McComb GC and Natchez GC
- ★ How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved?

In 1985, my husband and I were asked to open our home for a "Holiday Tour of Homes," which was the annual fundraiser of the McComb Garden Club at the time. We gladly offered our home. The next year, in the spring, McComb Garden Club invited me to join the club.

★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** I am pretty adventurous, so could share stories such as zip lining in Costa Rica or scuba diving. Probably the most notable event would be the day that I walked out my back door at home, with a large rat snake looking at me. He was coming out of a birdhouse that was close to the door. I grabbed a large garbage can and my broom. I knocked the birdhouse, along with the snake, off of the wall and swept it into the garbage can. Then I put the can in the back of my husband's truck and relocated the snake down the hill to one of our barns.

★ **Anything else?** A huge benefit of belonging to a garden club has been the friendships that have developed with others with the same interest. I would have never had the opportunity to have friendships all over the U.S. and internationally, without my garden club involvement. Not only have I learned valuable lessons about floral design, gardening and landscaping; I have also broadened my views on environmental issues and protection of our natural habitats. I love to share my knowledge with others in my community – it helps us all to become good stewards of our world.

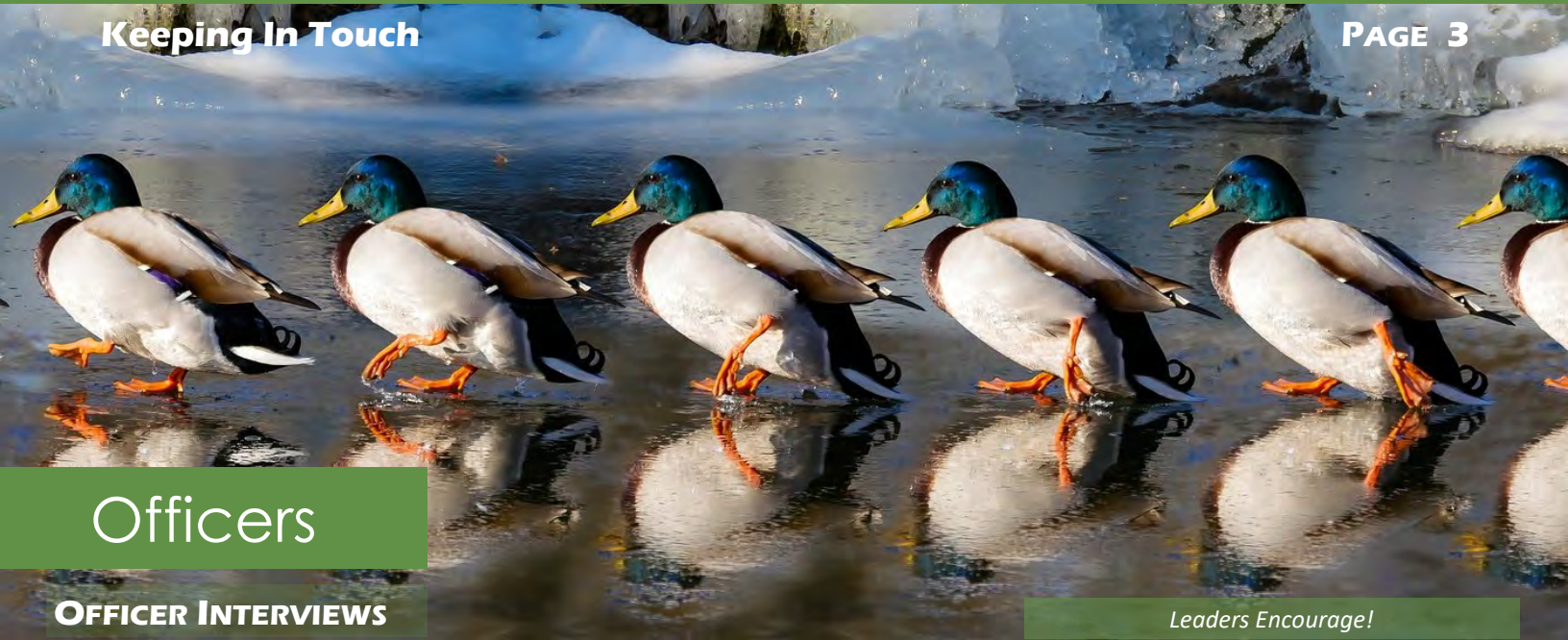


**Gay - Mississippi**

The Magnolia State, Mississippi's state flower is the Magnolia and state bird is the Mockingbird. Statehood = 1817.

**Mississippi state motto:**  
*Virtute et armis*  
*By valor and arms*





# Officers

## OFFICER INTERVIEWS

Leaders Encourage!



**Mary Warshauer**, NGC First Vice President, State President & Region Director Liaison, Finance, Internal Audit, PH&E, Organization Study Committees

+ Flower Show Judge

★ Home state and garden club: New Jersey, Garden Club of Fair Haven

★ How did you get started in garden club? How many

years have you been involved? My exposure to garden club started long before I was a member. When I was a child, the phone rang endlessly for my mother to discuss garden club business. She was very active in the local garden club and her commitment not only made an impact on the community, but on me as well. Her involvement paved my way. I have been a garden club member for over 33 years. After years of volunteering at the local level, I became involved at the state and region levels. As my responsibilities grew, so did my interest and commitment.

★ What is the most daring thing you have ever done? I have not sky dived nor climbed mountains but as the youngest child of a military family we moved frequently. Always the “new” kid, I attended 7 schools from grades K- 12. As a result, my sister, brother and I depended on each other for fun and entertainment. After college, I met my husband Jim who was living in Florida. In what I thought was a daring move, I moved away from my family to New Jersey, Jim’s home state, where we have lived for the past 41 years. I brought my appreciation of gardening from Florida to New Jersey with me.



**New Jersey state motto:  
*Liberty and Prosperity***



**Mary - NEW JERSEY**

The Garden State, New Jersey’s state flower is the Violet and state bird is the Goldfinch. Statehood = 1787.





