

# Regional Review

Volume 3, Issue 2

September, 2013

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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Could it be? Is summer really over? It hardly seems possible, given that garden clubs across the region never stopped to allow much dirt to settle under their boots during these warm summer months. They've been in full swing, working in communities, hosting flower shows and workshops and prepping for the upcoming fall season's harvest festivals.

### Among the summer highlights:

The Pennsylvania Federation held 3 excellent "Leadership" workshops. Valuable information pertaining to 501C3 information, parliamentary procedure, protocol, public speaking, awards and more was presented effectively and with a lot of enthusiasm.

The C.A.R. web site was updated with a password protected section for our board members. The site offers current regional and state news and sections featuring the *C.A.R. Conference Manual* and *Standing Rules* for your perusal. The site is a great platform on which to share your local garden club news and we welcome your input.

I had the pleasure to attend the FGC of New York's Fall Conference in Corning, New York, home to one of the country's most famous glassblowing communities and museums and had the opportunity to blow a glass pumpkin, just in time for the fall. The conference was very productive with a Judges Council Meeting, workshops, programs, floral designers and an awards program.

I look forward to spending time with our enthusiastic state presidents at the NGC Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis. We will have an opportunity to share ideas, concerns and enjoy each other's company as well as touring the NGC Headquarters.

I hope you will consider joining us for the 2013 C.A.R. Conference, "A Monumental Event", hosted by The National Capital Area on October 25-27 at the Bethesda Marriott in Maryland. The NCA has a fun and educational weekend planned starting with a tour of "The Burning of Washington", a floral design program by Bill Schaffer of Washington DC, Dr. Christie Balch's discussion of Community Gardening as an option for Empowering Women in Afghanistan, Leadership Workshops and more.

Register today so that you won't miss the fun or the October 4 registration deadline. Click here to find out more: [www.ngccar.org](http://www.ngccar.org). The Symposium on October 27-29 begins immediately following the conference-- you don't even have to change hotels. Now, how easy is that? Meet me there.

And so, it would seem summer is truly over. And though we'll miss the warm nights and sunshine, as lovers of nature and horticulture, we can always look forward to the fall foliage.

Mary Warshawer

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The deadline for articles for the next issue of *Regional Review* is December 1, 2013

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, Ruth Korn:**

[ruthkorn@verizon.net](mailto:ruthkorn@verizon.net) or mailed to 85 Fish Hawk Drive, Middletown, NJ 07748.

**Regional Review** is archived on the **C.A.R. Website:** [www.ngccar.org](http://www.ngccar.org).



# A Monumental Event

With less than two months remaining before "A Monumental Event" takes place at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel, I hope you have made your plans to attend some phase of the Central Atlantic Region Conference. The Conference, which takes place on October 25, 26 and 27, provides several opportunities to grow as a designer, gardener, historian and environmentalist. The workshops provide two topics of critical interest to clubs -- a presentation on "Leadership" and its implications for growing your club and "Making a World of Difference – Choices Matter", our National President's Project. The latter workshop will be presented by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, an expert in management of our natural resources. Those who attend a workshop will receive a special surprise gift. Also, a fabulous tote bag will be presented to every registered participant.

Those interested in floral design won't want to miss the opportunity to see and hear Bill Schaffer, a third generation floral designer from Philadelphia, as he demonstrates his creativity and mechanics. Bill, long associated with the Philadelphia Flower Show and a multiple winner in the Design Division, is renowned as a professional flower designer. His topic, "Taking the Flower Show Home," will demonstrate how you can use his techniques to enhance your own designs. Five fabulous designs will be auctioned off after the demonstration. The luncheon will be held beginning at 12 noon on Saturday, October 26.

If you are curious about our area's involvement in the War of 1812, you won't want to miss our tours, "The Burning of Washington – War of 1812", which will be held on Friday, October 25, beginning at 9:30 am and Sunday, October 27, beginning at 9:00 am. The tour will be led by Craig Howell, expert guide who will bring to life our nation's emergence from our last war with the British Empire – the one that saved our nation.

Community Gardening is a hot topic here at home – and now in Afghanistan. Our Saturday evening banquet will feature Dr. Christine Balch, describing how her team of agronomists from the University of Maryland endured the hardships of female life in the Middle East, to teach the women of Afghanistan how to establish a community garden and raise their standard of living by growing food for their families.

The Central Atlantic Region membership meeting will be held on Saturday morning under the leadership of our Central Atlantic Director, Mary Warshauer. A highlight of each event, with the exception of tours, will feature awards presentations to worthy recipients within the Region, including awards won at the National Garden Club Level. To register, click here: [www.ngccar.org](http://www.ngccar.org) and download the Registration Form. Then mail the form to Registrar, Paula Knepper, 615 Warfield Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. Hotel Registration Directions are on the Registration Form. We hope to see all of you at the Central Atlantic Region 2013 Conference in Bethesda, MD on October 25, 26, and 27.

