

CAR Review



Gail Corle Manna, Director



From Our Director:

Well, it seems like the light at the end of the tunnel.

Covid restrictions lifting, ever so slightly, vaccines given and the sights and smells of Spring are making my mood lift and the contemplation of in-person garden club meetings, tours and flower shows: things are getting back to a new normal. We have been so grateful to have Zoom these many months, to keep us connected and sane. Plus, I feel certain, Zoom will be a part of our lives into the future with hybrid events---in person and virtual combinations. We have grown in many new ways over the past year and I am so proud of all of you for staying connected and continuing to grow during this pandemic.

Our Clubs are starting to have more events with personal connections and I know everyone will be so happy to see one another without our sweat pants and with our makeup and hair done. LOL

Each of our States has gone above and beyond to make sure our membership stayed connected and informed. That has been our wish. We needed to keep our members active and not depressed because they were missing out on beloved events and their ongoing need for garden information. Well, it has been amazing. We have all seen exotic gardens, great programs and speakers that we never would have had before Zoom enabled us to out-do ourselves. Congratulations to everyone. We have survived this pandemic and come out of this crisis stronger.

7 TOGETHER----Planting America

Please enjoy this last newsletter of this administration. It is always full of great information and please forward on to your membership. Spread the word. Take note of the reference to the delayed 2021 Conference and please read all the Presidents' articles and see what and how much our States have been doing during these crazy times.

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs: www.car-sgc.org

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs: Connie Raymond
www.delawaregardenclubs.org

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.: Carolyn Braverman
www.fgcofmd.org

National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.: Cherie Lejeune
www.ncagardenclubs.org

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.: Jeannie Geremia
www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.: Victoria Bellias
www.fgcny.com

Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.: Mary Lou Smith
www.gardenclubofohio.org

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania: Joyce Milberg
www.pagardenclubs.org

Caroline Carbaugh, Editor
cscarbaugh@verizon.net

I would be remiss if I did not say that it has been an honor and a pleasure being your Director over the last two years and I know I leave you in knowledgeable hands with your Director Elect, Betty Cookendorfer. She and her Alternate, Mary Lou Smith, will do a wonderful job and bring great leadership to this organization.

Betty’s contact information has been sent to each State President. Please see that your Clubs get this information, as they will need it for their yearbooks.

Cherry Blossoms at Ft. Washington Park, MD



Again, the last two years have been such a wonderful time in my life and I will cherish all the memories. Covid may have changed many details, but it also created many new and different events and memories. Times I will never forget.

I thank each and every one of you for a truly wonderful two years. I’m not disappearing and look forward to seeing each of you very soon and hopefully be able to greet you with a huge hug, something we have all been missing.

Fondly,
Gail Corle Manna, Director
Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

2021-2023 CARSGC Director Information

Garden Club Yearbook Chairs have been calling for CAR-SGC information to print in their yearbooks. Please pass this along.

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Mary Lou Smith, CAR-SGC Alternate Director 2021-2023
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513-367-9285

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**Theme: PLANT AMERICA:
LET’S GET GROWING!**
Includes all aspects of gardening and horticulture and growing our Region membership

They will be installed and take office on May 20, 2021 at the NGC Virtual Convention.

Congratulations, Betty and Mary Lou.

CARSGC Fall Conference 2021

Just a reminder to everyone:

The CARSGC Fall Conference for 2021 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, November 2-5th has been cancelled/postponed by Executive Vote after the Hotel contacted us and asked us to move the Conference forward a year due to the fact they felt they could not handle the size of our meetings due to PA Covid Restrictions. We thanked the Hotel for this heads-up.

So take note: No formal in-person CARSGC Conference for 2021.

Next Conference will be:

November 1-4, 2022 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Information to follow. We thank Nerita Brant, Chair, Mary Jo Gardill, Assistant Chair and PA President-Elect, Sheila Croushore, for all their hard work and are so looking forward to a wonderful event in 2022. We will be ready to party.....

So mark your calendars for an enchanting time in the Pennsylvania Mountains November 1-4, 2022.

Theme: PLANT AMERICA; LET'S GET GROWING!

**- includes all aspects of gardening and horticulture
and growing our Region membership**



Betty Cookendorfer

Hello to our seven states that make up the Central Atlantic Region and it is my great pleasure to greet you as Region Director-Elect to become Region Director at the end of May. It has been so exciting as I have called prospective CAR Board members for the term I will serve as Director – 2021 -2023. You have been very positive and gracious in accepting Board positions and helping to support the mission, goals and objectives of National Garden Clubs (NGC), CAR and your States. I am looking forward to pursuing and accomplishing these goals and objectives with you.