# Officers

## OFFICER INTERVIEWS

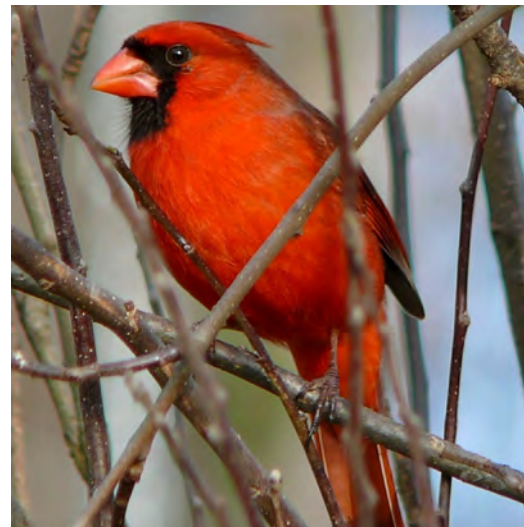
Leaders Guide!



**Brenda J. Moore**, NGC Second Vice President, Finance Committee Chair, Executive, Budget, Organization Study and PH&E Committees

- + Environmental Consultant
- + Gardening Consultant
- + Flower Show Judge
- + Landscape Design Consultant
- + Four Star Member

- ★ **Home state and garden club:** West Virginia, Woodland Oaks GC
- ★ **How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved?** We moved to Oak Hill, WV in 1994 and I was sitting on the porch with my dog. A neighbor walked by, introduced herself and invited me to a garden club. I went to meet some people; but I stayed - and the rest is history. That was about 26 years ago.
- ★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** As a college student, I jumped off the "Cheat Lake Bridge" an old iron bridge that was at least 20 feet from the water and illegal to jump off. This year, for my birthday, I plan to go on the New River Gorge Bridge Walk, which is a 24" wide catwalk under the New River Gorge Bridge and stands 850 feet above the New River in West Virginia.
- ★ **Anything else?** Being an NGC officer was never on my bucket list. I owe being in this position to Sandy Robinson's power of persuasion. I finally realized, Garden Clubs have given me so much; I am willing to give back.



**West Virginia state motto:**  
*Montani Semper Liberi*  
**Mountaineers are Always Free**



**Brenda - WEST VIRGINIA**

The Mountain State, West Virginia's state flower is the Rhododendron and state bird is the Northern Cardinal.  
Statehood = 1863





# Officers

## OFFICER INTERVIEWS

Leaders Stand Out!



**Donna Rouch, NGC Third Vice President, Organization Study Committee & Award of Excellence Chairs, Internal Audit, Finance, PH&E, Website Dev. Committees**

- + Environmental Consultant, Gardening Consultant and Landscape Design Consultant
- + Flower Show Judge
- ★ Home state and garden club: Nebraska, Plattsmouth GC

★ **How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved?** In 2007, my sister-in-law, Kathy, and I helped my mother-in-law Jean, prepare for a Plattsmouth Garden Club meeting. During the meeting, the President asked if Kathy and I would join the club. As we glanced at Mom across the room from us, she was beaming! Although Kathy and I were both employed and worked long hours, we said yes, we would join. The President said "Great! Donna you will be president and Kathy you will be vice-president!" Stunned, we glanced at Mom and she was ecstatic. All we could say was "Yes!"

★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** Raised on my Grandparent's farm, I was free to run and play but expected to work like all farm children. The self-sustaining farm included a house with four small rooms and no running water or indoor plumbing - the outhouse was a block away. Our one room schoolhouse included grades K-8 with 10 total students. I rode my horse to school and later rode in my father's car, 30 miles each way, to the largest high school in Nebraska with over 2,600 students. I was a shy introverted girl from the "sticks" with no street smarts and my dog as my best friend. My daring adventure was to figure out how to cope in this big city school environment. With the help from several faculty and dear friends I began to adjust.

I loved nature and science and my grades gave me the confidence to attend college and eventually obtain a Pharmacy Doctorate. I have known people who never left their hometown, hate their job and never try anything new. My life could have been theirs; but I was daring enough to conquer fears and set goals. Once you take the first step, each step is easier. Favorite quote: *It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one most adaptable to change.* Charles Darwin



## Donna - NEBRASKA

**The Cornhusker State, Nebraska's state flower is the Golden Rod and state bird is the Western Meadowlark.**  
**Statehood = 1867**  
***Equality Before the Law***





Leaders Gather!

# Officers

## OFFICER INTERVIEWS



**Donna Donnelly, NGC Recording Secretary**

+ Flower Show Judge

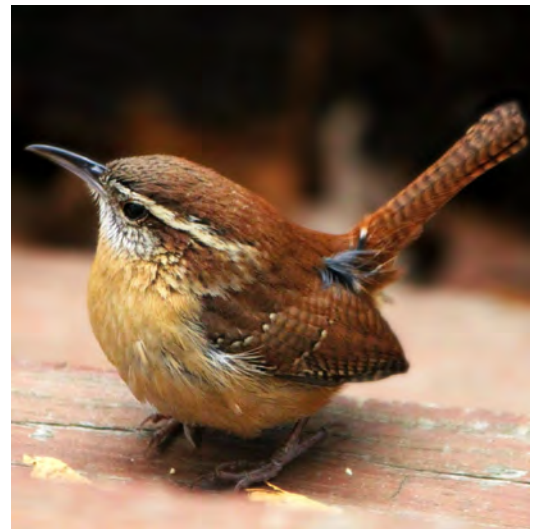
+ Landscape Design Consultant

★ Home state and garden club: South Carolina, Ellore GC

★ How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved? I moved to South Carolina in 2001, and I joined my local garden club the following year. The garden club experience has always been very rewarding for me as I am a veteran volunteer. I grew up in New York and started volunteering at high school fundraisers and then in my community at the local Historical Society which I stayed with for 25 years, eventually becoming president of the Women’s Auxiliary and member of the Board of Trustees.

★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** Many years ago my husband I and became certified scuba divers. At the time, in order to be certified we had to take several dive tests. One included diving to the bottom of a quarry. Although the water was a beautiful turquoise color, it was freezing cold and quite deep. The instructor directed us to dive to the bottom of the quarry where a boat wreck lay. The scary part was swimming through the small passageways of the wreck, some too small for a body and scuba tank. It took ingenuity, resourcefulness and composure to navigate. I was relieved when the test was over and realized it was good training for other dives and many situations in life!

★ **Anything else?** Gardening is like psychotherapy! It helps you get through all the trials and tribulations of life due to the sheer joy of being one with the soil and the enjoyment of the beauty of spring flowers and fall colors. The forever friendships, however, are the most important.



