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Regional Review

Volume 4, Issue 4

March, 2015

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

At last, after the long winter, the gift of spring is just a few days away. Our gardens will soon brighten as they wake up and come to life.

It is no surprise that over the past two years this *region has rallied*. Your clubs restored, refurbished, replanted and renewed the commitment to *make a difference* in and around your communities. Our common goal connected us. Your volunteer time and tireless efforts, in each community in which you served, made that community better. Your dedication is commendable and greatly valued.

While we anticipate the arrival of spring with beautiful flowers and warmer temperatures, it is also time to remember that the 2015 CAR Conference, "A Floral Explosion", hosted by the GCFP on October 27- 29, will take place at the Wyndham Gettysburg Conference Center in Gettysburg, PA. GCFP also sponsoring a Symposium immediately following the Conference at the Wyndham Gettysburg Conference Center. Information for both events are on the CAR web site: www.ngccar.org and just for the Symposium, on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

During the next couple of months, states will be installing the 2015-2017 officers who will lead our garden clubs for the next two years. It is very important that we support these new officers and governing boards and continue to work together to promote the invaluable work of garden club.

During the 2015 NGC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, Anne Bucher from the National Capital Area Inc., will be installed as the 2015-2017 CAR Director. Anne is an exceptionally capable, devoted member with a great deal of garden club experience. We are most fortunate to have her serve our Region in this capacity. Mary Ellen Alden will serve as CAR Alternate Director during Anne's term. We welcome both Anne and Mary Ellen as we offer our encouragement and support for their administration.

The last two years have been inspiring, educational, enlightening and heartwarming. It has been a privilege to work with the members of the Central Atlantic Region. Your encouragement, dedication, hard work and support is sincerely appreciated and I am very grateful.



Mary Warshawer

The deadline for articles for the next issue of Regional Review is June 1, 2015.

All copy is subject to cut/change.
 The Regional Review is not responsible for any copy submitted or printed.
 All material must be submitted to the Editor, Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at Mafr43@hotmail.com or mailed to 1166 Broadview Road, Tallmadge, OH 44278-3310
 Regional Review is archived on the C.A.R. Website: www.ngccar.org.





SYMPOSIUM 2015

October 28-29, 2015

Wyndham Gettysburg

95 Presidential Circle
Gettysburg, PA 17835

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Linda Nelson, President

The Central Atlantic Region
Mary Warshauer, Director

Garden Club Federation of
Pennsylvania
Betsy Smith, President

Horticulture - Dottie Howatt

"Simply Naked-Bare & Berried Branches"

"The Dreaded Any Other Class"

Allied Topics – Arabella Dane

"It's Magic" "Judging Photography"

Design – Claudia Bates

"Creating Rhythm with Line and Form"

"Armatures - You Can Do It!"

HOTEL INFORMATION

Reservations are to be made directly
with

Wyndham Gettysburg

95 Presidential Circle
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325
www.wyndhamgettysburg.com

1-717-339-0020

Rate is \$119.00 per night + tax

Request the NGC/CAR/SYMPOSIUM
Block of rooms

Reservation Deadline: September 27,
2015

Symposium 2015 Chairman

Diane B. Herman
1027 Willett Drive
Johnstown, PA. 15905-1237
(814) 243-1064
dbherman10@atlanticbb.net

Symposium 2015 Vice Chair Dorothy Yard

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Waterford, PA 16441-4601

(814) 796-4131
dotyard@verizon.net

Symposium 2015 Registrar

Coordinating Credentials Chair

Joyce Milberg

635 Smokey Hill Road

Tionesta, PA 16353-5247

(814) 755-7766

thomsmil@pennswoods.net

Registration forms
available GCFP Web
Site

www.pagardenclubs.org

SYMPOSIUM 2015 SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, October 28, 2015

- 7:30-8:30 AM Registration
- 8:30-8:45 AM Welcome and announcements
- 8:45-10:15 AM HORTICUTURE
"Simply Naked-Bare & Berried Branches"
- "The Dreaded Any Other Class"
Dottie Howatt
- 10:15-10:30 AM Morning Break
- 10:30-11:30 AM Horticulture Continued
- 11:45-12:45 PM Lunch
- 12:45-2:15 PM Practice point scoring horticulture
- 2:15-2:30 PM Break
- 2:30-4:30 PM Point Scoring Exam
- 4:45 PM Social Time
- 5:30 PM Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 PM ALLIED TOPIC
"It's Magic" - Arabella Dane