While we seem to be turning the corner with the COVID-19 pandemic and many of us have been able to receive the vaccine, we continue to follow the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and our individual state governance. Thanks to our wonderful technical leadership in our Region, many of us have been able to continue our meetings via Zoom and other electronic communications.

During the past year, it has been wonderful for me to participate in Zoom video and audio communications for committee meetings, Board meetings, NGC sponsored schools, Tech training, horticulture, and floral design programs. However, we have many members who have not explored the experiences being offered to our membership that we need to reach.

Virtual events such as workshops, fund-raising programs and flower shows are being identified and explored. I want our members to continue these various types of meetings to stay connected until the face-to-face meetings are the best option for us.

Feeling so strongly about the visual experiences that are accessible for our membership, I have designated **All Things Virtual - Let's get connected! as my Director's Project**. This unique Director's Project will be under the Chairmanship of Cherie Lejeune (National Capital Area) and include a tech-savvy committee member from each of our seven states.

Congratulations to Director Gail Corle Manna for her successful term of office 2019-2021. On behalf of the membership, thank you, Gail, for your excellent leadership and dedication to the CAR Region. All best wishes for your future endeavors.

**Happy Gardening and Growing,
Betty Cookendorfer,
CAR-SGC Director-Elect**



**Magnolia
Blossom**



Helleborus

**Photos by
Caroline Carbaugh**

From Our States:

Delaware



Connie Raymond

I would like to thank Gail Corle Manna, our CAR-SGC Director for the past 2 years, for her leadership, guidance, and inspiration. She has been available to address issues and questions. Her Zoom meetings have kept us connected.

It has been a pleasure meeting the 6 sister state Presidents. Each has graciously shared ideas and information during this challenging time. I look forward to seeing them again in the future.

In 2019 I began my President’s Project, “Dedicated to Delaware”. As a native Delawarean, I appreciate the many wonderful attributes of our state. Delaware has a rich history to share. Delaware offers more than beautiful beaches, racetracks, and tax free shopping. With beautiful gardens at Winterthur and Nemours and now the latest gem, Delaware Botanic Garden, which we have partnered with for the past 4 years, we offer a “gardener’s paradise”. We were saddened to cancel the 2020 CAR-SGC Conference in Dover, Delaware. We had hoped to share our state with you. Please consider a trip to visit us in the future.

Through my project, we will continue to partner with other agencies. First State Heritage Park is Delaware’s first urban “park without boundaries” linking historical and cultural sites in Dover, the city that has been the seat of state government since 1777. The sites of the park highlight Delaware’s role as “First State”. The Heritage Park Welcome Center is located within the Public Archives Building, which serves as an entrance portal to the city. Visitor services include self-guided tours and extensive information on local and statewide attractions, events, and activities. The entrance garden is viewed by approximately 2500 visitors per month. Beautifying the garden with native plants will give Delaware garden clubs a visual presence in the

capital. Website and membership information will be available in the visitors center. Gardeners are creating gardens and growing membership.



First State Heritage Park Welcome Center

Our second partnership is with Kent County Parks and Recreation. Kent County’s flagship community park, Brecknock, is just south of Dover. This 86 acre park includes an historic home dating back to the 1700s, pavilions, more than a mile of nature trails, a “one of a kind” playground called Picadilly Castle, a Nature Center with a naturalist, and a native/butterfly garden. The garden is in need of plants and child appealing enhancements. It includes pathways, a water feature, a handicap accessible raised bed, a milkweed meadow for butterflies, and butterfly houses. With our assistance it will become a children’s garden that will appeal to all ages! These projects carry out the National Garden Clubs “Plant America” theme.



Children’s garden in March, 2021

In March 2020, progress on both locations was halted due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Carney. (The State of Emergency is still in effect.) The park naturalist, the landscape designer

for the Brecknock Park garden and I have a wish list of hardscape items and plants that are needed. We are adding 43' of pathway through the milkweed meadow to encourage children to get "up close and personal" with the pollinators. A concrete birdbath filled with small, natural stones will provide a resting place for pollinators without the risk of drowning. A small boulder will serve as a sunning stone for butterflies to rest and maintain body heat since they are ectothermic. A local garden club is interested in focusing on the garden as their theme for the coming year. This garden will be very visible and accessible and greatly appreciated as a free park. It is exciting and rewarding to see these projects completed. Garden Clubs throughout Delaware have been very supportive.