**South Carolina state mottos:**  
*Animis Opibusque Parati*  
*Prepared in Mind and Resources*  
*Dum Spiro Spero*  
*While I Breathe I Hope.*



**Donna - SOUTH CAROLINA**

The Palmetto State, South Carolina’s state flower is the Yellow Jessamine and state bird is the Carolina Wren. Statehood = 1776





# Officers

## OFFICER INTERVIEWS

Leaders Keep Us Together!

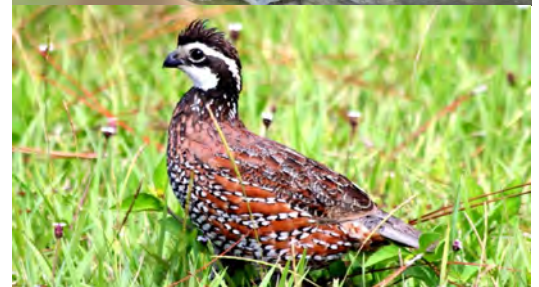


**Bonnie (Borne) Stockel**, NGC Corresponding Secretary, Award of Excellence Committee

+ Flower Show Judge

★ Home state and garden club: Mississippi, Windstone Garden Club

★ How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved? In 1977, my husband's boss' wife asked me to attend a flower show in Batesville, MS. At that meeting, someone asked me to join the Batesville Garden Club. Since then I was hooked. (She resigned the next year!) Moving the calendar forward, for over twelve years, being very absorbed with garden clubs, I was a member of four garden clubs at one time. Age has slowed me considerably.



- ★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** I am not much of a dare taker. However, I guess the most recent daring thing I have done was remarry at the age of 72, after seventeen years of "total control."
- ★ **Anything else?** Giving programs in a three state radius is one of my most rewarding activities with Garden Club work these days. Currently, I have a new presentation called "Glorious Gardens." This program is bible based with four Gardens in the Bible and Garden Therapy for present day nature lovers. My favorite program, and most successful is – "Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes or Why Join a Garden Club." This program gives the history, geography, awards and rewards of belonging to a federated garden club. After giving the program - three clubs decided to federate; two clubs decided to organize and federate and two clubs that were hanging on by a thread, decided to continue in the state federation.

My last endeavor giving this program was to organize a club in my subdivision. I am a charter member and served as president for six years. Finally, three years ago, I passed the torch and I still belong to this club. Our first meeting had twenty-two members, and we still have twenty-one members. Now living in Tennessee, I desire to start serving in a local garden club. The women in my subdivision, of 125 homes asked me to help organize a club. Our orientation/organization meeting was to be held in April 2020; however has been postponed until the COVID-19 crisis is over.

## TENNESSEE

The Volunteer State, Tennessee's state flower is the Iris and state birds are the Mockingbird & Northern Bobwhite. Statehood = 1796  
**Agriculture and Commerce**





# Officers

## OFFICER INTERVIEWS

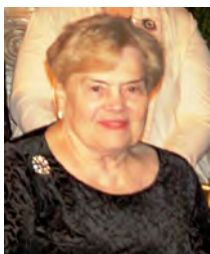
Leaders Protect!



**Lynette Jeffres, NGC Treasurer, Budget Committee Chair, Finance, PH&E, Executive Committees**

★ **Home state and garden club:** Wyoming, Riverton GC  
★ **How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved?** A friend invited me to a garden club meeting in 2000 and I went to learn all about it. She said, “just come to a meeting...you don’t have to do anything!” As you can tell, my “not doing anything” has turned into a love for an organization that touches many lives.

- ★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** Taking a chance with my friend and starting an accounting business. Being self-employed is one of the most rewarding but terrifying experiences I have had!
- ★ **Anything else?** I did not realize the true scope of National Garden Club until I had been a member of garden club for several years and started to get involved outside my own club. I continue to be amazed at the impact we have as a collective group. Who knew the club where “you don’t have to do anything” would open a world of opportunity for friendship, travel and service?



**Joan Corbisiero, NGC Parliamentarian**

★ **Home state and garden club:** New York, Douglaston GC  
★ **How did you get started in garden club? How many years have you been involved?** I started as a Junior Member of the Sayville Garden Club when I was 5 years old. However, there was a bit of a hiatus until I joined the Douglaston Garden Club, in 1961, as a new member of the community.

I joined because of the encouragement of a neighbor who saw me struggling to plant a marigold.

- ★ **What is the most daring thing you have ever done?** Probably saying yes to NGC President Barbara May when she asked me to be her Parliamentarian in 2007.
- ★ **Anything else?** This is a difficult time for us all. A garden is a healing place to be in when you are stressed. Spend time in your garden these next few months. It’s a pleasure that even the virus can’t take from us.



### Lynette - WYOMING

The Equality State, Wyoming’s state flower is the Indian Paintbrush and state bird is the Western Meadowlark.  
Statehood = 1776  
**Equal Rights**

Editor’s note: see next page for Joan’s home state symbols & motto.





# Century Clubs

L: Ladies Garden Club Founders  
R: Home of First Garden Club

House in which First Garden Club of America was formed, Athens, Ga.

## LADIES' GARDEN CLUB - 1891

### Carol Reap, President

*"... in January, 1891, the Ladies' Garden Club of Athens was organized. It was the first garden club with a constitution and by-laws, with officers and strict parliamentary laws. Athens, in north Georgia, grew up about the site that in 1785 had been set apart for a state university. It was some years before building of the university was begun, or before a town was laid out.*

*As early as 1833, one of the university's professors began the development of a botanical garden. The university donated several hundred dollars a year for this purpose and friends aided the project. More than 2,000 specimens of plants, shrubs and trees were collected, many of them rare. Sadly, with the means for upkeep failing during the War years, the botanical garden had to be abandoned. (Now only an historic marker remains.)*

*Perhaps this interest in natural beauty, and appreciation and care of trees and plants dating from so early a period in its growth, led to a great interest among the women of Athens in their gardens and horticulture in general. The custom of exchanging plants and cuttings among themselves led naturally to the formation of a garden club. On a January morning in 1891, in the home of Mrs. Lumpkin, with twelve present, the Ladies' Garden Club of Athens was formed..."*  
*New York Herald Tribune March 18, 1934*

When these twelve ladies came together in 1891, they likely could not have imagined these many years later their club would still be in existence, much less the lasting impact it would have in the gardening world. From their modest beginning would come a host of others who also believed they could contribute to making better homes for their families, a more beautiful community and ultimately to impact the world in an important way. Our Founders also could not have foreseen the challenges of today, where a changing climate and other factors are dictating the need for a fresh approach to gardening. However, as we turn to our tasks, we are reminded of those who went before us, and draw inspiration and joy from them and each other.



