



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

# *The Communicator*

2022 VOL. 11—February

*Rose Knight, Director 2021-2023*



### *Message from the SCR Director...* ***"Plant America – Embrace the Future"***

Dear SCR Members,

From now until April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, it is all about our SCR Convention "Tropical Island Getaway"! I am excited about the plans Nancy Giffhorn and TGC are making for our 2022 SCR Convention in Galveston. I love that area in Texas and cannot wait to explore the "Strand" and enjoy the Tremont Hotel and Moody Gardens! The registration form is in this issue of the SCR Communicator. I hope you all are planning to attend and join in the fun! I look forward to meeting all the people I have spoken with, emailed and texted. Face to face with friends is my favorite way to do it!

I encourage all SCR Board Members and Chairman to register early and for full time. As leaders in our Region, we must support the efforts of those to assume the responsibility for hosting our convention. Exciting things are planned! Our NGC President, Mary Warshauer will be attending, and I know you will not miss the opportunity to meet and welcome her to our Region.

The focus at the beginning of our term was and still is Scholarships! At our recent convention in Little Rock "Celebrate AFGC" we enjoyed a ceremony honoring fifteen "SCR Gardening Heroes"! It was wonderful to hear the stories about the ladies who paved the way for AFGC and those who are still in the trenches! We now have a total of nineteen heroes! I am thankful at the response to this effort to raise money for SCR Scholarships! What a wonderful way to Embrace the Future. We will honor all those at Convention in April! I cannot wait!

I believe Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma have more heroes to honor! I know there are more in Arkansas. The entry form is available in the SCR Communicator and will be available on the new edition of the SCR Website. We will continue to push for more Heroes in our Region, and I hope you will be inspired to name your very own Hero!

***(Continued on Next Page)***



## ***Message from the SCR Director (Continued)***

Heather White, SCR/NGC Penny Pines Chairman will have exciting news to share at convention and awards will be given to winners at Convention 2022 and again in 2023. Get those applications in now so that your state will compete in our contest and help to reforest America one plantation at a time!

Register now for "Tropical Island Getaway" April 19-21, 2022, encourage your members, to join us! It is up to each of us to do our part to make SCR Convention a remarkable success! Continue to "Plant America," play outside, and embrace the future!

*Rose*



## **South Central Region GARDENING HERO**

**A FUND-RAISING EFFORT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR  
SCR SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2021-23 TERM**

Is there someone who has provided outstanding service to your garden club that you wish to honor? Someone who has worked to promote our goals, mentored & encouraged you? Help us further horticultural, conservation, and landscape design education through our SCR Scholarship! With a \$100 donation to SCR Scholarship Fund, each honoree will receive a certificate and be recognized at state and SCR Convention.

Get your application in now so the honoree can be recognized at the SCR Convention in Galveston, TX.

Contact Nancy Voyles for more information.





## NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT, Christine Longthorp

*"Growing in Harmony in the Land of Enchantment"*

### **Spring Greetings from New Mexico the Land of Enchantment**

A new year is here with a sigh of relief that we as a State can once again make plans for meetings and field trips to educate and enjoy.

We held a Fall Board meeting in Las Cruces at the end of October with a small attendance. For those who came it was very informative and fun. District IV were our hosts who have been holding off for a year and a half until we got a green light to have an in person event. The theme was "red or green" referring to New Mexico chile. The highlight was a talk by Dr. Paul Bosland about his "Chile Institute" which is affiliated with NMSU. A field trip to the fields where there were acres of multi colored chile growing will be memorable. We changed our format this year by holding the Awards banquet on the second day which included two years of awards. It was so good to recognize everyone who won and members went home to their clubs happy to share the trophies.

NMGC has decided to change our schedule to include a Spring Convention that rotates around to each District but hold the Fall Board meeting in the city of the sitting President's choice and to only include the Executive board and District Directors. This is because of the reduced number of workers and to also limit the expense. If our members are willing we can always open it up again but at this time we need to use the resources we have. For our meeting this year we are meeting just outside of Santa Fe to be closer to our Executive Board members who live in the northern part of our State.