Connie Raymond,
President, Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs

Maryland

When cooler weather set in, the activities of the clubs took an inward turn. For those who had been meeting outside, socially distanced, it was time to curtail those meetings. Virtual meetings took over, some clubs meeting monthly, others just once in



Carolyn Braverman

a while. Most Christmas decorating projects lapsed. But one club continued to do quite amazing projects. Hampered by the recent prohibition to use live plant material in decorating museums and Historic homes in their area, the club was able to create lovely arrangements with faux material at the historic home they have supported for 80 years. Because of the focus on virtual experiences this year, the decorations were viewed by 630 people, instead of last year's 200 visitors to the home.

Spring approaches, and of course, Annual Meetings were scheduled. All five Districts of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland opted to hold virtual meetings, including virtual programs. The programs varied from focusing on what you can grow yourself to use in your floral creations, to foraging for

material, to new materials replacing floral foam, to spring arranging with daffodils.

FGCMD 92nd Annual Meeting is a hybrid meeting. Even though vaccinations are proceeding and infections are diminishing, many members are still hesitant to meet in public. Fifty-four brave souls registered for the "live" meeting but over 80 for virtual attendance. Our speaker for the event is Sumer Rayne Oakes, a media influencer, an author, and environmental activist.

Dedications for two Gold Star Memorials and two Blue Star Memorials are planned in the spring. The actual installations have taken place within the last year. We also look forward to the dedication of the beleaguered Alice Rush McKeon Tree Planting by District I. Alice was a garden club member and Past President of FGCMD who had a passion for trees, and many years ago published a little book of poems about trees, the proceeds of which went into a fund. Every year, on a rotating basis, the Districts plant trees using proceeds from the fund. The pandemic deeply affected District I in 2020 as our partner, the State Highway Association, had to pull out due to lack of funds. Plans were reformulated, locations changed and re-changed, but this spring, come what may, trees will be planted and the dedication carried out. Alice can rest easy.

A trip to Mt. Cuba to view their spring gardens featuring native plants is scheduled for May. And finally, inspired by another CAR-SGC President, we ventured into the world of a virtual Book Club. Our first book was *The Well-Gardened Mind* by Sue Stewart Smith. It was a lively discussion and prompted us to continue meeting. Next up, Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*.

Carolyn Braverman,
President, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland

National Capital Area

Garden Club Leadership... leaving this Presidency post, a good time for reflection. One's term Theme is merely a seed. Mine was "Plant America, Cultivating Community", and yes, very prophetic. A total of 14 months out of 24 months, PIVOT, ADAPT, became our NCAGC mantra.

This special period might seem more fable, than fact in a few years. But facts are, we showed a nonstop tenacity. Our 60 clubs learned ZOOM, some mastered hybrid meetings. The Share-a-Program which opened up club sponsored speakers to our whole membership, took off. There were garden tours, plant sales, innovative holiday and special occasion parties, some with fanciful headwear, and always built-in, learning, fun and simply, a sense of belonging. The clubs also kept up maintenance of their community projects with masks on, so in the gardens, memorial markers and even highway greenery, the weeds got pulled!



Cherie Lejeune

blossom. And I feel like I know so many of you, beyond our boundaries. True gift.

So when May 1 arrives and my title changes to “advisor”, I will turn over the gavel which now seems like a relic; for the only banging we have done, has been reconstruction, seeking out better organization tools and methods, including streamlining our meetings and most of all, taking advantage of the many new club friends we have made, where the “no boundaries”, that digital offers, opened up the opportunity.

Before ZOOMING, we were just that smile/ hand-wave at a District or State meeting, which are attended by a fraction of our membership. Now we have become THOSE individuals laughing with them, as we have collectively used CHAT for the powerful digital shoutout ---MUTE!!!!

Arlene Stewart was my leadership partner for two years. I will stand firm that the secret sauce is sharing and listening all the time, for the benefits are clear, a seamless change of leadership. Arlene will be a wonderful leader, and the best part, she will create even more bonds for our members, forward.

I am not disappearing, as Chair of Virtual Resources for NGC and, CAR-SGC, I promise even more digital tools to learn and have fun

Happy Spring. Be well.

Cherie Lejeune,

President, National Capital Area Garden Clubs

Our Wonderful Affiliates: Mexico, Central and South America



Some of you attended our digital meetings like the December Holiday Tour as we traveled the world or Kirk Brown’s Valentine program of the right flowers for love messaging. The entire NGC Executive Board attended our many events. Their faces are now known to many, which for our general members, this opportunity to see or hear them, is very rare.