THURSDAY, October 29, 2015

- 7:30-8:30 AM Registration
- 8:30 -8:45 AM Welcome and Announcements
- 8:45-9:45 AM ALLIED TOPIC
"Judging Photography"-
Arabella Dane
- 9:45-10:00 AM Morning Break
- 10:00-11:30 AM DESIGN
"Creating Rhythm with Line and Form" Claudia Bates
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-1:30 PM DESIGN "Armatures - You Can Do It!"-Claudia Bates
- 1:30-1:45 PM Afternoon Break
- 1:45-3:15 PM Practice Point Scoring Design
- 3:15-:3:30 PM Late Afternoon Break
- 3:30-5:30 PM Point Scoring Exam

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lectures are open to the public for the fee stated on the registration form. Only NGC, Inc. Judges are eligible to take this course for credit. To stay in Good Standing, all Accredited, Accredited Life and Accredited Master Judges must continue their judging education by refreshing every three years. Send the correct form for refresher credit to your State's Credentials Chairman at least six weeks in advance of symposium date. Include a stamped envelope.

State Judges Credentials Chairmen

- DE Dottie Howatt (303) 236-1462
- MD Joan Bender (410) 744-8639
- NCA Karen O'Meara (703) 281-4334
- NJ Jane R. Bersch (609) 654-6580
- NY Lucy Volland (716) 833-0494
- OH Gail Chuck (513) 367-0483
- PA Joyce Milberg (814) 755-7766

Symposium 2015 Committee

- Dorothy Yard (PA) Symposium Horticulture Coordinator
- Brenda Bingham (NJ) Symposium Design Coordinator
- Joyce Milberg (PA) Symposium Registrar/ Coordinating Credentials Chair
- Joyce Peterson (PA) GCFP Symposium Chair
- Jackie Davies (PA) GCFP Judges Council Chair
- Caryl O'Gara (PA) Treasurer
- Wanda Davis (DE) Personnel
- Viva McLeod Rudolph (PA) Vendors
- Eileen Hoover (PA) Brochure

SYMPOSIUM 2015 INSTRUCTORS

Claudia MacKenzie Bates has been a member of the Gainesville, FL Garden Club for 25 years. She has presented design programs to the Judges Councils of PA, NJ, GA and Florida. She has presented Design Programs at state conventions in Alabama and Florida. Her designs have been in the Vision of Beauty and FFGC calendars, Design Dimensions and the WAFA book, "Designing the American Way". Claudia is a Life member of GGC, FFGC and NGC. She is currently the Deep South Floral Design Chairman and 2nd VP of FFGC. She is an active member of Dist. V Judges Council, WAFA, CFFA, NFA and Atelier. She is a Design Instructor for the NGC's Flower Show Schools and Symposia.

Arabella S. Dane is a Garden Club of America Flower Arranging, Horticulture and Photography Judge. She is President of the National Flower Arrangers and served as President of the World Assn of Flower Arrangers for three years. She has lectured, exhibited, judged and taught horticulture, photography and flower arranging across the USA and abroad. She is past Chairman of the Board of the American Horticulture Society and is currently on the NGC'S Board.

Dottie Howatt is the past President of Delaware Federation Garden Clubs, an Accredited Master Judge and NGC Flower Show School/Symposium Horticulture Instructor. Dottie is a Daffodil Instructor for the American Daffodil Society, the originator of Flower Show in a Box program and the Prospective Instructor Program. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland with degrees in Horticulture and Botany. Dottie helped write *Horticulture, Exhibiting and Judging*. Dottie is the Executive Director of a Children's Cancer Foundation.

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM

Registration is separate from CAR Regional Conference October 28-29,2015

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Year of good standing _____
 E-mail _____
 Garden Club _____
 State _____

Special Dietary Needs _____

Judging level: Check one

Student _____ Accredited Life _____
 Accredited _____ Accredited Master _____
 Judge Emeritus _____

Registration Deadline: October 7, 2015 NO REFUNDS AFTER THAT DATE

_____ Full course for credit \$190
 (includes dinner and two lunches)
 _____ Full Course no credit \$185
 (includes dinner and two lunches)
 _____ Oct 28th Allied Topic \$60
 (Includes dinner)
 _____ Oct 28th Horticulture day \$85
 (Includes lunch)
 _____ Oct 29th Design day \$85
 (Includes lunch)
 _____ LATE FEE \$25
 (postmarked after 10/7/2015)

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Symposium 2015

Mail to: Joyce Milberg
 635 Smokey Hill Road
 Tionesta, PA 16353-5247
thomsmil@pennswoods.net

Note from the Editor

At this time, I'd like to say goodbye to the members of the Central Atlantic Region as I leave the editorship of the Regional Review, a position I've held for the last four years. It has been my pleasure to work with the CAR Directors and Presidents of the states that make up the CAR. I am passing the reins back to Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich and wish her much good luck. For me, it has been an enjoyable experience.