The month of March is full of District meetings which will culminate on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> with our Spring Convention to be held in Artesia and hosted by District V. It is titled "Prairie Playground of New Mexico". It already sounds like fun!

Several NMGC members will be joining you for the SCR meeting in Galveston in April and are looking ahead to May and seeing all of you in Orlando for the NGC Convention.

We who live in the Land of Enchantment wish you a happy spring as life comes to our beautiful gardens.

*Christine Longthorp*

NMGC President 2019-2023



## OKLAHOMA STATE PRESIDENT, April Pratt

**"The FUTURE Starts with Us!"**

Dear Friends:

I'm copying this from a recent Facebook post. I thought it was so appropriate for our current times.

My dad has bees. Today I went to his house and he showed me all of the honey he had gotten from the hives. He took the lid off of a 5-gallon bucket full of honey and on top of the honey there were 3 little bees, struggling. They were covered in sticky honey and drowning. I asked him if we could help them and he said he was sure they wouldn't survive. Casualties of honey collection I suppose.

I asked him again if we could at least get them out and kill them quickly, after all he was the one who taught me to put a suffering animal (or bug) out of its misery. He finally conceded and scooped the bees out of the bucket. He put them in an empty Chobani yogurt container and put the plastic container outside. Because he had disrupted the hive with the earlier honey collection, there were bees flying all over outside.

We put the 3 little bees in the container on a bench and left them to their fate. My dad called me out a little while later to show me what was happening. These three little bees were surrounded by all of their sisters (all of the bees are females) and they were cleaning the sticky nearly dead bees, helping them to get all of the honey off of their bodies. We came back a short time later and there was only one little bee left in the container. She was still being tended to by her sisters.

When it was time for me to leave, we checked one last time and all three of the bees had been cleaned off enough to fly away and the container was empty.

Those three little bees lived because they were surrounded by family and friends who would not give up on them, family and friends who refused to let them drown in their own stickiness and resolved to help until the last little bee could be set free.

We could all learn a thing or two from these bees. ~author unknown

Bee Sisters. Bee Peers. Bee Teammates. Bee kind always.~

We have worked hard to pretend to be normal in our state again (will it ever be normal?): meetings are continuing in person, awards have been submitted, plans are going forward for our events, etc. I'm excited about what is going to be our new normal.

OGC's 2022 convention will be held in Tulsa on April 6, 7 & 8. There are some wonderful speakers and workshops being planned, so we invite everyone to attend.

*Affectionately, April Pratt*





## ARKANSAS STATE PRESIDENT, Terri Waterman

### **"DIG, PLANT, GROW"**

Dear Garden Club members,

I think we've all experienced some negative effects by events over the last few years such as sadness, depression and stress. I know I have. Fortunately, I live in area where even in winter I can get outside and putter in my garden, sit in the sunshine with a cup of tea, and watch squirrels, chipmunks and birds feed and bathe right outside my windows. Multiple studies show that gardeners, performing as little as 30 minutes of gardening, experience a significant decline in stress as well as a full restoration of positive mood. I think even planning my future garden projects, and especially talking to my gardening friends, raises my spirits. Just one of the benefits of belonging to a great garden organization.

Another benefit of National Garden Club membership is being invited to attend a State or Regional Convention. AFGC's State convention will be April 5, 2022 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. What a great opportunity to spend time with old friends, make new ones, and participate in educational seminars and workshops. On the evening prior to every AFGC convention is our Arkansas Judges' Council meeting and dinner, where we are always treated to a creative design program and speaker. This year AFGC will be putting the registration form and event information on our website, [www.arkansasfgc.net](http://www.arkansasfgc.net), so it's easily available to anyone interested.