## Joan - NEW YORK

The Empire State, New York's state flower is the Rose and state bird is the Eastern Bluebird. Statehood = 1776  
*Excelsior*





## Century Clubs

Ladies Garden Club Founders Reenactment

### **MONTICELLO GARDEN CLUB - 1896**

#### **Mary Lou Jordan and Eloise Thomas**

Monticello Garden Club, Monticello GA, is the second oldest garden club in the country. Incorporated in 1896, the primary focus of our club is to maintain West View Cemetery. We are one of just two or three clubs in the state to own a cemetery. Our community much appreciates our service. Until two years ago, our club also maintained the beautiful town square. We are now raising funds to help landscape a future Veterans' Memorial Park. Monticello Garden Club has been committed for over one hundred and twenty years to maintaining the beauty of this historic community. In the photo to the right, our members pose on the steps of the home of the first club meeting. The house was recently taken down and its parts moved to another site in the county with hope of restoring the home.



Monticello Garden Club Members

### **SHARON-RAYTOWN GARDEN CLUB - 1903**

#### **Katherine Allen and Jan Stewart**

Organized on February 21, 1903, the Sharon-Raytown Garden Club is 117 years old. It is one of the oldest clubs in the country and remained active through both World Wars. Miss Lillis Barnett was living in Athens GA, with her friend, who organized The Ladies GC, the oldest in the country. When she returned home from teaching, she founded our club with 12 charter members. After writing the constitution, the objectives of the club were to cultivate flowers and vegetables and to bring the ladies of the community more closely together, socially, so that all may be mutually benefited by companionship and the refining influence of flowers. The large yellow Incurve *Chrysanthemum* 'The Turner' was the club flower. The first flower shows were held in homes or vacant stores. Members grew chrysanthemums for competition. The finest horticulture specimens received cash prizes and members would display canned goods and handmade fancy work. For years, Oyster Suppers were held in conjunction with the annual Flower Show. There would be square dancing at night. Today, ribbons are awarded and we have enjoyed numerous State and National Flower Show Awards.



Hundreds Line Up for Sharon-Raytown Supper

A 1926 schoolhouse, eventually, became the home of the garden club. The club paid the salary of a librarian to serve the community. The club joined the Garden Club of Georgia in February 1955. Our small club of fewer than 20 members has placed a Blue Star marker, received grants for landscaping community projects and planted trees. For years, the club sponsored a Wild Game Supper as a fundraiser. We fed about 500 people each year. Folks came from near and far to try rattlesnake, possum and sweet potatoes!





# Plant America

**GREG POKORSKI**

*TreePeople Then and Now Tree Planting  
Lakeview Terrace 2007 vs. 2018*

As a member of the NGC Plant America with Trees Committee and as president of Southern California Garden Club in the San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles, I wanted our club to participate in the Plant America with Trees initiative. We have a long history of supporting tree plantings through our annual Arbor Day events and frequent donations to the Penny Pines program. I hoped the club could do something special and something extra in response to NGC’s encouragement that each one (member) plant one (native tree). This program was featured in *Keeping in Touch* and *The National Gardener*.

I did not think it was feasible for each of our individual members to plant a tree or to provide the physical labor to engage in a tree planting activity. Club board members discussed suggestions and options. Finally, we decided to contribute to the Tree Dedication program of [TreePeople](#), a Los Angeles nonprofit, founded in 1973 and dedicated to improving urban ecosystems. We made a significant donation on behalf of each of our 134 members and have received acknowledgement that “A grove of one hundred and thirty-four trees has been dedicated to honor Southern California Garden Club members.” I am proud that our club helped plant trees. We helped to offset losses caused by natural disasters and intentional deforestation while contributing to NGC’s commitment to preserve natural areas in our communities and world. We challenge all NGC clubs to Plant America with Trees. What a difference we can make if we all participate!

# Recycling

**GAIL VANDERHORST**

During the holidays or this stay at home time, have you enjoyed the great pies from Costco or salads from Panera? Well, the plastic pie holders and the salad covers make great indoor or outdoor plant saucers and you will have no more stains on your carpeting, wood floors or patios. You, also, can plant succulents in the plastic pie holders or salad covers. Just poke a few holes in the bottom if you want to use these as planters. They look great and their neutral cement color (pie holders) or clear (salad covers) do not interfere with your décor. Save a few and try it out.



*Costco Pie Holder as a Plant Tray*



COVID-19



*Editor’s Note: The COVID-19 pandemic affected all of us. We have cared for and may have lost friends and loved ones. Our NGC and some State GC annual meetings, flower shows, schools, plant sales, etc. are canceled. To keep us connected, Committee Chairs were asked to provide our members with updates and virtual congratulations to those who would have received special recognition at our 2020 Convention. We also recognize our sponsors. Thank you!*

Schools Extensions

**JUDY NEWMAN, BARBARA HADSELL, GREG POKORSKI**

Are you a Student who planned to attend an Environmental, Gardening or Landscape Design School to complete your fourth course in order to comply with the seven-year time restriction? Are you a Consultant, with a Good Standing Date of December 31, 2020, who planned to attend an ES, GS or LDS or Refresher in order to comply with the seven-year time restriction? Has your event been canceled due to COVID-19? You can apply for an extension with your State School Chairman using the Extension Form 9-2019 found on the NGC website: [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org).

The appropriate State School’s Chairman will sign and forward the form to the appropriate NGC Accrediting Chairman and/or to the NGC ES, GS or LDS School Chairman who can then approve the one-year extension request. The NGC School Chairman will notify the appropriate State School Chairmen and Rebecka Flowers, NGC School Secretary. The State School Chairman will notify the Student or Consultant of the granted extension and maintain the record of the extension. (For more information, see page 17 in the *Schools Handbook*) Students and Consultants unsure of their Good Standing Date, in a given School, should contact their appropriate State School Chairman. Please review “Guide for Students and Consultants” on the NGC Website, Schools page. It is filled with much information for Students and Consultants.

PEOPLE STAYED HOME

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

*Kitty O’Meara*

The Daily Round - March 16, 2020





## Flower Show Schools

**JAN WARSHAUER**

Due to the extensive cancellation of Flower Show Schools and flower shows due to the COVID-19 virus, the FSS Committee requests the following items, which go into effect immediately.