Bette Lewis  
C.A.R. 2013 Conference Chair  
[E.Blewismilk@aol.com](mailto:E.Blewismilk@aol.com)

# See you at the Symposium

## October 27-29, 2013

I hope you have gathered those judgments, ribbons, etc. and gotten them to your Accrediting Chair. We are almost to "Symposium Time"! We will have vendors available for you at the back of the lecture hall, so come prepared to purchase those supplies for your future designs.

Please note that parking is free for those attending. Ignore the general information about parking fees on your hotel reservation. We have also learned that the most efficient way for you to reserve a room is through the internet. Click here to go directly to the Marriott: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/e653d625>

Not registered for the C.A.R. Symposium yet!? Click on [www.ngccar.org](http://www.ngccar.org) right now and get your registration form. Mail it to Poss Tarpley, Registrar, 1705 Belle Haven Road, Alexandria, VA 22307, along with your check made payable to 2013 C.A.R. Symposium.

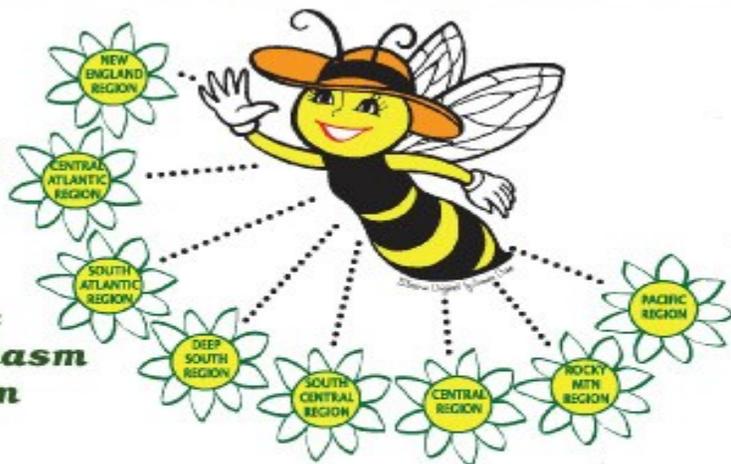
Sandi Smith Piccirillo  
[sawombat@verizon.net](mailto:sawombat@verizon.net)  
 C.A.R. Symposium Chair

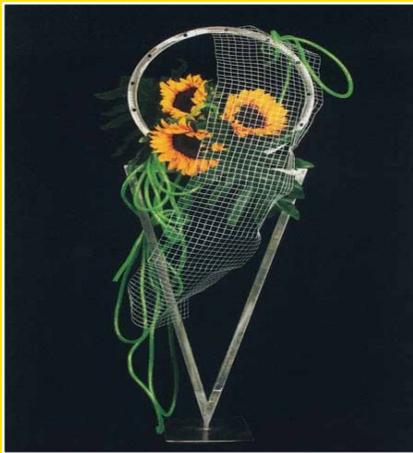
### "BLOSSOM" WILL BE VISITING YOUR REGION

**Let "Blossom"  
 our membership  
 honey bee spread  
 the word**

**When regions share  
 their ideas, enthusiasm  
 buzzes in clubs from  
 East to West.**

**Share your ideas with  
 Blossom and be the motivating  
 force for increased membership nationwide.**





2014

*Vision of Beauty*

## **HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR 2014 CALENDAR?**

*Be inspired by designs of some of our most creative designers. In addition to a calendar, the publication is an excellent reference and teaching tool. The 2014 calendars are available through Member Services (314-776-7574) and is a great fundraiser.*

**Brenda Bingham**

[bbing@comcast.net](mailto:bbing@comcast.net)

**Calendar Promotion Chair**

## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Just a reminder that on Saturday, December 14, 2013, holiday wreaths will be placed on the graves of veterans at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as other participating cemeteries, at home and abroad, at 12 noon.

Why not have your club be a part of this tribute? "**Remember, Honor and Teach**" is the mission of "Wreaths Across America." You can organize a ceremony in your community, sponsor a wreath, help others sponsor wreaths and volunteer at any location in the country including Arlington.

Several garden clubs in the C.A.R. have already taken part in this moving tribute and have nothing but positive comments about the experience, to say nothing of the publicity afforded by this project to local garden clubs.

What better way to remember our veterans than to contribute in some way to "Wreaths Across America."

Act now to be a part of this mission and let us "**Remember.**"

Call WAA Headquarters Offices at 207-483-2039 or email Tobin Slaven by clicking on [tobin@wreathscrossamerica.org](mailto:tobin@wreathscrossamerica.org) for more information.

Vivian Morrison

[ektensorsk@aol.com](mailto:ektensorsk@aol.com)

C.A.R. Wreaths Across America Chair



# Xeriscaping - "A trademark used for a method that employs drought-resistant plants in an landscaping effort to conserve resources, especially water."



Some people say "YUK to YUCCAS". One friend tells me, "I don't like to grow things that hurt you". I say, "Please reconsider and embrace the Yucca!".

(Metaphorically speaking, of course.)

In the world of Xeriscaping, the Yucca is a superstar. With more than 40 species, Yuccas are available in solid green, bluish green, green and yellow variegation, green and white variegation, weeping, dwarf, thin-leaved, with a touch of pink as in 'Color Guard', etc.