I calculate I did no less than 4x more events and activities than the “normal” duties of the President’s schedule. But I admit, I had fun, especially seeing folks from everywhere. A community, really did

New Jersey

Spring Greetings from New Jersey! We have all been through difficult times due to the Covid-19 pandemic but now Spring has arrived, and with it comes renewed hope. As I gaze out my window at the daffodils and hyacinths, I feel hopeful that with larger numbers of people receiving vaccinations, the scourge of this virus will be coming to an end.



Cecilia Millea

Although activities have been greatly restricted, the Garden Club of New Jersey remains connected with our member clubs, while conducting business through virtual meetings. Our Board of Directors and Committees have their meetings via Zoom and have become quite proficient in this process.

Despite the curtailment of activities, a surprising number of clubs have submitted applications for state awards. Our Awards Chair, Peggy Morrissey, is doing an outstanding job ensuring that, as many clubs as possible, are recognized for their efforts. Applications have been forwarded to NGC and CAR for further award consideration.

GCNJ hosted a two-day virtual event in March entitled, "The Go Wild Winter Festival." The theme of the event was conservation. GCNJ has developed a new conservation pledge that is listed on our website. It reinforces our continued commitment to advocacy for conservation and the environment. This event was completed successfully thanks to a very dedicated committee.

The event consisted of five one-hour sessions, with speakers for each session addressing a topic related to our central theme. Presenters included David Wheeler of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey; Mark Falzone of Scenic America; Bruce Crawford of Rutgers University; Sam Lemheney and Melissa Raffel of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; Sam Pesin of Friends of Liberty State Park and Greg Remaud of NY/NJ Baykeepers. The speakers were excellent and highly informative, providing an opportunity to raise our level of conservation awareness so that individually, and collectively, we can take steps to protect our environment.



GCNJ is also continuing its commitment to see that all of New Jersey's 21 counties have a Blue Star Memorial Marker in the near future. All but five of the

counties currently have markers. A marker was placed and dedicated in Haddonfield, Camden County, in 2020. (See picture above.) Markers are ready for placement in two additional counties, and plans are underway to situate and order markers for the last two counties.

Hudson County, the home of Liberty State Park, is one of the remaining counties that does not currently have a marker. We are working with the New Jersey Department of Transportation to establish a Blue Star Memorial Marker in this special park that overlooks the Statue of Liberty. What a wonderful location for visitors from around the world to see a memorial to our veterans!



Liberty State Park -Statue of Liberty in the Harbor

We also continue to support efforts to enact the Liberty State Park Protection Act to safeguard the "people's park" from privatization. GCNJ has joined the Coalition to Pass the Liberty State Park Protection Act and encourage our members to write to their New Jersey senators and assemblymen to support this important piece of legislation.

Our Annual Meeting, to be held on June 10th, will be a hybrid virtual meeting. We are planning to conduct our installation of incoming officers and District Directors in person at Rutgers Gardens while others will be in attendance virtually. Further details will be available on the GCNJ website.

***Cecelia Millea,
President -elect/Acting President,
Garden Club of New Jersey***

New York

FGCNYS Jumps into Spring!



The Federated Garden Clubs of NYS congratulates all of our incoming Officers and District Directors. We anticipate a new beginning by welcoming Lynne Arnold as our incoming NYS President.

The vaccines are well underway and we hope to resume in-person meetings in the fall of 2021. Many of our clubs are looking forward to having socially distanced or outdoor meetings. Clubs are encouraged to begin hosting Standard or Small Standard Flower Shows using the outdoors, patios, porches, covered gazebos or barns. Both our members and our judges are anxious to grow and show!

We recently held our own Zoom Environmental School Course 1 and plan on offering a Zoom Gardening School Course 1 this April, both sponsored by District Eight, Buffalo, NY. Our Zoom/Hybrid Landscape Design School Course 4 in the Seventh District, Rochester, NY will be held in



Victoria Bellias

June. Our Second District on Long Island will sponsor a hybrid Flower Show Symposium in October. We continue to learn and grow together. Congrats to all!

Our state has purchased a second subscription to Zoom. We provide clubs in the state tech support and the opportunity to reserve a space for their meetings. We have also initiated a virtual speakers list to get them started on meaningful programs via Zoom. Many clubs are Zooming into the future and

enjoy this new way to communicate. Our Annual Convention and business meeting will be held in early May via Zoom. It will feature speakers on sustainable fishing, weather photography, a floral design program emphasizing planning an outdoor show and our installation of officers and directors.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the President of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS. Let's keep Zooming along and staying safe and healthy,

Victoria Bellias,
*President, Federated Garden Clubs
of New York State*

Ohio

Greetings from Ohio!