Always a fun benefit is participating in, and attending, flower shows. Arkansas is proud to be putting on a Flower Show School Course II on March 7- 9 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Our State FS School Chairman, Rose Knight, and Vice-Chairman, Nancy Voyles, have been hard at work setting everything up. As most of you know, these schools are a critical part of flower show judges training, as well as good general education for all garden club members on flower show procedures, design styles and horticulture exhibiting requirements. I've really enjoyed helping with, and exhibiting in, several one-day pop-up flower shows held by the Arkansas Judges Council and Designer's Study Club in the Little Rock area over the past year. Flower Show School has been an invaluable resource. Anyone who has the time should check out our website for course details and registration.

Many of AFGC's garden clubs are still not back to full activity so there isn't a lot of meeting or event information to report. Arkansas's Covid numbers are still a factor for many and I understand our member's need to social distance. One bright spot was a Seminar sponsored by our newest garden club, Friends and Flowers, at the end of January. They booked one of Arkansas's most popular home and garden gurus, Chris Olson, and had a wonderful event enjoyed by many. It's my hope that 2022 will bring happier, healthier times for us all. My best to everyone.

*Terri Waterman*



## TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT, Gwen DeWitt

### **“To Preserve the Past, Serve the Present and Insure the Future.”**

Fall was a whirlwind of activity and Texas is a big state. Headquarters is in Fort Worth and I live in Beeville – five hours away. Thank heavens I love to drive! A quick trip to Headquarters for the Fall Board meeting had officers and Board Members gathering to do the business of TGC. One of the exciting actions that occurred was the selection of our Scholarship winners. As an organization, part of our mission is to promote educating our youth to preserve, protect and beautify our environment. We do this by giving scholarships to deserving students.

We also approved dates for our schools. Education is an important part of who we are and we ensure that by hosting Environmental School, Garden School, and Landscape Design School along with Flower Show School. I’m signed up for Environmental and Garden School!

After the Fall Board Meeting, I loaded up my little red car and headed to Temple for the District V Convention where I enjoyed meeting old friends and made new ones. After an excellent program on Gardening with Native Plants for the Birds and Bees by Gil Eckrich, a high energy, engaging speaker that wowed the audience I presented eight certificates to clubs that have achieved remarkable milestones in longevity. Then it was on to Palestine for the District III Fall Convention. Former TGC Inc. President Carol Moore decorated with a theme of ‘Roadsidea.’ For those curious about roadsidea – it’s the use of found items alongside roadways. I was deeply honored when District III presented me with a Life Membership to their District. District III has many clubs that have achieved significant milestones in longevity – I presented 16 certificates.

Not to be left out, I attended my District VII Fall Meeting in San Antonio, journeyed to Hondo to help judge the district awards and attended Beeville Garden Club’s annual Veteran’s Day Ceremony held at the Courthouse.

When I joined garden club all those many years ago, my first job was to be in charge of the Veteran’s Day program. Beeville Garden Club formed in 1953, Federated in 1955 and immediately went to work applying for permission from Bee County to turn a corner of the Courthouse grounds into a memorial for our Veterans. Once they had authorization from the county and NGC Inc., they set to work designing and putting in the memorial garden and erecting a Blue Star Memorial Marker that has been the site of our annual service since 1956.

***(Continued on Page 15)***

## **SCR GARDENING HEROS NAMED**

### **One New Gardening Hero Named Since August.**

#### **Sheila Brown by Dig 'N Design Garden Club**

Sheila Brown has been an active member of the gardening community in this area for many years. She participates with our Garden Club and the local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Ms. Brown volunteers her time, sharing her knowledge and experience in both basic gardening and gardens and habitats. She has organized projects for schools and was instrumental in the establishment of a Native Pollinator Habitat Grant Program that provides funds for the establishment of native pollinator habitats. Her enthusiasm is contagious. She is able to inspire fellow gardeners, students, teachers, and parents in projects that have benefited schools and communities throughout this area. She is tireless in her efforts to increase knowledge of plants and the environment.