This oh-so-low water needy plant thrives in almost any soil type as long as there is good drainage and is happy in both sun and part-shade. It even survives in the super humid summers of my Maryland home. The strong, strap-like leaves of the Yucca offer great structure in the garden and provide a dramatic line element when used in floral design - a natural for designs done "in the Oriental Manner" or for leaf manipulation in Creative Designs. An added bonus of the Yucca is its showy bloom spike. Although not very long lasting, the tall column of white, cup-like flowers produced by most Yuccas is a fleeting yet dramatic pleasure in the "Summer Garden".

I encourage you to think seriously about including the Yucca in your Xeriscaping Garden. Find the variety - or varieties - that speak to you - Plant and Enjoy!! The environment and I will thank you.

Linda Masland

Xeriscaping/Wildflower Chair

[lindamasland@verizon.net](mailto:lindamasland@verizon.net)



## Yucca!

# The Home Landscape – Creating Delight not Disaster



**Bruce Crawford**

**Director of Rutgers Gardens, NJ**

All of us wrestle with our home garden. Each time we visit a friend's home and garden, we often find ourselves envious of what they have accomplished. How did they think of that plant combination or how did they possibly envision that sequence of outdoor 'rooms'? We then return to our own gardens and distill how better to develop those areas for our personal use. How can my garden be more compatible with the home or how can the backyard become more of a retreat or perhaps a social hub? The garden should be a delight to its owner and not a source of frustration and anxiety. With the quiet months of winter upon us, this is a great time to look at our garden and to create a plan for determining how best to improve on your garden and make it a delight!

Designing the garden is actually not terribly difficult. Unfortunately, we are influenced far too heavily by neighboring gardens with a less than imaginative use of plants and a lack of creative spatial development. In other words, we are influenced far too heavily by bad design! Thoughts to consider include:

1. Enhancing your design objectivity. How to take a step back and see what is really there and what is really needed.
2. Heighten your design appreciation. Go to some great gardens, both residential and commercial, and try to determine why that design makes you feel happy and effusive.
3. Take the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of others, realize why they are wrong and work to make it better!

## Needs

Before we can evaluate the design of the garden we must determine what we really want in or from our garden! Of course, it also must be realistic such that it will also fit within your budget.

The list is endless, but some considerations include:

Patio, BBQ or Outdoor Kitchen, Vegetable Garden/Herb Garden, Swimming Pool/ Hot Tub, Pond or Fountain, Utility Shed, Solar Clothes Dryer (alias, a clothes line!), Compost Bin, Cutting Garden, Additional Parking, Basketball Net, Tot Lot

## It is all starts with space

Designers spend a lot of time talking and thinking about space. Creating areas or spaces that have the appropriate size, shape and location for a specific activity is truly the key for the development of a usable garden. When considering the hypothetical needs listed above, each one correlates to a space, which in turn on a piece of paper correlates to a circle or an oval. Circles relate to a place to pause, sit and enjoy; while ovals relate to a place of movement and transition. When the circles or ovals overlap, one room freely flows into the next, much like a kitchen into the family room. However, when they do not overlap, the spaces are separated by some form of a physical barrier. Much as the separation in a home is a sheet rocked wall, the outdoor barrier can take the form of plants, architectural elements (fence, wall, a building) or by a landform. The shape of the plant materials, land forms or architectural elements will greatly affect how the space is perceived and used. For example, plants with an arching habit typically create a more welcome or hospitable space – analogous to that of a cathedral ceiling – than a space which is surrounded by strongly pendulous or fastigate plants!

## Meeting the spatial needs of the resident

In order to meet the needs of a family, our four legged friends and even the community, the garden should be viewed as a series of outdoor areas. There are 3 general areas, which can obviously be subdivided into spaces to serve the needs and delights of the residents: **Public Area, Private Area, Service Area.**

## Public Area

This is the area in front of a home that is typically open for public display and for the public to potentially use should they wish to approach or visit the owners. For most homes, it is fairly open to the road or sidewalk and should say "welcome", both to the home dwellers and their guests. Simply because it is the entry or public 'space', it does not mean that it is necessarily one large space. On the contrary, it can be divided into several smaller spaces, some of which can be hidden from view and only experienced as the person travels through the spaces. In most towns, the public space is to be neat and organized. The lawn is to be cut, the plants properly maintained and – as odd as it sounds in this sustainable age – no vegetable gardens!

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The biggest challenge with the public space in a suburban setting is to distract the eye from the garage doors or driveway and to focus them upon the front door. This can best be overcome by incorporating the concepts of focalization; develop the design such that the front door is highlighted both by the plantings and by architectural amendments to the home where possible (as seen to the



below). Highlight the front door with architectural enhancements, broaden and make the entry steps easy to ascend and make the walkway a more gracious width of 5' as opposed to the typical 3 to 4'. How often do we see the front walk reduced to a narrow passage that is not welcoming and prevents visitors from walking to the front door side-by-side? Our biggest difficulty is transitioning from a 'scale' that is appropriate for inside the home to outside the home. Five feet inside a home is huge, but outside, it is perfectly appropriate and may even appear small! The walkway can lead the visitor directly to the front door, as would a straight walk from the curb to the front door or take the visitor through a series of smaller, yet delightful, arrival spaces. The configuration of the walk is obviously dependent upon the amount of area in the public space that can be dedicated to this walkway experience. On the

way, the guest should not be subjected to unflattering views of the neighboring houses and the yawning mouths of their open garage doors.