Garden Club of Ohio held a Zoom Board Meeting, Feb. 12th to conduct business and have reports from our Committee Chairmen. We made updates and changes to our Bylaws. The Board made the decision to move the Convention to July 20-21, 2021. The Chairman for the Seeds of Friendship



Mary Lou Smith

Program has been collecting seeds from the GCO clubs for the people of Rwanda. The Garden Club of Ohio partners with the Columbus Zoo on this yearly project. Members donate vegetable seeds that the people want and that grow best in Rwanda. Members also purchase garden gloves or donate money that is used to buy additional seeds. The Chairman for the Nature Conservancy project which helps tackle important conservation issues have been collecting donations for this cause. The All Schools and the Ohio Heritage Garden Chairman gave reports. The Heritage Garden is part of the landscape at the Governor's Mansion in Columbus, OH. We support this project with the purchase of tools, equipment, and park benches. The club members also volunteer to work in the gardens. We also had interesting reports on Organic Gardening and Endangered Species.

Due to Covid-19, I only had the opportunity to attend the Fall District meetings in 2019. The GCO President is scheduled to do Spring and Fall District meetings each year. My travel to the Fall Meetings in 2019 was a pleasure to meet the members in the 10 districts. I received a warm welcome from each District, not knowing it would be a one-time visit. Each District Director had planned an interesting and informative program. Our District Directors coordinate activities in their respective districts, promoting the purposes of the Garden Club of Ohio through member clubs. I did enjoy getting to meet the Presidents from the CAR-NGC states. I am looking forward to serving in your District as Alternate Director with Betty Cookendorfer in 2021-2023.

Mary Lou Smith,
President, Garden Club of Ohio

Pennsylvania



Joyce Milberg

My theme for this administration has been - Growing our Legacy: Green Spaces, Education, Scholarship, Connections. I know that's a mouthful, but it encompasses everything the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania does as we join in to Plant America. And as you all will agree, in this time everything we've done has been different, innovative and with the highest consideration for the health and safety of our members.

While most of our clubs did not meet in person this year, we did mask up, grabbed our tools and took to the public gardens and green spaces throughout our communities. We benefitted from a bountiful gift of 40,000 seed packets from Burpee that we used to grow and donate vegetables to food banks and to plant traffic islands and our own backyards. We nurtured ponds and rain gardens and pollinator gardens. While hard to know exactly, our clubs tell me they planted close to 500 trees in our PA landscape. Sometimes we worked alone, sometimes we held our plant sales online – all done to continue to grow our Green Spaces among our communities.

My theme for this administration has been - Growing our Legacy: Green Spaces, Education, Scholarship, Connections. I know that's a mouthful, but it encompasses everything the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania does as we join in to Plant America. And as you all will agree, in this time everything we've done has been different, innovative and with the highest consideration for the health and safety of our members.

We realized fairly early in the pandemic year that Zoom would be the way we would meet. Had you ever heard of Zoom a year ago? We held our June and October 2020 Board meetings on Zoom learning how to poll, split screen and spotlight the speaker. We held the very first on-line Gardening School in NGC last summer. Our traditional September District Annual Meetings were a hodgepodge of outdoor bring your own food, zoom meetings or hybrid live/zoom. But many of our clubs were reluctant to join us, intimidated by the new technology. So, Sheila Croushore our president-elect and liaison with District Directors, took the new class of 2020-22 Directors for a spin in learning the ins and outs of Zoom meetings. The goal is to pass that knowledge along to club presidents who will pass it along to club members to create an enthusiastic audience for Zoom presentations. This approach has worked; we will have an animated crowd of 300 + for our three day "Zooming into Spring" Convention in mid-April.

Scholarship has always been a notable tool in the GCFP basket of benefits. We expect our scholarship winners to stay in touch, and perhaps become participating members. This year our clubs, Districts and the Federation awarded \$95,100 to deserving students. We are very proud of that.

Our new Keystone Gardener Online Newsletter has been a quick and responsive add-on to the print edition of the Keystone Gardener Magazine. Along with those approaches to connection, this year has seen a plethora of email messages, free gardening programs and, of course, meetings on Zoom designed to stay connected. The crowning glory will be the success of a full virtual convention. We will have business meetings, hands on workshops, breakout sessions, and the installation of our new officers. Kudos are due to the Convention Committee and all the members of the sponsoring District IV - lots of preparation has been accomplished in short order!



Joyce Milberg,
President, Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

In spite of the Pandemic, we cared for our Community Gardens in Pennsylvania using masks and by social distancing!



YMCA Butterfly Garden, Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club.



Fox Chapel pond in Mary's Garden at Fox Chapel Area High School.



Seed Swap by Weeders and Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier.