At this time, I'd like to introduce you to the incoming State Presidents for 2015-2017.

Delaware Federation of Garden Club

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ldfronk@aol.com

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

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gardensb@hotmail.com

Ruth Korn
ruthkorn@verizon.net

SUGGESTIONS FOR KEEPING MEMBERS

Be enthusiastic. Make meetings FUN!!!

Announce special projects several months in advance.

Assign new members to "fun" committees-not ones that are time and labor intensive.

Ask to help people who accept responsibilities. Don't assume that they know what to do.

Treat all members with respect.

Encourage members to attend district annual meetings. Tell them what fun a convention is and encourage them to look upon it as a mini-vacation.

Have a relaxed social time at each meeting.

Keep your club visible through community involvement.

Keep all members informed with a newsletter of some sort.





Greetings to all the members in the Central Atlantic Region for 2015-2017

I am **Anne M. Bucher**, the pre-elect Regional Director for this organization beginning in May, 2015. I am from the National Capital Area Garden Clubs Inc. and have been a garden club member of the Seedling Garden Club for 36 years. I grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, and have lived in Maryland for the past fifty years although I still have a Boston accent.

I have two children, four grandchildren and I have been widowed 14 years. I have been on the National Garden Club, Inc. Board of Directors for 11 years serving as Convention and Fall Board Meetings Coordinator. I am looking forward to becoming your Regional Director. My theme for the next two years is:

MENTORING – THE KEY TO LEADERSHIP.

My project will entail holding workshops in every state in the region to “Encourage and Enable Our Members to Become Leaders Thru Mentoring.”

The Alternate Director is **Mary Ellen Alden** from the National Capital Area. Mellen is a past president of NCA as well as an Instructor in Ikebana. She lives in Fairfax, Virginia, and is a member of Fairfax Ferns Garden Club and Five Hills Garden Club. Her email is toweringjunipers@verizon.net.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our fall conference in Gettysburg, PA on October 26 – 28, 2015.

Anne M. Bucher

Abucher487@aol.com

We bid goodbye to our State Presidents, our Regional Director and our National President and say, "Thank you for jobs well done."



Linda Nelson, National President; Mary Warshauer, Director of Central Atlantic Region; Dottie Howatt, State President of Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs; Jackie Handley, State President of Federated Garden Club of Maryland, Inc.; David Healy, State President of National Capitol Area Garden Clubs, Inc.; Barbara Mullin, State President of The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.; Gail Mc Gee, State President of The Federated Garden Club of New York State, Inc.; Mickie Marquis, State President of The Garden Club of Ohio; Betsy Smith, State President of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania



Bruce Crawford is the Director and “dreamer in chief” of the beautiful Rutgers Gardens in New Jersey. He passionately defines gardens as “romantic enclosures that create their own special mood.” He has 24 years’ experience as President and owner of a landscape design company, Garden Architecture; has been adjunct professor of landscape architecture at Rutgers for 22 years and is currently Director of Rutgers Gardens.

Bromeliads – The Story is all in the Leaf!

Tropical plants were always of interest to me - whether it was their bold foliage or the brightly colored flowers, they always radiated that come hither appearance! However, not having access to a greenhouse nor adequate indoor space, I never devoted too much time or attention to this group of plants.