The other common mistake for the public space is layering too many types of plants in front of the house. It requires far less thought for us to ring a building with plants as opposed to using plants to create outdoor rooms. Many homes have an attractive brick or stone façade that extends to the ground and there is certainly no reason to hide these building materials. At the very least, plants should not grow taller than the window sills, as they will then give the appearance that they are 'eating' the house. Also, the entranceway by the front door should be spacious and not choked by plant material.

### Service Area

The service area or areas are usually hidden from view to the public and by the homeowner. The dog run, compost pile, the solar clothes dryer or garbage cans may be essential components to everyday life, but they should not serve as focal points in the landscape! Vegetable gardens can be considered service areas if you are a sloppy gardener, or a featured garden if it is kept neat and has an attractive and ornamental design.

### Private Area

This area belongs to the family. It has the highest potential for creative outdoor design and living. Depending upon the family, it can be divided into Active Areas, which would include lawn sports, swimming pool, tot lot or a vegetable garden and Passive Areas, where a person could just simply sit and relax or use it for outdoor dining. These spaces are not static – they must be flexible enough to change with the changing needs of a developing or aging family. For example, as the children's play area loses its importance, the sand box may evolve into a pond, water feature or a sculpture.

One of the areas that should always be considered is the outdoor patio. Oddly, many homes often omit the outdoor dining room! Patios should be a minimum of 14' in diameter to comfortably accommodate a 5' round table, chairs and room to circulate. Patios should not be located immediately outside of the doors – typically from the kitchen – since the view from inside would be of a paved surface with empty chairs and table for much of the year. Instead, it is best to locate the patio to the left or right of the view axis from these doors, such that the garden is the year-round focus. Walk about the inside of your house and consider what views of the Garden are most important and should be strengthened, as well as which views of the neighbors should be screened.



I am also fascinated as to how we fail to consider privacy in our private space. Many houses simply have a chain-link fence or a row of white pines signifying the property line, with little additional thought given to screening! The image to the left shows how a fence and gate screen the drive and parked cars. The creation of shade and the use of shade trees is also an important addition to the private space that many people omit, since trees 'take too long' to mature!!

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## From thought to paper – The Site Plan

Putting thoughts to paper needs to include a site map for these spaces to be noted. Everyone receives a site map or survey when they purchase a house, which will include the property boundaries, the location of the house and any other structures-- any easements and the location of North! Locating north is important as it will indicate where shade is cast or needs to be cast, and the location of the northwesterly winds!

Surveys generally have a scale of 1"=20', which is adequate for laying out the location and sequence of spaces, but it is too small for detailing plant materials, especially the herbaceous layer. A scale of 1"=8' is actually the smallest that one should work at for herbaceous materials. I prefer using an architect scale rather than an engineer scale (1/8 scale rather than 1/10) since it is easier to mark out the garden in the field with a tape measure when it is time to build the Garden.

To start the process, lay out the spaces in the form of circles where open space, patios or one of the various needs should be located and ovals for walkways or perhaps vistas. From there, progress to starting a planting design.

## Planting Design

Often what we consider the fun portion of designing! The tools include:

**Shade trees** One of the most important, high priority plants for the garden that should be installed early in the life of the Garden. Not only does it provide a sense of enclosure from above, but it is also a solar powered air conditioner. The evaporation of water from the leaves provides cooling and – when planted on the southwest corner of the house – it protects the house from the hot afternoon summer sun.

Not only does the presence of a trunk create a physical marker that the observer can use to gauge depth, the shadows also create a physical point from which we can gauge depth. In the established garden, healthy shade trees should be protected. If soil grade changes are being considered, remember, fill kills and the area with 20' outside the drip line of the canopy contains sensitive feeder roots for that tree!

**Evergreens** With the presence of year-round foliage, the evergreen can serve as the environmental workhorse of the Garden. It is valuable for screening, wind breaks, filtering of light and sound as well as absorption of air pollutants. Do not plant where it will shade a driveway or walkway during the winter, as the shadows will prevent the melting of accumulated snow and ice.

**Small trees** A very versatile group of plants in the garden. This plant may be pruned more tree-like or shrub-like, depending upon the designer's need. They can be feature plants or massed for screening purposes. In the front of a house, a small tree may break the horizontal line of the roof and siding or soften the many vertical lines of the architecture. From inside the house this same small tree may filter the view from a window with its branching, adding mystery or a perch for birds and a bird feeder. In the patio area, the small tree may provide shade and at the same time serve as a focal point. It can be repeated on either side of a walk or used in a bed and repeated in a grassy area, making the design more harmonious.