Reading Garden Phase 4
Installation June to October 2020



Pollinator Garden at Blue Star Marker Green Thumb Garden Club.

Thanks to ALL!
Marjorie Sears, GCFP Civic Dev. Chair

Southern Butler Garden Club

CAR-SGC Perennial Bloom Award

This past year has given us all time to reflect upon many things. One of the things I've thought a lot about are the members in my Garden Club who have made our clubs grow and bloom with their continuous support of our goals and objectives. Their roots spread out through the community - whether openly acknowledged or behind the scenes, but there nevertheless.

These indispensable members of our Garden Clubs have shared their love of gardening and have planted many a seed for garden club programs and events, while their enthusiastic leadership has inspired members to nurture these seeds into successful blooms. They are someone everyone relies upon - the backbone of the Club! In grateful appreciation for their years of support, each of our Seven Garden Club States may nominate a member for the CAR-SGC PERENNIAL BLOOM AWARD. This nomination process begins with you! Each garden club may submit a candidate to their District Director. So please take time to review the guidelines and complete the application process that is on our CAR-SGC website - www.car-sgc.org.

Clubs must choose their Perennial Bloom candidate by June 1 - so take a few minutes between your gardening activities and submit the name of that special garden club member.

**Monica C. Hansen,
CAR-SGC Perennial Bloom
Award Chairman**



Along the Potomac River in Alexandria, VA

Every State Can Win the AHS Regional Perennial Award

CAR-SGC garden clubs are eligible to apply for the American Horticultural Society Regional Perennial Award, which may be awarded to a garden club, a group of garden clubs, a district, a council or a state for an outstanding class or section of **herbaceous perennials** in an NGC Flower Show. The overall exhibit must be of outstanding quality and include a minimum of 20 exhibits. Each state can have a winner, so a total of 7 awards is the goal. Donated monetary rewards will be presented, in addition to an AHS certificates and memberships.

Applying for this award is easy. The book of evidence can be done in the required 3 pages and must include the date, name of State Garden Club, name of show and location; a copy of the schedule's pertinent class/section; a list of botanically named exhibits (genus, species/epithet and cultivar, if pertinent); a clear photograph of exhibits, including staging; a clear photograph of any top awards in exhibit, if applicable. See the CAR-SGC website for the application form.

The time to gather information for this award is during your NGC Flower Show. Appropriate photographs can be taken; the botanical names of herbaceous perennials are handy for compiling a list. Waiting months after a show makes the application process challenging, rather than easy. Applications for the 2021 calendar year will be due by April 1, 2022.

Please contact Shirley Nicolai at shirleynicolai@verizon.net with any questions.

Celebrate Spring By Attending Flower Show School

Garden Club of Ohio is GOING FORWARD with Flower Show School, Course 1, May 11-14, 2021, despite some big challenges. Our original venue, a Federally owned facility, is unavailable due to continued Covid-19 restrictions, so we have an exciting new venue - Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati! We have two fantastic instructors in

Lynn Fronk (Design and Flower Show Procedures) and Sue Kirkman (Horticulture). We have two great plants for study - Iris (cut specimens) and Begonia (container grown). And the weather will be PERFECT! Well, I cannot actually guarantee perfect weather, but I can promise it will be WARM!

After having been prohibited for so long from attending in-person meetings and taking part in those garden club activities that bring us joy, we deserve this opportunity for fun and learning. We should all be fully vaccinated by May, so everyone can attend safely and comfortably.

Please inform your state's members about our school, especially those who may have expressed interest in becoming a judge. I encourage you to go the Garden Club of Ohio website, gardenclubofohio.org, to download a revised brochure with registration form.

Cincinnati is a great city to visit. We look forward to welcoming you!

Begonia "Palomar Prince"
Exhibitor Winnie Garabis



Cindy Kozakewick

threats have been identified by The Nature Conservancy:

Deforestation, Water Pollution, Energy Development Risks, Loss of Species, Air Pollution, Increased Carbon Emissions, Global Warming, Overfishing and Soil Degradation.

The Conservancy protects our important and vulnerable landscapes, keeps pollutants out of rivers and lakes that provide drinking water, reconnects migration corridors for birds and wildlife, harnesses the power of nature to help protect our coasts from increasing storms, advances green renewable energy solutions and curbs overfishing. Do you find these scientific predictions alarming: within 10 years most people on earth will face life with water shortages, by 2050 the world's population is estimated to be 9 billion and over half will be breathing polluted air, ¼ of earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if the warming trend continues? We should be working with leaders to make cities more sustainable, conserving our land, water, climate and other vulnerable natural wonders. We must act now against irresponsible development, unchecked deforestation and harmful practices that will destroy the world's remaining woodlands, rivers, prairies, canyons, seashores and rainforests.