Two years ago, I started dabbling in earnest with houseplants and suddenly found myself learning a whole new plant vocabulary! Of the many new plants that I discovered, I was drawn to the unusual diversity of flower and foliar colors within those plants falling under the umbrella of Bromeliad. Within one family, plants ranged from those that could seemingly live on air without any soil to those whose leaves literally maintained their own small pond. As far as leaves and habitat were concerned, this was a family with a very interesting story to tell! **(Pictured at right, *Aechmea chantinii* 'Harvey's Pride')**

The Bromeliaceae or Bromeliad family contains 56 genera with over 3,000 species – talk about a family get-together during the Holidays! The family is named after the Swedish medical doctor and botanist Olaf Bromel (1639-1705). Father Charles Plumier (1646-1704), a

Franciscan brother, plant explorer and the botanist to King Louis XIV, bestowed this honor on Dr. Bromel during the 1690's. Dr. Bromel was well known within the botanical world and Father Plumier thought it fitting to honor him with a new plant he found during one of his numerous travels to the West Indies. In 1753 Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) officially recognized *Bromelia* as the accepted name, but no one at that time, including Plumier or Linnaeus, could have surmised the ultimate size of the family.

The original Bromeliad plants began to appear around 70 million years ago (MYA), in the Guayana Highlands of what is now Southern Venezuela and Guyana. This region consists of some of the oldest terrain in the world, with stone dating back 1.7 billion years. In addition to being old, the soil is also nutrient poor, a plight that initiated a series of creative and 'nontraditional' adaptations for Bromeliads in their quest to obtain nutrients. The search for nutrients is only part of the story that led to the diversi-



ty within this group. The remaining chapters of the story revolve around the incredible geographic changes of South America.

Seventy MYA, South America appeared vastly different than today. The Andes had yet to rise, North and South America were not connected via Panama and the Amazon flowed not into the Atlantic, but the Pacific!

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Around 20-25 MYA, the Andes Mountains began to lift, a process that continued to around 6 MYA and the two American continents were finally connected! Coincidentally, the diversification of Bromeliads began at roughly the same time, as did the gradual movement of the group into the Southern reaches of North America and even into the western portions of Africa. Throughout this diversification, the family began to adapt, not only to the environs of high altitude rainforests of the rising Andes, but also to drier and colder desert conditions of Southwestern North America. All the while, most species remained challenged to find nutrients and sources of water – a challenge that was resolved through the foliage.

The original members of the ‘family’ that appeared in the Guayana Highlands represents one of the original groups from which multiple new genera developed. They were most likely terrestrial dwelling plants, dependent upon the nutrients and water they obtained through their root system. Since the soil was low in nutrition, the species developed an ingenious ‘tactic’ that was repeatedly employed by many other genera within the family – the creation of a water tank called “outward”, much like the spokes of an umbrella.



The bases of the leaves overlap tightly so that they literally become watertight and form a vessel or tank (**as pictured below in column 1 in the Bromeliad *Aechmea fasciata*.)** The leaves also assist in the filling of the tank, since they are keel shaped and direct rainwater or even heavy dew down the leaf and into the tank. The tank would obviously be useless if not for some way to transfer the water to within the leaf. Hence, the development of modified hairs on the leaves that are botanically called trichomes. Gardeners most commonly associate trichomes with the pubescence of fuzzy leaves, such as the foliage of Lamb’s Ears (*Stachys byzantina*) or the undersides of a Yak Rhododendron leaf (*Rhododendron yakushimanum*). The function of the trichomes in these cases is to prevent desiccation of the leaf by reducing the drying effects of the sun and/or wind. However, there are numerous other types of trichomes with different shapes and functions.

In Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), the hollow trichomes act to inject pain-inflicting chemicals into the skin of a passerby as a defense mechanism. In Bromeliads, the leaves have peltate or shield-shaped trichomes, which to the naked eye, resemble a leaf scale. Their primary function is for the absorption of water.

Why is the development of a phytotelma or water tank and the peltate or shield-shaped trichomes so ingenious? The reasons are twofold! First the obvious – they allow the plant to absorb water from the tank! Although helpful for the terrestrial-dwelling plants, this function became especially beneficial for those species that became epiphytic. An epiphytic plant is one that lives not on the ground, but high in the canopy of a tree, cactus, cliff or some other structure that provides an elevated habitat. Being epiphytic does not infer that it is parasitic, as they do not extract nutrients from the host plant. Rather, they use the host merely for support and the roots of the epiphyte serve only as a mechanism of attachment to the host.

Over the course of time, nearly half of Bromeliad family members have become epiphytic. The pressure for seeking an elevated habitat is rooted in several advantages: it eliminates the competition for water and nutrients on the

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forest floor; it elevates the plant to a brighter location within the forest, enhancing the plants photosynthetic capabilities and it allowed the flowers to be more easily seen and approached by pollinators. The challenge of these aboreal dwellers then is heavily focused upon securing a source of water and nutrients. The development of a 'water tank' clearly resolved the issue of a water source – provided that the tank can be frequently refilled.