**Herbaceous layers, including groundcovers** The easiest groundcover to maintain is turf, but there are other ground covers which are especially useful where grass will not grow (shade or steep banks) or where grass is difficult to maintain (around shrubs, buildings or rock outcroppings). Aesthetically, groundcovers provide a change in texture or color from that of grass and they also serve to unite isolated plants into a single unit. Permitting nature to reclaim a portion of the property may also be a viable option. If too much of the property is covered by turf, the property not only lacks creativity, it can become an environmental nightmare. The 'perfect' lawn demands too much water, too much fertilizer and too many applications of pesticides, while at the same time only permitting limited amounts of deep water recharge of storm water and very little animal habitat!

As mentioned before, when looking at the house and garden, do not think in terms of a 'Foundation Planting', but rather in terms of creating outdoor rooms with the plants. This will help to eliminate the static quality that many residential landscapes provide.

For me, a good technique is to balance these four groups of plants. Often, we consider springtime gardens to be among the most attractive, since there is floral color from the ground plan to the tree canopy. However, this can be duplicated during the summer and fall season through proper selection of plant materials.

Believe it or not, there are a number of shrubs and small trees that offer color or interest throughout the summer, fall and even winter months. As in the image to the right, do not forget the beauty of autumn leaf color too! Consider using small or ornamental trees, shade trees and even large grasses to provide the important element of depth to a garden; the act of looking past the trunk and canopy allows even the smallest of spaces to appear much larger. Also, the process of partially blocking views creates a sense of mystery that pulls the visitor through the garden.



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### Fun Review and Reflection

There is never a perfect solution to a design nor is there a true definition between good or bad design. Most often, unattractive designs result from the designer failing to honor a good sequence and proportion of space, or neglecting to understand the concepts of scale and simplicity. It is best to look at the overall area and work from the most basic level, the spatial level, to the most complex, which includes color and texture. Unfortunately, most gardeners focus upon color and texture – and often omit any thoughts about spatial layout – and the result is an uncomfortable or unpleasant garden design. The other element that always comes into the equation is budget. Everyone has a limit as to what they can afford to develop in a given year. One of the great attributes of developing a plan is that it can be executed over a period of years, as the budget and the time become available. Obviously, everyone still needs to be realistic; if you design a Mercedes and truly can only afford a Pinto, the gardener will only become frustrated and feel defeated. The true beauty of a garden is recognizing that you are indeed the king, queen and parliament of the garden. After part of the garden is installed, take the time to review and reflect upon what you have built and recognize that within the legal confines of the town or state, you can always make improvements and changes as your garden continues to grow and amaze. It is now the quiet time of the year and you have many months to give your Garden due thought and design development. However, with thought and a good bit of hard work, the Pinto will eventually mature into that Mercedes.

## Endangered Species

A recent article in our local paper said that the Federal Government was considering taking the humpback whale off the Endangered Species List. How did the whale get on the List in the first place and why could it now be removed?

Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973. It has been amended many times and it is implemented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The ESA is a program for the conservation of threatened plants and animals and their habitats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a worldwide list of endangered species that includes birds, fish, reptiles, flowers, mammals, etc.

A perfect example of the delisting process is the Bald Eagle. It was one of the first species to receive protection even before the ESA was written. The Bald Eagle was delisted in June of 2007. The conservation efforts for the National Bird included a ban on the use of DDT, providing nesting boxes and constant monitoring. The numbers went from 400 nesting pairs to nearly 10,000 pairs at present.

The humpback whale delisting that I read about will be only for whales in the Northern Pacific. The request was submitted by a group of Hawaiian fishermen and it will take years for a decision to be made. NOAA will study the whale population and the process will be much the same as for the Bald Eagle. The whale population has grown steadily and is not in danger at this time. It may be delisted but we'll have to wait to see.

Donna Pair  
Endangered Species Chair  
[djpair1@gmail.com](mailto:djpair1@gmail.com)



# Water Equals Life

**Water equals Life.** And we need to take care of it. Some facts of note concerning the physical significance of water in our lives include:

**75% of the human body is water**

**90% of human blood is water**

## Earth : Land and Water

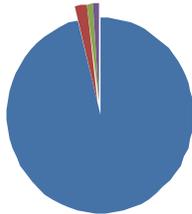
■ Water ■ Land ■



Water comprises 70% of the Earth's surface. Land comprises only 30% of the Earth's surface. Of all the water on earth – 97% is contained in the oceans and seas. 2% is in ice caps. 1% of the Earth's water is available for our use and only a small percentage of that 1% is accessible. Of that small percentage of accessible water 98% is used for agriculture and industry.

## Water on Earth

■ Oceans/Seas ■ Ice Caps ■ Our Use ■ Accessible ■ ■ ■ ■



Oceans and seas cover 97% of water on Earth's surface. Ice caps account for 2% of water on Earth's surface. 1% of Earth's water is available for our use and only a minute percentage of that 1% is accessible.

NGC President's Special Project for 2013 – 2015 is:

### **Making a World of Difference – Choices Matter**

As garden clubs and as individuals we should be aware of the issues facing our water supply – not just locally, but nationwide and worldwide – and taking steps to make a difference by making wise choices in the conservation and protection of our water resources – blue gold.