*Iris Cisarik,
CAR Bees, Bugs, Butterflies
and Endangered Species Chairman*

The Nature Conservancy Speaks

For 69 years the Nature Conservancy has worked everywhere to tackle the issues facing conservation such as deforestation, loss of habitat, problematic energy development in a world which creates looming threats to our natural world. Do you feel the state of the natural world is very healthy, in some trouble, is unhealthy or in such bad shape that it may be impossible to fix it? The current pace of development puts the world's remaining natural places at risk in the coming years. Coral reefs are home to 25 per cent of all marine species which means that we could lose up to 70 per cent by 2050. Does it concern you that about 40 per cent of rivers and lakes in the U.S. surveyed by the EPA are too polluted for swimming or fishing? The following

CAR-SGC Scholarship Patronage Program

The Scholarship Patronage program was launched to encourage individuals to make annual donations to our Region's Scholarship Fund. This program is in addition to the Life Membership program, which continues to fund the Scholarship Fund each year.

Under the Patronage Program, members who donate regularly will be recognized at the annual CAR-SGC Fall Conference, in our newsletter, and in the *Members Only* section of the website.

There are four donation categories with special recognition for annual donations in five consecutive years and 10 consecutive years:

2020 was a banner year for the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield. It saw the twin debuts of an online archives project and an updated website. What started out of concern to preserve the club’s historical records from damage and loss reached fruition with an online portal of digitized documents.

Hundreds of man-hours have been spent since 2017 tracking down and collecting historical records from the garages and basements of club members. Included in the archives are yearbooks that go back to the club’s beginnings in 1952, six decades of monthly newsletters, files and photo albums from 30 flower shows and house tours, and miscellaneous publications. All of these and more were outsourced for scanning and loaded into an custom-designed, open-access portal, which can also be accessed from Rake and Hoe’s new website.

Joe Da Rold
Rake & Hoe Garden Club, NJ
Archives Committee Chair

In 2020, Rake and Hoe Garden Club faced the dilemma of losing its annual live auction fundraiser due to pandemic restrictions. The solution was to

conduct a virtual silent auction, with a 5-day silent auction ultimately held in September. We made over \$3,000 to help fund our community projects.

How did it work? The club negotiated with an online service that specializes in auctions. Each member was urged to donate an item. Ultimately, 85 items were donated by 50 members. Categories were suggested to stimulate ideas, with the caveat: “No white elephants or tchotchkes!”

The best-selling items turned out to be food and puzzles. Some food items were so popular that the losing bidders paid R&H for the donor to make another. Two of the food items received 18 bids each. Also popular were plants and textiles, particularly hand-made quilts and knitted items. The best-selling single item was a country getaway @ \$500.

The auction turned out to be wildly popular, and we hope to see it become an annual event. For more details contact Inge Bossert, ibossert@msn.com.

Joe Da Rold & Inge Bossert

Salt Air Gardeners, Ocean View, DE

Continuing our Projects During the Pandemic

The Salt Air Gardeners (SAG) like other garden clubs had to look at new safe and creative ways to continue growing and supporting our members and community projects. After a short pause, our gardeners were busy weeding, pruning, dividing, planting, and tending to all our community garden projects. Our projects include the Indian River Life-Saving Station, Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce, Bay Forest Community Circle, and the Barbara K. Brooks Transition House.





Creative Way to Bring Joy to Residents



The Salt Air Gardeners (SAG) were able to bring some joy to residents at Brandywine Living at Fenwick Island during a time where they were not allowed to have visitors. We created a portable photo booth frame. The frame was attached to a walker they could lean on and they were able to take a special photo to send to their loved ones.

SAG also donated funds for the photos and stamps and a lovely card they could include. Brandywine said 78 residents participated and there are plans to use the photo booth for other holidays.

Delaware Hospice Tree

Our members created a beautiful tree in silver, blue and white with a Starry, Starry Night theme. It was donated to a safe house for women escaping domestic violence.



Barbara K. Brooks Transition House



For the past three summers, Salt Air Gardener members have provided the Brooks Transition House with vegetable plants, soil and mulch, and have assisted the women in planting and growing their own vegetables and herbs.

In October 2020, a dedication ceremony was held, and the garden was named “Kristina’s Garden” in honor of one of the women who lost her battle with addiction. Today, the women have found a sense of accomplishment. The garden has become a symbol of their recovery and a fresh start.

Five Delaware Garden Clubs Join Together

Five Delaware Garden Clubs joined together to make over 80 wreaths for Brandywine Living at Fenwick Island residents.