The challenge of securing nutrients became the second and less obvious reason as to why the 'tank' is so ingenious. The water tank became a habitat for a number of insects, larvae, amphibians and other animals, many of whom spend their entire life in a 'Bromeliad Pool'. In exchange for the use of the community pool, the animals and insects provide nutrients in the form of urea and through the decay of plant and animal debris (detritus), all of which are absorbed into the leaf via the trichomes. Not only are the leaves creating sugars through photosynthesis, they have now assumed the roles more traditionally held by the roots!

Some Bromeliads with a 'water tank' took the process one step further and became carnivorous. These plants attempt to lure in and kill unsuspecting insects such that they can retrieve nutrients from the breakdown of the deceased 'bug'! Referring back to the genus *Brocchinia*, *B. reducta*

has a modified foliar arrangement whereby the leaves no longer radiate



outward like the spokes of an umbrella, but stand nearly vertical.

Many insects are attracted to ultraviolet light, a wavelength of light that humans cannot perceive, yet is reflected by many flowers and is perceived by a vast population of insects. As a lure for these insects, the leaves of *B. reducta* also reflect ultraviolet light and the phytotelma, the water tank, emits a sweet fragrance, serving as an attractant to ants. The trichomes or hairs on the leaves have once again been modified to be waxy and slippery, providing poor footing for a visiting insect. Unable to secure a grip on the vertically oriented leaves, the insect falls into the tank and drowns. The liquid in the tank is very acidic with a pH near 3 and it also contains the enzyme phosphatase, all of which when combined, aids in the breakdown of the carcass and the ultimate release of nutrients for absorption via the trichomes. Devilishly ingenious!

As the Andes continued to rise and this group of plants spread northward into Mexico and Southwestern North America, dryer and more desert-like regions were both created and encountered. Epiphytic Bromeliads started to appear in these drier regions around 15 MYA and another well recognized yet small subfamily took form: the Tillandsioideae. With only 9 genera, this family is probably best represented by the genus *Tillandsia*, which is commonly known as Air Plants (**see *Tillandsia fillifolia* pictured to the left**). One of the best known of the Air Plants is the southeastern United States native *Tillandsia usneoides* or Spanish Moss. Carol Linnaeus initially penned the genus name in honor of Elias Tillandz (1640–1693), a Swedish born doctor and botanist in Finland who would treat his patients with plants, based upon his botanical knowledge! It is initially difficult to understand how 'Air Plants' and 'Tank Plants' – two plant groups that both appear and sound as divergent as is worldly possible – are related. Yet, related they are!

Tillandsioideae no longer relied on a tank for the water supply; in these arid and drier environments the water would simply evaporate more quickly from the tank than it could accumulate. Rather, this subfamily relies totally upon the peltate trichomes – those modified leaf hairs – to gather water from dews or atmospheric moisture and to channel that moisture directly into the

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What's Happening in Ohio??

TWINSBURG GARDEN CLUB PARTNERS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

This year, the Twinsburg Garden Club (TGC) in Twinsburg, Ohio, has partnered with the Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Summit County to provide trees, shrubs and perennials for two new houses being built in Twinsburg Township. Both homes on Stanford Road have been completed and dedication ceremonies for the new first-time home owners, families, friends, the public and media were held on October 17 and November 21. During the uplifting ceremonies, the first-time owners, selected by HFH of Summit County, received the keys to their brand new homes and volunteers and corporate donors were recognized.

TGC Co-President Sue Davis said the idea for the project came up at the February meeting when a member mentioned that she had heard that the HFH of Summit County would be building two houses in Twinsburg Township. After a discussion, Sue Davis and other members thought this was a project worthwhile exploring and by March 4, a Planning Committee was formed and met with Jim Sukys, Director of Development, HFH of Summit County. He liked the idea and suggested that the design be simple and low maintenance." They also talked about HFH's partnership with the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC):

"HFH's mission is to eliminate poverty housing from the face of the earth. **NGC's** goal is to encourage garden clubs across the nation to participate in the landscaping of HFH homes."

Sue Davis said, "The TGC Planning Committee then focused on the height, width and color of the plant materials, along with choosing plants that would not grow too large and varieties that would do well in our climate with minimal upkeep."