Dig 'N Design Garden Club

November 2021

### **SCR Awards, Linda Jean Brown, Chairman**

To all South Central  
Region State Awards  
Chairman:

A quick reminder to  
make sure Garden Clubs  
have  
submitted their 1st place  
winners on to SCR for  
award year 2021.





## 2022 SCR Convention, Nancy Giffhorn, Chairman



Plan to join us for the 2022 SCR Convention a "Tropical Island Getaway" in Galveston Texas, hosted by the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs under the leadership of Meeting Chairman, Nancy Giffhorn. We are planning fun with friends, old and new and exciting experiences. The Tremont is a beautiful, old hotel, one block from "The Strand" so it is convenient for shopping. We will enjoy the view from the rooftop bar when we gather for informal happy hour each evening! Dinner Tuesday is on your own, so if you enjoy seafood, or just views of the gulf, you will find a place to dine.

Wednesday morning, we are planning an exciting morning touring the Rain Forest Pyramid at Moody Gardens. This will be an awesome experience because there are very few in-door rainforests. Lunch again is on your own at Moody Gardens or back at the "Strand" arriving back in time for the executive meeting. Dinner Wednesday will be at the Tremont. We will have a hands-on workshop after dining. At the workshop we will be using glass shards to design a floral picture, a wonderful new experience for most! Our creations will be returned to us on Thursday after the evening meal.

We begin our day on Thursday with a beautiful breakfast at the hotel, followed by the general business meeting. At lunch, our guest speaker, Donita Bannon will present the history of the Rainforest at Moody Gardens. Thursday at our evening dinner Kelly Drinnen from NOAA will present our program on the Flower Bank Garden (coral reef) located south of Galveston in the Gulf of Mexico.

We will celebrate eighteen SCR Gardening Heroes and Penny Pines Plantations in our four states. AND, there will be vendors, door prizes and silent auction items. One of our vendors will be Nancy McGraw, a second-generation garden club member and popular jewelry designer in the region with displays of her beautiful pearl designs at Crystal Bridges and other venues in Arkansas. Check her website: [www.justforpearls.com](http://www.justforpearls.com) Our registration form and hotel information will be available soon! I encourage everyone to support SCR and the Houston Federation with your attendance at our first convention in two years! Join us to make this a celebration of our return to Convention and active participation in SCR and in life!

*Rose*

## **TREES—Lucy Clinton, Chairman**

Nothing is sadder than seeing a large planting of Bradford pears going bad. We have a ten block boulevard that is now worse than death in our county seat, Anadarko. They grow too fast. Their wood is the weakest of all trees. The lovely white blooms cannot make up for the problems.

They are not sterile and will cross pollinate with other pear varieties. The one I bought and the two my mother bought for her mother-in-law lasted 5 years. The pundits say they will last 15-20 years; but I'm sure they don't figure the Oklahoma wind down the plain in their figures. They are expensive as well.

While I'm bashing the Bradford pear; I will promote Flowering Crab Trees. There are many different species; but the bright pink is definitely a winner. Let's also consider the dogwood. Their bloom comes before the leaf and is a stunning white. The bloom itself resembles the crucifix and the four light pink indentions are liken to Christ's nail scarred hands and feet.

Think on these things and study. Maybe in the fall you will plant a new tree that will be beautiful in the spring; but the tree will continue to please you and be an addition to your garden that will be good all year long.