*Mary Sue Colvin*

*NGC Water Protection and Conservation Chair*

[mcolvin2@yahoo.com](mailto:mcolvin2@yahoo.com)

## "Crown Bees"

### NGC's Newest Partner

National Garden Clubs, Inc. announced a partnership with Crown Bees to increase native bee awareness and encourage members to add gentle, rarely stinging, Mason Bees to their gardens for food and flower pollination.

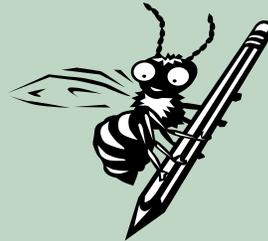
As part of NGC President Linda Nelson's theme, "Making a World of Difference – Choices Matter", NGC is partnering with Crown Bees, a Washington State Bee Pollination Company, that provides NGC with the opportunity to be part of the solution.

#### Why Mason Bees in your garden?

Mason Bees are efficient pollinators to supplement declining honey bees. Dave Hunter, founder of Crown Bees, said, "This is a groundbreaking alliance to reach communities everywhere with an easy backyard garden solution to the declining honey bee population. Nearly 1/3 of our food supply is threatened by lack of pollination. We need more alternate bee pollinators to keep food on tomorrow's table. Bees flourish in an edible landscape, and that is a great solution from which we all benefit."

#### How can you increase bee population?

- Add nutritious bee plants
- Be chemically wise
- Use bee-safe housing and nesting products
- Add non-aggressive Mason Bee pollinators
- Send excess bees to food growers.



Debbie Skow, [d.sk.1159@gmail.com](mailto:d.sk.1159@gmail.com), Native Bee/Bee GAP Chairman for NGC, stated that she will be working to collaborate with Crown Bees to

- 1) Implement a NGC Bee Speakers Bureau to increase bee awareness and practices
- 2) Encourage bee products in annual plant sales by individual garden clubs
- 3) Develop a bee education program for our youth
- 4) Implement the BeeGAP (Gardeners Adding Pollinators) Program where members raise Mason Bees to pollinate gardens. Crown Bees purchase excess bees to send to commercial farmers to supplement honey bee pollinators.

#### How can your club participate in BeeGap?

- Become a bee advocate
- Create a garden habitat
- Join the NGC BeeGap Program.



\*\*For more information related to any of the above subjects just click on the following website addresses: NGC at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) or Crown Bees at [www.crownbees.com](http://www.crownbees.com).

Chris Leskosky  
C.A.R. Chair  
Native Bee/BeeGap Project  
[cleskosky@hotmail.com](mailto:cleskosky@hotmail.com)





## Water for South Sudan, Inc.

[www.waterforsouthsudan.org](http://www.waterforsouthsudan.org)

Southern Sudan became the world's newest nation on July 9, 2011, but their struggles to survive are everlasting.

Water for South Sudan, Inc. is working alongside the South Sudanese people to make life blossom in the desert thanks to the support of committed volunteers, civic, educational and faith-based institutions, as well as individual donors. When safe water flows, health, education and economic development spring up.

In addition to bringing life-sustaining water to remote villages, well drilling operations provide opportunities for Sudanese to learn and use new technical, communication and leadership skills.

Water for South Sudan, Inc. follows this basic principal: **the ethical and moral way to create lasting change is to respect and empower people's capacities to transform their own lives.** Their thirst for knowledge can also be satisfied.

***Donations to this continuing C.A.R. endeavor have been slow in coming.*** Please pass along the brochures you have received to your state garden clubs to view this mission of Salva Dut, President of Water for South Sudan, Inc. Passing the hat at a meeting or even shopping online at <http://www.Goodshop.com>, where a percentage of your purchases will be donated, (you must indicate Water for South Sudan, Inc. as the charity of your choice) makes any tax-deductible gift amount, large or small, a difference in supporting the lives of women and girls in Southern Sudan.

Wells are operating at the present, but there is only a percentage of Sudanese who can benefit from them due to the remote villages and the far reaches of the wells. Each well can supply fresh water to about 3,000 villagers.

Access to clean water creates profound change. Life-altering opportunities arise when villagers, especially women and girls, no longer have to walk miles for water. A new future begins to emerge for a community, that has fresh clean water bringing self-sufficiency to the South Sudanese.

We as a group, have the ability to help make lives better for the less fortunate. Please send your generous donations to this Chair or to our C.A.R. Treasurer, Jeanne T. Nelson, at [J.T.Nelson7@gmail.com](mailto:J.T.Nelson7@gmail.com).

Marcia Becker  
World Gardening Chair  
[marshmelo601@yahoo.com](mailto:marshmelo601@yahoo.com)

## Water for South Sudan is partnering with The H2O Project, adding an easy, engaging fundraising option.



**THE H2O PROJECT**

**GIVE WATER. SAVE LIVES. TAKE THE CHALLENGE.**

### The H2O Challenge:

1. Make water your only beverage for 2 weeks.
2. Save the money you would usually spend on beverages.  
After 2 weeks, donate the money you saved and give someone clean water for a lifetime.

It's as simple as that! Don't think about it. Do it!