1. That any FSS series that is currently in progress may reduce the number of months required between courses from four months to three months until Dec. 31, 2021. HB page 114. No more than three courses within a calendar year remains in effect.
2. That Student Judge judging requirements for NGC flower shows be the same as Accredited Judges, 6 classes including at least one class in horticulture, one class in design and four classes in any of the five divisions, except Photography. HB page 115
3. That an extension to December 31, 2021 be granted to Student Judges approaching the seven-year timeframe limit for completion of requirements to become an Accredited Judge in 2020. HB page 116
4. That the Good Standing date of all levels of Accredited Judges expiring in 2020 be extended to December 31, 2021. HB page 120
5. That the Handbook Exam scheduled for April 23, 2020 be cancelled. The next exam will be given Oct. 22, 2020, the fourth Thursday in October. HB page 115-116
6. That the deadline for Schedule Writing directives that have been assigned to Student Judges is extended to July 1, 2020.

State FS School/Symposium personnel will coordinate with contracted instructors to reschedule events as necessary with flexibility in mind. Please notify the FSS Accrediting chairman for your region or the NGC Symposium chairman with updates. During this period, if necessary, Course II, III and IV do not need to be held sequentially.

The FSS Committee encourages all clubs to reschedule canceled flower shows as soon as possible to stimulate the enjoyment of sharing our love of nature.



*Breakfast Sunshine by J. McGinnis (VOB)*





*Magic with Aspidistra*



*Darkness and Light*



*Breakfast at Tiffany's*

## Vision of Beauty

### BRENDA BINGHAM

Congratulations to Debbie Spiller! Her design *Darkness and Light* is the 2021 *Vision of Beauty* cover image. Congratulations to the Helen S. Hull Award Winners:

- ★ Flower Arranger of the Year, Ginni Donovan, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
- ★ International Flower Arranger of the Year, Robyn Higgins, *Magic with Aspidistra*

Other 2021 *Vision of Beauty* (VOB) designs are featured in this issue of *Keeping in Touch*. Please submit a photo of your design or garden for in the 2022 *Vision of Beauty* Calendar. See [NGC website](http://www.ngc.org) for more information. The deadline is 9/1/2020.

## Four & Five Stars

### KITTY LARKIN

The applicants for the Four Star and Five Star Certificates of Merit normally have the option to receive these certificates at the National Convention or at their State Conventions. During this pandemic year, they were given the option of receiving their Certificate of Merit at the NGC Fall Board of Directors Meeting being held in Fargo, ND in September. It takes several years for members to earn these certificates. They must fulfill all of the requirements for completing each of NGC's four schools to become a Four Star member. The next step, which is another time-consuming effort, culminates in becoming a Master in each of the schools and a Five Star Member.

It is indeed an honor to reach each of these levels as it shows that you are well educated in each of the subjects that we focus on and are active and loyal members of NGC. We are very proud of these members and congratulate all who have achieved this status.



### FOUR STARS

- Joyce Wallen
- Sharon L. Bender
- Ann S. Houston
- Martha N. Wood
- Mary Dietrich
- Andrea Finn
- Mary Vacek
- Suzy Andrego
- Charles O. McLendon
- Linda McLendon
- Kathy Kennedy-Crownover
- Lynna Jackman
- Nancy Caipo
- Mila Coquis
- Adriana Perdomo



### FIVE STARS

- Georgia Burson
- Janet DeBoise Nevil
- Jane D. Johnson
- Virginia Pennington
- Idalia Aguilar
- Renee Blaschke
- Hilda Gamez
- Maria Eugenia Quintanilla de Spagnoli





## Grants & Sponsors

**FLOSSIE NARDUCCI & DIANE DAWSON**

### Congratulations 2020 Ames Tool Grant Winners!

Thank you to all of the clubs applying for Ames Tool Grants. We received exactly 100 applications from all across the country. Projects included beautifying communities, introducing youngsters to horticulture, working with the physically challenged and increasing accessibility to fresh food...just to name a few. The current health concerns may delay many of these projects.

Alaska	Wildflower Garden Club
Alabama	Marion Garden Club
Arkansas	Lake and Plantation Garden Club
California	Eureka Sequoia Garden Club and Petaluma Garden Club
Colorado	Dig and Dream Garden Club
Connecticut	Stafford Garden Club, Stonington Garden Club and Suffield Garden Club
Georgia	Brooklet Garden Club
Idaho	For the Love of Growing Garden Club
Illinois	Springfield Civic Garden Club
Massachusetts	Falmouth Garden Club
Michigan	Muskegon Garden Club
Missouri	Lake Bloomers Garden Club and The 25 Gardeners
New Jersey	Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford
New Mexico	Valley Gardeners Garden Club
New York	Ogdensburg Youth Garden Club
North Carolina	Two Green Thumbs Garden Club
Ohio	Highland Heights Garden Club
Oklahoma	Tulsa Garden Club
Pennsylvania	Upper Perkiomenville Garden Club
Tennessee	Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club
Virginia	Ayr Hill Garden Club
Vermont	Garden Club of Manchester

### Espoma Grants

Espoma is completing its third successful year of providing \$250 product grants to NGC garden clubs. To date, 40 clubs across the country have received \$10,000 in Espoma products for use in a wide variety of garden projects. While five new recipients have been selected in 2020, the application deadline is not until May 31. Espoma is looking for 15 more projects and clubs to support. To apply, go to the [Espoma](#) website and click on the LEARN icon and then on Garden Clubs, complete the short application on the bottom of the page and click submit. **PLANT AMERICA!**



THANK YOU!

## Golden Circle

JEAN OHLMANN

The Golden Circle Committee congratulates and welcomes four new members who served on the NGC National Board for twenty-five years. We introduce you to these women along with a few of their many accomplishments.

### Arabella Dane

- She became a member of the Board in 1995 as the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts President, Inc.
- Arabella served as Membership Chair, Butterfly Gardens Across the Americas Chair, American Horticulture Society and WAFA Liaison, FSS Accrediting Chair and her present positions of Photography Chairman, American Public Garden Association Rep and FSS Accrediting Chair.
- It is very difficult to name just a few areas where Arabella has been involved. This energizer bunny has a bio that covers pages.
- Arabella and her husband have three married children, and seven precious grandchildren. Their farm (Hillcrest) in Center Harbor NH, is a destination point for “housepests” of all ages, garden enthusiasts and wildlife.