Next, the committee contacted potential donors requesting plant materials and/or monetary donations. TGC was overwhelmed with the plant donations and gift certificates. Gift certificates were used to purchase hoses, rakes, collapsible leaf bags, snow shovels, etc. The Garden Club donated perennials as well as a planter of annuals for each home.

By September 18, the plants and top soil were delivered and approximately 20 volunteers from Fomo Products, Inc. in Norton, OH, were at the sites with shovels and wheelbarrows. Five TGC members planted and watered all the perennials.

Davis said, "As the project moved forward, what kept me going was the thought that we all had a chance to make a difference in the lives of two families--and giving back to others is a wonderful feeling." HFH has built over 170 homes since 1987 and the **Twinsburg Garden Club** is now in its 51st year of service to the community and will continue to be dedicated to preserving the love and beauty of nature in the community, state and nation.

Habitat First House



Habitat Second House



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every portion of the leaf and, when dry, provide an attractive silver color to the foliage. This silver coloring, along with the extensive degree to which they cover the leaf, also lets the trichomes reflect much of the sunlight, allowing the leaf to remain cooler in hot, sunny locations. Air plants also rely upon the trichomes for nutrition. In arid environments, Tillandsioideae will often be seen attached to cactus, and in those environments, the only nutrition that avails itself are windblown particles or dust, which is captured by the trichomes. In areas that receive more rainfall, Tillandsia have the advantage of capturing some of the rainwater as it runs down tree trunks or stone cliffs, which are often enriched with nutrients from various forms of decaying plant and animal debris. Tillandsia can have very attractive flowers too, as witnessed in ***Tillandsia cyanea*** (pictured to the right), which is often called the Quill Plant.

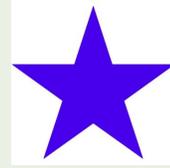
The story of Bromeliads is indeed fascinating, but I have yet to reflect upon one of the reasons why I was initially drawn to Bromeliads – the unusual and brightly colored foliage! Many of the leaves are awash with rich reds, purple and even yellows! It is great for the garden or for enhancing a windowsill, but its purpose extends beyond simply keeping me and other gardeners entertained. Bromeliad flowers are often relatively small, especially when compared to the vast scale of the surrounding rainforest. In other plants, such as ***Neoregelia*** ‘Gazpacho’ (pictured to the right), the flowers arise from near the center of the water tank and due to a very short flower stem, they appear to be perched on top of the pool. Bromeliads are primarily pollinated by hummingbirds, but in order for the flower to be seen, the visual target needed to be made larger and more impressive. Hence, the colored foliage! This foliar color also allows this group of plants to be great ‘tools’ in tropical designs or in annual designs in more northern gardens.

Roburto Burle Marx (1909-1994), the well-known Argentinean painter and garden designer, was among the first to use large sweeps and masses of Bromeliads in his designs, that to this day are considered revolutionary and uniquely inspiring.

Water supply, creation of carbohydrates through photosynthesis, nutrient capture and absorption, pollinator attractor and a great addition for the garden designers toolbox – indeed, a fascinating story that entirely revolves around the diverse function of leaves!



What's Happening in New Jersey???



Looking Back at History

At the beginning of World War I (1914), many men, often just 18 years old, were drafted, equipped and trained for duty. Some soldiers were sent to join the Allied Forces. The war was slow, ugly and fought in muddy trenches with debilitating mustard gas drifting over the battlefield.

The **Blue Star Service Banner** was designed and patented in **1917** by World War I Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons on the front line. The Banner quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child or husband serving in the armed forces and Banners were placed in windows so they could be seen from the street. Up to five stars could be added to represent the sons or husbands who had left to serve.

If a soldier was killed, a gold or yellow star was sewn over the blue star. The use of the gold stars, symbolizing a family's loss, was approved by President Woodrow Wilson in May, 1918. The **American Gold Star Mothers** organization received an official charter from Congress in **1929** while the **Blue Star Mothers** was officially organized in **1942** and chartered by Congress in 1960.

The **Blue Star Memorial Program** began in **1944** with the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs planting 8,000 dogwood trees as a living memorial. The **National Garden Clubs, Inc. adopted the New Jersey program in 1945**. Finally, the Blue Star Highway System was created across the United States and the use of large metal Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers took their place at appropriate locations. The program was expanded to include all men and women who had served or were serving in the armed services of the United States.