Follow these simple instructions to save a life in 14 days. Increase your impact by getting your club or district to take the challenge.



## *C.A.R. Calendar Deadlines for 2014*



January 1, 2014	Essay Contest Poetry Contest Sculpture Contest	February 15, 2014	Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
January 15, 2014	Award of Excellence for State Garden Club  Award of Excellence for Regions National Awards	February 23, 2014	Publicity/Press Books
February 1, 2014	Member Award of Honor	April 1, 2014	All other applications for awards (except the following award)
		June 1, 2014	Violet S. Thoron Award
		July 1, 2014	C.A.R. Scholarship



## STREAM-MONITORING: PROTECTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS



The National Garden Clubs, Inc. adopted a national water conservation platform in 2008 which stated that the organization “believes it is imperative that we support and undertake proactive initiatives for the protection, conservation and restoration of the quality of the nation’s coastal waters, wetlands, aquifers, watersheds, lakes, rivers and streams through educational programs, conservation efforts, increased advocacy and partnerships with related government agencies and state and national grassroots water coalitions.”

When Linda Harris, Conservation Chair of Maryland’s **Mountain Laurel Garden Club (MLGC)**, read about the National Garden Club Special Project, “Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems”, she and her committee

*Stream Monitoring at Bear Pen*

took action by deciding to explore stream-monitoring in the Savage River Watershed.

**The main goal of the project, they learned, would be to determine the baseline water quality conditions in the Savage River Watershed prior to any natural gas drilling, or “fracking”.** Members were informed that crucial information regarding water quality was necessary to have in hand in order to evaluate the environmental effects that Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling might have. Projected to commence in Garrett County, this type of drilling had become a great concern to many citizens. Early fracking spills in Pennsylvania and subsequent environmental damage had resulted in the founding of the **Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)** in 1986 by the Environmental Studies Department at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. The **Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** uses this ALLARM protocol for citizen volunteers because it documents sampling and analysis methods, outlines quality control and quality assurance procedures, is relatively inexpensive to implement and minimizes the impact of changing personnel for the continuity of water monitoring.

As they reviewed the stream-monitoring project, the committee members learned that as volunteers they would need to assess a stream in the watershed area of the Savage River on a weekly basis for at least two years, if not longer. A commitment was made to the project and thus began the partnership between the **MLGC** and the **Savage River Watershed Association (SRWA)**.

Managed by the **Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**, the project has been named the **Marcellus Shale Stream Monitoring Coalition (MMC)**. At the initial training session, eight garden club members plus five husbands divided up into teams and chose Bear Pen Run to monitor, one of the thirteen designated stream-monitoring sites-- a site of high value for its rare and endangered wildflowers.

The garden club volunteers received extensive training from the Maryland **DNR** and the **SRWA** in the use of hand-held water quality meters purchased by Trout Unlimited, as well as reviewing all necessary procedures and required documentation. Stream-monitoring consists of taking a water sample at the stream and, using the hand-held meter, measuring the conductivity, total dissolved solids and water temperature. Data is recorded along with a visual observation checklist and submitted to the **DNR** where it is interpreted and maintained in their database.



The Savage River is a 29.5-mile-long river located in Garrett County, Maryland, identified as a conservation priority because it is one of the few watersheds that still contain intact populations of native brook trout. Lack of development in the watershed has allowed for the survival of brook trout and other species which are extremely sensitive to the impacts of many types of pollution and disturbance. Maryland’s freshwater streams are unique in that they run to the largest estuary in the United States. In Maryland, the fingers of the Chesapeake Bay reach out to every corner of the state, from the Appalachians to the Eastern Shore. In turn, the health of the freshwater resources directly influences the health of the Bay. Monitoring these resources has become essential in determining what can be done to preserve and protect not only the Bay, but also the waters in garden club members’ own backyards and underground aquifers, both critical to the drinking water supplies.

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## What is Penny Pines and why does it cost \$68?

The \$68 Plantations is an historic amount from the original California Penny Pines Program. Recognizing the great need to restore devastated areas in CA, the first Penny Pines Plantation was sponsored in 1941 by San Francisco's Sports Women's Association. Seedlings could be produced for about one cent each and approximately 680 seedlings were used to plant a typical acre. For \$68, seedlings for ten acres could be purchased and regular Forest Service appropriations took care of the site preparation and planting costs. So, of course, because it cost one cent, or a penny, to produce a seedling, the program was called "Penny Pines". At the request of contributing groups, the Forest Service has kept the contribution per plantation at \$68 but today, the \$68 will plant approximately 200 seedlings (not the 680) and the seedlings will represent all types of trees (not just pines). The program, from 1941 to 1964 was so successful that the seedling money soon exceeded the funds available for site preparation and actual planting from the Forest Service and the agreement was rewritten so that contributed funds could be used for reforestation, rather than solely for purchasing seedlings.

Today, the plantations are part of a regular National Forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brush-covered areas which are potentially productive timberlands. Planting sites are selected by the Supervisor of each National Forest. These plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

Contributions must be a minimum of \$68.00 (or multiples of) made payable to "NGC-Penny Pines" and sent to National Garden Clubs, Inc., National Headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492. The form may be downloaded at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) by clicking here. It is a worthy cause.