### Judy Grotts

- She joined the NGC Board as Birds Chair and remained in that position for the maximum six years. She later took on chairmanships in America-A-Bloom, Flowering Trees and Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl. Following these positions she became Oklahoma Garden Clubs President.
- Judy served on the Nominating and the Leadership Development Committees and is currently the Credentials Vice-Chairman.
- She earned the Five Star Certificate for completing Master Status in Flower Show Judging, Landscape Design, Environmental Studies and Gardening Studies.
- Judy and Dan Grotts have one son and one daughter, three grandchildren, two great granddaughters and four great grandsons.
- She has loved living on a farm half way between Oklahoma City and Tulsa. She loves to cook and preserve the family garden, quilt and do crafts. Judy listens to all kinds of music and audio books while traveling.



Top: Arabella Dane  
Below: Judy Grotts



# Golden Circle

**JEAN OHLMANN**

**Marge McGoff**

- She joined the NGC Board as Michigan State Garden Clubs President in 1991. Immediately she became Litter Reclamation, Recycling/Waste Management Chair and in 1996 Convention Vice-Chairman.
- Marge served on the Calendar and Nominating Committees before taking a brief hiatus, with a business partner to transform a former conference center into a vacation destination in the Drakensberg Mountains of Northern South Africa. This important chapter in Marge’s life caused her to miss several years on the Board.
- She returned in 2009 to become a member of the Finance Committee and a PH&E Trustee as well as Convention Chairman in 2016.
- She currently serves on the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Committee. “There were so many experiences around this country and even the world that were so fulfilling. Besides my precious family of five children, I can truthfully say that Garden Club is a major part of my life.”



**Pat Westgard**

- She joined the NGC Board as North Dakota State Garden Clubs President and followed as Rocky Mountain Region Director.
- Pat has been a member of the Nominating and Historical Gardens Committees. She been a PH&E Trustee (with additional duties) for six years.
- More recently, she served as Chairman of Grants/Gift/Bequests and her last calling has been the Finance Committee.
- Perhaps finance was Pat’s first calling. A neighbor invited Pat to a garden club meeting where she bought a bunch of new plants at the club sale. Her son complained that they could have bought a nice stereo with all the money she spent. Therefore, it began...



The Golden Circle Committee, organized in 1995, honors members serving on the NGC Board of Directors for 25 years. Headquarters staff compiles their records and accomplishments. Upon receiving this information, the Golden Circle Committee Chairman announces these special members in even number years.

Top: Marge McGoff  
Below: Pat Westgard



# Awards

**PAT YOUNG**

*Award Recipients Stand Out From the Crowd*

One of the many questions in the wake of the NGC 2020 Convention cancellation is what to do about awards. An award, by definition, has to be bestowed or given in order to be an award. Without an NGC convention, the Awards Committee has found a way to bestow awards to deserving garden clubs.

We are gathering all award certificates, rosettes for flower show winners, youth certificates, monetary award checks, Award of Honor pins and anything else to be awarded and putting them in packets to mail to each state president. These award packets should go in the mail in early May. Your state president will then distribute awards within his/her state. We urge each state president to distribute the awards as quickly as possible so that clubs receiving monetary awards can cash their checks within this fiscal year - ends May 31.

We will post the entire list of award winners, along with a brief description of overall winning projects, on the NGC website in May. The members of the Awards Committee have been working since January to judge the many outstanding award applications. We are all amazed by your club projects! Each application, that we received, was selected by your state awards chairman as worthy to compete nationally. Due to the excellence of the applications, and fierce competition, we deliberated thoughtfully and carefully while judging. We commend each club represented in these applications.

# New Book for Schools

**JUDY NEWMAN**

The Schools Policy Committee added *Nature's Best Hope, A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas Tallamy, to the Recommended Reading List for all Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design School Courses. Conservation needs to be everywhere, including our yards, not just in natural parks or land conservancies. Tallamy explains corridors for plants and wildlife in "The Importance of Connectivity." In "Restoring Insects, the Little Things that Run the World," he describes all of the birds who eat caterpillars and insects to feed their young. Tallamy asks the following for consideration. "Are alien plants bad?" and "What have weeds done for us lately?" He notes the 100 species of goldenrod that provide pollen for native bees and butterflies. One hundred-eighty species of caterpillars are food for breeding birds and their young. Tallamy's chapter "Rebuild the Carrying Capacity" discusses "The number of individuals...that can be supported indefinitely without degrading local resources." In "A New Approach to Conservation," he explains where we went wrong and gives suggestions for correcting past mistakes. He concludes with "Ask Will it Work?" and "What Each of Us Can Do." Tallamy addresses environmental concerns for creating sound gardening principles and sustainable landscaping.

## A Spectacular Summer

Our Gardens make a splash all summer long as hundreds of fountains jet to life in daily shows amid glorious gardens overflowing with blooming annuals and perennials.



As evening falls, our famed Illuminated Fountain Performances set to music create a spectacle unlike any other. Experience this unforgettable spectacle all summer long. On view now.  
[longwoodgardens.org](http://longwoodgardens.org)



**LONGWOOD GARDENS**

Proud supporter of the National Garden Clubs.  
Nestled in the heart of the Brandywine Valley in Chester County, Pennsylvania.





# Virtual Flower Show

**DAVID ROBSON**

*Lime Sorbet by D. Mozzochi (VOB)*

For the NGC Convention in Milwaukee in May, we were planning an NGC Flower Show. Unfortunately, it was canceled with the convention. However, all that hard preparation is not wasted. We are morphing that flower show schedule into *Perfect Visions* Virtual Flower Show. Instead of a Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, this is a Flower Show, with horticulture, design and botanical arts classes. This is our first attempt and we realize there will be hitches. That is why we are giving you and us plenty of time.

The schedule is posted on the NGC Website. Start working on your designs and your horticulture specimens. Entries are accepted between June 1 and June 15. Judging occurs between June 16 and June 30, with winning entrants posted on NGC social media after July 1.

Design and botanical arts classes are specific. Though you can only enter one design class, you can enter both botanical arts classes if you want. The horticulture schedule contains just broad section titles, with subdividing by horticulture classification consultants after entries are submitted by June 15. Garden club members are allowed to enter one specimen per Section.