In addition to the **Blue Star Memorial Program**, there is the **Wreaths Across America** non-profit organization founded by Morrill Worcester, a businessman in Maine, in **1992**. Annual wreath-laying ceremonies occur at Arlington National Cemetery as well as veteran's cemeteries in all 50 states, ceremonies at sea and 24 National Cemeteries on foreign soil.

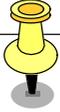
In New Jersey, the **Washington Valley Garden Club**, established in **1946**, has been involved with the Veterans Hospital in Lyons, New Jersey, for over 50 years where members supply evergreens and arrange flowers for the chapels, waiting rooms and dining rooms that hopefully bring some rays of light into veteran's lives while at the hospital. This past December, the club combined the efforts of the two programs discussed above by placing a wreath, in the shape of a Blue Star at the VA Campus Blue Star Memorial site. What a good idea! One that can be duplicated by other clubs across the Central Atlantic Region.



Margaret Arnold, President of
Washington Valley Garden Club



Members of Washington Valley Garden Club



Stately News

2015

Environmental Studies Schools

March 23-24 Course IV, NCA

April 15-16 Course III, Air & Related Issues, Garrett College, 687 Mosser Road, McHenry, Garrett County, MD

September Course IV, Water & Related Issues-no date scheduled as yet

Annual Events

Mary 12-18 NGC Convention, Louisville, KY

June 7-13 National Garden Week--Posters & Proclamations on NGC website, www.gardenclub.org & click on "Projects"

October 25-27 CAR Conference, "A Floral Explosion", Wyndham Hotel, Gettysburg, PA

Flower Show Schools

April 27-29 Course III, Reading, PA. Registrar: Betsy Hassler, 610-777-9956 or ilvehse@verizon.net. Flower Show Procedure & Design, Julia Clevett; Horticulture, Jim Schmidt, Spring branches, Combination Plantings, Spring Bulbs

April 29-May 1 Course II, Rochester, NY

May 5-7 Course II, Holly House, 130 Log Cabin Rd, New Brunswick, NJ. Carol English, Chair, ovebrook@comcast.net or 908-931-1326. Registrar: Louise Davis, 973-402-4043 or ldavis@gmail.com. Flower Show Procedure & Horticulture, Dorthy Yard, Flowering Branches & Spring Bulbs

September 16-18 Course III, Rochester, NY

Landscape Design Schools

April 15-16 Course II, Antoinette Babb, Chair, 845-246-4445 or aplantlady1011@hotmail.com, Chappaqua, NY

April 14-16 Course III, Holly House, 130 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick, NJ Peggy Koehler, Chair, 908-526-1309 or koehlerpeggy@yahoo.com

September 29-October 1 Course II, MD

October 6-8 Course III, Chappaqua, NY

Tri-Refreshers

April 19-21 Chair Judy Morley, 814-734-1701 or jhmorley@yahoo.com, Erie, PA

Flower Show Symposiums

April 28-29 4500 Crain Highway, Bowie, MD, Registrar: Susie Middleton, 410-228-5756. Design: Barbara May, abstract creative, color & light. Horticulture: Darlene Newell, flowering arboreal branches & ferns, allied topic: "Wheel of Hortulana"

October 28-29 Gettysburg, PA, Registrar: Joyce Milberg, 814-755-7766 or thomsmil@pennswoods.net.

Gardening Studies School

March 16-17 Course II, Series IX, Merrifield Garden Center, Fairfax, VA. Plant diseases & garden pests, container gardening, techniques for growing vegetables, growing lawns and/or lawn alternatives, how new plants are developed and evaluated. Contact Joyce Skoglund at 703-591-4017 or jeskog612@gmail.com

March 25-26 Session in PA

October 6-9 Course III, Holly House, 130 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick, NJ, Beverly Kazickas, Chair, kazickas55@aol.com

2016 - Plan Ahead

April 5-7 Landscape Design School-Course IV, Chappaqua, NY

April 5-7 Flower Show School, Holly House, 130 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick, NJ

April 13-15 Landscape Design School, Holly House, 130 Log Cabin Road, New Brunswick, NJ

May 2-7 NGC Convention, Grand Rapids, MI

June 8-10 Flower Show School-Course IV, Rochester, NY

October 23-26 CAR Conference hosted by FGCNYS, Inc.