Thank you to Art Loesch, NGC Reforestation and Restoration Chair.

702-407-7128/ [loeschac@embarqmail.com](mailto:loeschac@embarqmail.com)



**Gardener's Supply is offering 20% off on all orders over \$100.00 - so order with a friend or your club, for that special project! (Code word ROSES) Call toll free 1.888.236.7126 or online at [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com).**

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**Brent & Becky's Bulbs are gorgeous!!!! Go to [www.bloominbucks.com](http://www.bloominbucks.com), click on the pull down menu, click on National Garden Clubs and shop !!! All products are available to NGC members: books, perennials, tools, home accessories and a HUGE selection of bulbs.**

**NGC's Wonderful Partners--Use Them**

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Monitored since March of 2012, the baseline data being collected prior to possible Marcellus Shale drilling provides a critical picture of stream health. When or if drilling does occur, any spills or mishaps will be quickly apparent. If fracking chemicals contaminate a stream, the conductivity will soar to levels 20,000 times greater than present conductivity.

A closer look at Bear Pen Run and other **Marcellus Shale Stream Monitoring (MMC)** sites can be found by visiting the Maryland Department of Natural Resources MMC Webpage at: [www.dnr.maryland.gov/streams/marcellus.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/streams/marcellus.asp). Once there, viewers need to click on the link for the Marcellus monitoring map to view data and a photo of each stream.

Club members will continue to do weekly monitoring for as long as directed by the Savage River Watershed Association and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. They are committed to seeing the project through to completion, even if that means several years.

The Bear Pen Run monitoring team members include Ann Frantz, Barbara Gallagher, Lynn and Stan Grimm, Linda and Jim Harris, Debbie and Don McCombs, Carol and Joe McDaniel, Helen Nickles and Shelley and Pete Packard.\*\*



*Katharine L. Smith, Publicity Chair, Mountain Laurel Garden Club, Garrett County, MD*

**\*\*The Mountain Laurel Garden Club has received a National Award for their efforts in this project. "**



## Check out NGC's Newest Partner Crown Bees on Page 9.

**Jan Warshauer, Member Services**  
[Jwarshauer@aol.com](mailto:Jwarshauer@aol.com)



Another wonderful partner is *flower Magazine*--  
*keep reading!*

For each subscription purchased by a NGC member at a special discounted price of \$17.99, NGC will earn \$2.00. Request free copies for your local meeting or the district mMeeting. Chairs could request free copies by contacting [Kelly@flowermag.com](mailto:Kelly@flowermag.com) or by calling Kelly Baker at (205) 970-0775.

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In order to help support our projects, NGC receives a percentage of each "NGC" sale that is conducted with these partners. This is a win-win for all members of NGC--look at <http://www.flowermag.com/>.

*Use the blue hot links to go directly to their sites.*



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# Violet S. Thoron Award

At the C.A.R. Conference in October in Bethesda, the Violet S. Thoron Award will be presented to a garden club for an outstanding project in the field of Landscape Design. An educational program by a garden club which promotes excellent Landscape Design principles might also have qualified for this Award.

Each of the C.A.R. states may submit one application yearly for this Award. The 2013-2015 State Awards Chairmen are urged to remember to submit a garden club's new or continuing project/ program for the 2014 Award. The Application Form is limited to three printed pages, front of the page, only. No report cover, binders, or plastic sheets are allowed. Full information on the Award submission requirements may be found by clicking on the following website address: [www.ngccar.org](http://www.ngccar.org) and clicking on Awards. Pages 5 through 7 contain information including the scale of points used in judging the application for the Award. A completed C.A.R. Awards application should be included.

I look forward to receiving applications for many outstanding Landscape Design projects.

Jane Bersch  
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## CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Why have a 'Children's Garden' in your area?

And, why not?

A children's garden will enhance a garden center, a park, an arboretum, even an area playground. It is a wonderful project for a garden club or a state federation. An interactive garden designed for kids allows them to learn about the natural environment, plants and gardening. It is hands-on education for little ones. Kids love to learn about nature. It becomes a community of learning! Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, tadpoles, frogs, acorns, trees to climb, brooks to wade, water lilies, woodchucks, bats, bees, bugs, butterflies, various animals to pet, sand, snakes and ladybugs. Any child who has been deprived of these, has been deprived of the best part of their life.

How does one get started? Form a committee. Pick out a site. Work with your city officials, seek out grants, have fundraisers, contact foundations. You would be surprised to know how your community will get involved.

Give the children freedom to explore with theme gardens such as a 'Peter Rabbit' Garden where you could plant carrots, beans, lettuce; a 'Alphabet Garden' where you have plants that begin with each letter of the alphabet; an 'International Garden' showing plants that are grown around the world and one of the most popular theme gardens would be a 'Fairy Garden'.

A child is happy when he is learning. It is a life-long journey!

Carmie DeVito

Children's Garden Chair  
[carmiedevito@eno.rr.com](mailto:carmiedevito@eno.rr.com)