We realize this does not conform to a true NGC Flower Show per the Handbook for Flower Shows. Because of that, we are only awarding blue ribbons and 90+ winners. No exhibiting and judging credits will be offered. As President Gay Austin has said "this is for fun. Flower shows have been canceled, yet members are still gardening and creating. This is an outlet to maintain some sense of who we are in these unusual times." Questions: [drobson@illinois.edu](mailto:drobson@illinois.edu).



*Two X the Beauty by Lana Ho (VOB)*







# Seeing Is Believing

**ARABELLA DANE**

Thank you to members for submitting 143 photos for our 2020 NGC Photo Contest *Seeing is Believing*. Here are the blue ribbon and distinctive entries. View all of the top finishing images, with judges' comments, on the [NGC website](#). Congratulations!



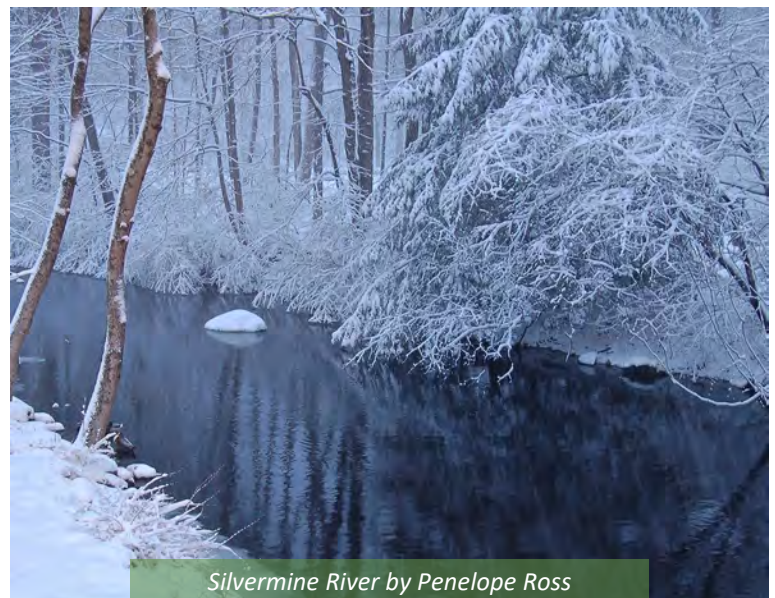
*Within a Water Drop* by Dianne Roberts



*Sunbathing Hawaiian Anole* by Deborah Wyght



*Butterfly And Orchid* by Sharon Bolingbroke



*Silvermine River* by Penelope Ross





# Seeing Is Believing

ARABELLA DANE



*Framing A City by Susanna Funk*



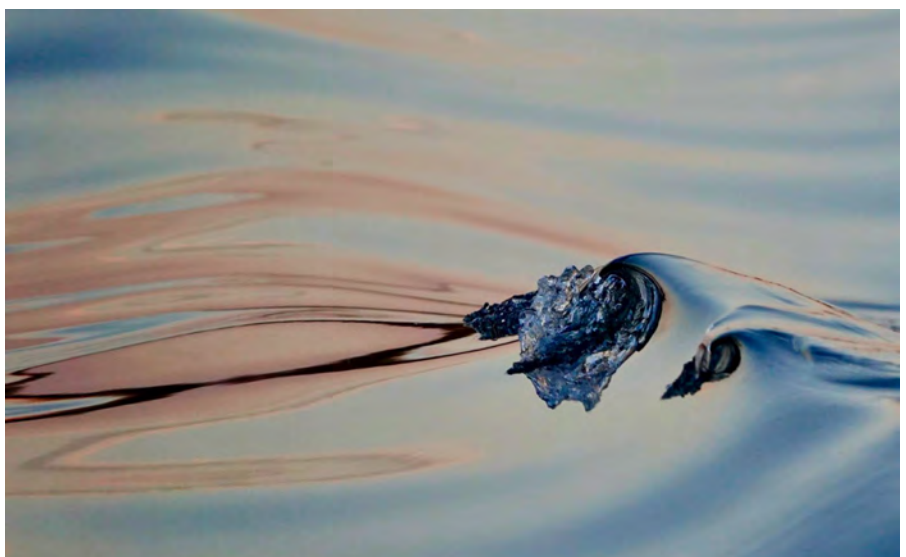
*Hummingbird in Flight by Loan Tran*



*Gerbera Daisy by Dianne Roberts*



*Night Birch by Barbara Spellmeyer*



*Cranberry Waters by Anne Green*





FARGO

## Bounty on the Prairie

PAT WESTGARD

*Bounty on the Prairie* goes live on September 23-26, 2020, for the annual NGC Fall Board Meeting. Where? Fargo North Dakota - you know, that state where most of you have never been. We have a block of rooms reserved at the Holiday Inn for \$129 with free parking. Meeting rooms abound for all committee meetings. The Holiday Inn features a full-service restaurant and is in the heart of the shopping district with additional eateries within walking distance. How do we get there? Planes, trains and automobiles! Delta, United, American, and Frontier usually fly in from Minneapolis, Denver, Chicago, Dallas, etc. Amtrak stops in the middle of the night. We are on the intersection of Interstate highways 29 and 94 and right smack dab in the center of North America!

What else is planned? Dinner speakers include Don Kinzler, our Cass County Extension Agent, a horticulturist and NGC garden club member; and Steve Stark, a local man who will share his perspective of our history. Workshops comprise of Photography, Oil in the Baaken, Drones in Agriculture and Cover Crops. The last workshop is led by a 2018 NGC Scholarship winner. Watch for more information on the NGC website.

What is there to do when we are not in meetings? Our NGC Award of Excellence winner, Jack Wood with Nola Storm, will speak at lunch. You can visit the Growing Together gardens and the North Dakota State University (NDSU) research greenhouses and display gardens. A bus trip takes you to the NDSU Arboretum winery stop for lunch and tasting. You will learn the challenges of growing trees and grapes in our area. Learn a bit of our unique culture at the Hjemkomst Museum just across the Red River of the North in Moorhead, Minnesota or take in some cat fishing.

So don't miss out on the fun! Yah sure then, you betcha, we have a good time planned. In fact if you just want to stay a bit longer, we are planning a tour for two days, September 27-28 to the International Peace Gardens on the Canadian border. A formal garden spans the exact international border and a new conservatory displays a private collection of about 5000 succulents. This is also an opportunity to see a bit more of North Dakota. If you want to come early, we can supply you with some great ideas. Just call or email us. Or any questions? Our state has been preparing for you for several years and is so excited to have you here! You won't want to miss out on all this stuff! So pack up your bags and come to the Prairie - you just got to be here! "Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise!" Contact: [Lori DeRemer](#) or [Les Westgard](#)





# Calendar of Events

## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PRESIDENT GAY?