## **SCR LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, Mary Ann Holman**

***The holidays are coming. Maybe you want to remember someone special with a SCR life membership! A very nice way to acknowledge those special Garden Club members. I will mail it or deliver it at the next SCR Convention!!! In Galveston, Tx next spring.....see you there!!!***

**PURCHASE YOUR LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$50 + PIN \$ 5 = \$ 55**

(available with a magnet back or standard pin back)

*All proceeds from the SCR Life Membership sales now go to the \$1000 SCR Scholarship given in the second year of a term (Which will be 2021).*

### **Order from:**

**Mary Ann Holman**, SCR Life Membership Chairman  
505 S. First Street, Walters, OK 73572-2209  
580-875-3720 or 580.875.3720  
Email: mholmanoklahomagardenclubs@aol.com



## **ADULT AWARDS, *Rose Schultz Chairman***



Thanks to all the State Awards Chairman that sent entries for the 2021 year. I will soon have a committee judge the entries and the winners will be announced at the SCR Convention in Galveston in April.

The updated South Central Region Award Guidelines for 2022 have been finalized and will be posted on the SCR website soon. You will notice several changes allowing for more flexibility which I hope equates to more entries. The award categories more closely align with the NGC Awards, so when you complete the entry for an award you can send two copies to your State Chairman, one marked for SCR and one marked for NGC. There are 7 awards only available from SCR. They are designated SCR 1 thru 7.

The Cookbook Award has been eliminated and 2 more Newsletter options have been added. Also, there will be a cash award for a Yearbook in each of the 3 new divisions. The Themed Yearbook Award remains.

Good Luck in 2022 and I hope to receive many entries. If you have questions, please email me [roses@jswtech.com](mailto:roses@jswtech.com).



**Book NOW**

**ATTENTION**  
**All SCR Members:**

**March 2nd is  
deadline to make**

**reservations at the Tremont Hotel for the  
SCR Convention in Galveston, Texas April  
19-21, 2022!**

***MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!!!***

### **ADULT Awards (continued) -**

What if you are applying for an Award that is eligible for both SCR and NGC Awards and the due dates are different? SCR does not send Adult Award-winning entries to the NGC level. NGC rules state that entries must be sent by the State Awards Chairman. The State Chairman will send to the SCR Chairman the state winners. Check with your State Chairman the due dates for Awards.

The Awards listed by SCR that are in some way also eligible for an NGC Award are SCR Awards #2, #3, #5, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #14. The most important dates are the due dates to your State Chairman as they forward them to both SCR and NGC. If your District gives Awards you will need to adhere to date Awards are due to the District before the District sends Awards to your State Chairman.

If you have been dancing with me, before you take a break, remember the SCR Director's Project "Fun with Pollinators" due December 1, 2022.

I encourage you to enter as many Awards as possible so we can give Awards in all of the categories for SCR and NGC will notice the SCR Clubs are dancing to the top!

## Blue Star, Shirley Tetreault, Chair

### "A Personal Note"

As many of you know, I have been the Blue Star/Gold Star Chair for many years in the state of New Mexico and South Central Region. It is a passion of mine to honor our Veterans and acknowledge what they have done for this Country. When NGC accepted the Gold Star program I had very little knowledge of how it all started, what it meant, and did it take away from the Blue Star. The answer is "No". Over the years I have sent you the history, location of markers, various stories, price increases etc. Today I'm going to tell you about the Gold Star History.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, George Vaughn Seibold, 23, volunteered, requesting assignment in aviation. He was sent to Canada where he learned to fly British planes since the United States had neither an air force nor planes. Deployed to England, he was assigned to the British Royal Flying Corps, 148<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron. With his squadron, he left for combat duty in France. He corresponded with his family regularly. His mother, Grace Darling Seibold, began to do community service by visiting returning servicemen in the hospitals.

The mail from George stopped. Since all aviators were under British control and authority, the United States could not help the Seibold family with any information about their son.