Salt Air Gardeners, Gardeners by the Sea, Coastal Gardeners, Barefoot Gardeners and Sussex Gardeners created unique wreaths for each of the residents.

The wreaths were delivered to the facility by each of the club presidents on March 22nd. Heather Cronin, Escapades Director at Brandywine Living remarked: "It was wonderful how five local gardening groups in Sussex County came together to make a personalized wreath for every resident at Brandywine. You can see the time and thought that went into each one."

Spring Plans

The Salt Air Gardeners in partnership with the Bay Forest Community are planning a May Day event. Residents are being asked to display a flower basket arrangement on their front porches. This one day will help to brighten up the neighborhood and create a sense of community pride.

Terry Shuchart,
Publicity Chairperson, Salt Air Gardeners

CAR-SGC High School Essay Contest

Rachel Dispoto from Toms River, NJ won the 2019-2020 CAR-SGC Essay Contest. Her essay is presented below. The other regional state winners submitted for 2019-2020 were: from the GCFP: Cadee France, Vincentian Academy, Pittsburgh PA, sponsored by Ingomar Garden Club (IX) and from the FGCM: Will McChesney, Broadneck High School, Annapolis MD, sponsored by Four Rivers Garden Club (II)

Enough is Enough



When we see a candy wrapper fly out of a car window, some of us think nothing of it. When we see a person throw out a plastic water bottle on the sand, we typically don't say anything. When a deer gets hit by a car, we feel sorry for about a minute and move on. Why are we so numb to all these actions? A large part of the reason is that we live in a generation where these actions have simply become normalized. That candy wrapper will never disappear naturally - its chemical signature will always remain - so why would someone throw it on the ground? Simply put, it's the easiest and fastest way to dispose of it; people crave convenience, therefore if there's not a garbage can sitting right next to them, on the ground it goes.

Rachel Dispoto

That plastic water bottle mentioned previously ended up in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP), which is the largest buildup of plastic in the world at over twice the size of Texas. Coincidentally, the largest natural habitat in the world that is the ocean, making the GPSP, as well as the countless other garbage patches in the ocean, extremely dangerous to the marine ecosystem: including lakes, rivers, and marshlands. The species within the aquatic habitats are decreasing rapidly do to mass plastic intake, which has generated a domino effect on other species. For instance, a fish mistakes a water bottle

cap for food, and then a bird ingests the fish that just swallowed the plastic, two species are now facing extinction due to being damaged by hazardous toxins that were consumed. Due to water contamination from people not disposing of their products, it has taken a huge toll on decreasing biodiversity; habitats have been taken over by humans on a day-to-day basis which affects a chain of organisms. The main obstacle with preserving the aquatic habitats is that people choose not to recycle and dispose of items that are compacted with toxic chemicals that don't decompose for hundreds of years.

Another challenge that our ecosystem is facing is the dramatic rise in human population. In our modern era, advanced technology has created medications and has great medical diagnosis that allow longer life expectancy. Although it is fantastic that people are living longer, the consequence seems to be an unsustainable growth in human population. With this rapid population growth, corporations need to cut several forests to expand housing facilities, and create new, jobs. Yes, some forest needs to be cut down for citizens, but deforestation has been getting out of hand. India is a prime example of extreme deforestation due to overpopulation and use of fossil fuels. Natural habitats are on the verge of becoming completely wiped out due to the constant demand of constructing new buildings, which has environmental as well as other non-intended consequences. For instance, in the United States, deer have become a huge issue by grazing on people's lawns, consuming people's gardens and being a main cause of motor vehicle accidents. This is our own fault, we leave animals with no place to build a permanent habitat. As a community, we need to be the voices of species that are becoming endangered due to deforestation. Forest conservation is a step of enactment to maintain future development and ultimately to protect the future generations of all living species.

The human mindset is the biggest challenge in preserving Earth's natural habitats. From destroying habitats at the bottom of the ocean to mass deforestation, both actions cause climate change and push the idea of living sustainability down the drain. Climate change and sustainability need to be brought to our attention because this is our home and our children's future home. Solutions need to be made to the problems that have gotten out of control, and some steps that we can take are stop using single plastics, protest for conservation, and ultimately alter our lifestyles to benefit the planet. In order for us to live, we need Earth's natural resources that we're demolishing every day for our selfish wants not needs. It's now the twenty first century, *enough is enough*.

**Barbara Brand,
CAR-SGC HS Essay Contest Chairman**



Cherry Blossoms

Photos by Caroline Carbaugh



Magnolia Blossoms