June 7 - 9	Idaho State Meeting	Twin Falls, Idaho
July 20 - 22	NGC Summer HQ Meeting	Saint Louis, MO
July 25 - 26	Alaska State Meeting	Anchorage, AK
Aug 3 - 4	Arkansas State Meeting	Little Rock, AR
Aug 5 - 6	South Central Region Meeting	Little Rock, AR
Aug 28 - 29	Rocky Mountain Region Meeting	Lake Milford, KS

During these challenging times, President Gay's schedule is subject to change without notice. Thank you for understanding.

## SCHOOLS → AUGUST - START DATES

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

July 15	CR 3	<a href="#">Pat Rupiper</a>	OH
July 17	CR 2	<a href="#">Sarah McReynolds</a>	TX

### FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Jun 24	CR 4	<a href="#">Jean Engelmann</a>	NV
Aug 10	CR 1	<a href="#">Glenda Tolson</a>	AR
Aug 31	CR 1	<a href="#">Pat Carswell</a>	VA

### GARDENING SCHOOL

Jun 1	CR 4	<a href="#">Joyce Skoglund</a>	VA
Jul 20	CR 3	<a href="#">Mary Jo Schlomann</a>	PA
Aug 3	CR 3	<a href="#">Cecelia Lussen</a>	TX

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Jun 8	CR 1	<a href="#">Linda McLendon</a>	NC
Aug 10	CR 2	<a href="#">Linda McLendon</a>	NC

### MULTIPLE REFRESHERS

Jun 4 (Zoom)	Tri	<a href="#">Rita Crawley</a>	MI
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### FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIA

Jul 17		<a href="#">Patty Howse</a>	MT
Jul 21		<a href="#">Donna Donnelly</a>	SC
Aug 5		<a href="#">Sybil Ingram</a>	AL
Aug 10		<a href="#">Kathy Perkins</a>	NH
Aug 24		<a href="#">Sue Baker</a>	IA
Aug 25		<a href="#">Sue Wittick</a>	MI

See [NGC website](#) for more information on schools, refreshers and symposia. Due to the every changing COVID -19 situation, all of these dates are subject to change.

## No Schools? Try This!

### SUSAN YODER

Seed Your Future reminds us that nature never closes. Check out these videos for fun projects to do while staying home. They provide easy activities you can do with your own family. These were made for educators who work with middle school kids but are fun for all ages.

1. Dyeing Your Own Clothes with Plants: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSOKevuAMyI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSOKevuAMyI)
2. Grow Your Own Plants with Hydroponics: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw9-rp7SBKQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw9-rp7SBKQ)
3. Make Your Own Fun Light Maze for Plants: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nEbnsmslr4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nEbnsmslr4)

Are you Netflix'ed out? Binge-watched everything you wanted? Take a look at Seed Your Future's #PlantFlix feature. Every day, they post a new plant video. Watching life itself grow is pretty cool. (Submit your own video to [info@SeedYourFuture.org](mailto:info@SeedYourFuture.org). You could see it listed soon!) Visit [www.seedyourfuture.org/plantflix](http://www.seedyourfuture.org/plantflix).

### Calling All Century Clubs!

We are happy to feature three Century clubs in this issue. Is YOUR club over 100 years old? We want to applaud your accomplishments. Please send a short article and photos for a future issue of KIT to [geriannewgcf@gmail.com](mailto:geriannewgcf@gmail.com). Thanks.



# Acknowledgements

## CONTRIBUTORS

Katherine Allen, Sharon-Raytown GC Historian  
 Gay Austin, National Garden Clubs, Inc. President  
 Brenda Bingham, Vision of Beauty Chair  
 Joan Corbisiero, NGC Parliamentarian  
 Arabella Dane, Photo Contest Chair  
 Diane Dawson, Sponsorship Chair  
 Donna Donnelly, NGC Recording Secretary  
 Barbara Hadsell, Gardening Schools Chair  
 Lynette Jeffres, NGC Treasurer  
 Mary Lou Jordan, Monticello GC  
 Kitty Larkin, Four/Five Star Chair  
 Brenda Moore, NGC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
 Flossie Narducci, Ames Tools Grant Manager  
 Judy Newman, Environmental/Schools Policy Chair  
 Kitty O'Meara, Author  
 Jean Ohlmann, Golden Circle Chair  
 Greg Pokorski, Landscape Design School Chair  
 Carol Reap, Ladies Garden Club President  
 David Robson, *Perfect Visions* Chair  
 Donna Rouch, NGC 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
 Jan Stewart, Sharon-Raytown GC President  
 Bonnie Stockel, NGC Corresponding Secretary  
 Eloise Thomas, Monticello GC  
 Gail Vanderhorst, Recycling Chair  
 Mary Warshauer, NGC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
 Jan Warshauer, Flower Show Schools Chair  
 Pat Westgard, FBM 2020 Committee  
 Susan Yoder, Seed Your Future  
 Pat Young, Awards Chair

**STAFF**  
[Gerianne Holzman](#), Editor  
[Ann Fiel](#), Assistant Editor  
 Gerry St. Peters, Joyce Bulington & Jan Sillik, Editorial Review

Coming in July/August: Special Environmental Issue. **YOUR contributions to KIT are always welcome. Please send interesting articles, club photos and activities along with special tips & tricks. Deadline: June 1, 2020. Thank YOU!** Please send articles to [geriannewgcf@gmail.com](mailto:geriannewgcf@gmail.com)

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22. Carol Highsmith(Wiki), G. Holzman
23. LUM3N(PB)
24. G. Holzman

Note: Photo contest photographers acknowledged with their images.

# Sitting on the Porch

**GERIANNE HOLZMAN** The world is so different from just a couple of short months ago. We looked forward to welcoming NGC members to Wisconsin, we traveled and went about our normal activities. NOW, we stay safe at home, attend virtual meetings and take lots of walks. We still have gardening, wildlife viewing, reading, planning and puttering.

What have YOU done during this time at home? Has your club held virtual gatherings or educational events? What have you done outside? Please share your stories and images for possible inclusion in a future issue. Please Keep in Touch!

***You alone are enough.  
 You have nothing to prove to anybody.***

Maya Angelou