Grace continued to visit hospitalized veterans in the Washington area, clinging to the hope that he son might have been injured and returned to the United States without any identification. While working through her sorrow, she helped ease the pain of the many servicemen who returned so war-damaged that they were incapable of ever reaching normalcy. But on October 11, 1918, George's wife in Chicago received a box marked "Effects of deceased Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George Vaughn Seibold". The Seibolds also received a confirmation of George's death on November 4th, through a family member in Paris. On Sunday, December 15, 1918, nine days before Christmas Eve, the following obituary appeared in the Washington Star newspaper

***Lt. George Vaughn Seibold, battling aviator, cited for bravery in action some time ago, lost his life in a fight in the air August 26, last. His father, George G. Seibold... has been officially notified of his son's death by the War Department. Lt. Seibold was a member of the 148<sup>th</sup> U.S. Aero Squadron. He was first reported missing in action, though a number of circumstances led to the fear that he had been killed. Hope was sustained until now, however, by the failure to receive definite word. George's body was never identified.***

Continued on Next Page.



## **Litter, Reclamation, Recyclable, Carol Moore, Chairman**



### **Some Facts to make you think about your trash:**

90% of solid waste does not get recycled in the US a single recycled plastic bottle saves enough energy to run a 100 Watt bulb for 4 hrs.

5 recycled plastic bottles can make fiberfill for a ski jacket The US throws away \$11.4 billion worth of recyclable containers and packing every year.

Over 100,000 marine animals die every year from plastic entanglement and ingestion.

Glass bottles take 4000 years to decompose Americans use 65 billion aluminum soda cans each year.

After recycling, an aluminum can is usually repurposed within 60 days The majority of junk mail ends up in landfills Americans use 650 pounds of paper a year.

Article was taken from Circular Economy, November 14, 2018

### **Blue Star. (Continued)**

Grace, realizing that self-contained grief is self-destructive, devoted her time and efforts to not only working in the hospital but extending the hand of friendship to other mothers whose sons had lost their lives in military service. She organized a group consisting solely of these special mothers, with the purpose of not only comforting each other, but giving loving care to hospitalized veterans confined in government hospitals far from home. The organization was named after the Gold Star that families hung in their windows in honor of the deceased veteran. These families battle the loss of their sons/daughters every day.

## Stolen Show

Linda Jean Brown of Palestine, Texas has once again “stolen” the show with her horticulture entries at the 2021 East Texas State Fair Horticulture Exhibit in Tyler, Texas.

Brown received the following awards

(2) 1<sup>st</sup> place, Best of Category, Best of Section  
Potted plant Liliaceae, Aloe Vera  
Cut specimens, berries Cedrus, Cedar

(5) 1<sup>st</sup> place, Best of Category  
Adoughios, Fountain grass  
Alocasia, Elephant ear  
Nandine domestica, Nandina  
Loropetalum chinense, Chinese fringe  
Aspidistra elatior, Cast-iron plant

(6) 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Potted plant, Opuntia prickly pear  
‘snow’catcus, Catcus  
Poacaeae, Bamboo  
Miscantuthus sinenisis, Japanese silver grass  
Traccycarpus fortune, Windmill palm  
Cyca revolute, Sago palm  
Podocarpus, Japanese yew



*Congratulations Linda!!*

### ***Texas State President article (continued)***

I convinced the husband he needed to make a trip to Houston for District IV's Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Christmas Gala. You have to understand that was a big deal – he hates driving in Houston! The man is a trooper, dressed up in a suit and off we went to the Winterlight Gala. Fabulous food, fellowship, music by Trinity Jazz Ensemble and a fabulous design program by Bill McKinley of the Benz School of Design at Texas A&M University was enjoyed by all.

After a wonderful Christmas Holiday with family and friends, I once again loaded up the little red car and headed to Old Fort Parker for Environmental School III – Air. Sure glad I took my electric blanket – a rip-roaring norther blew through while we were there! Remember April brings us the SCR Convention in Galveston. District IV has been hard at work creating a convention you are sure to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

*With Regards, Gwen DeWitt*



## **Wildlife**—*Terri Waterman, Chairman*

### **Winter Wildlife Gardening**

Long, cold Winters can be a tough time for many of us humans, and the same goes for our local wildlife. There are a few things we can do as gardeners to help our wildlife:

- Natural, undisturbed areas provide winter weather protection for birds, beneficial insects and other wildlife as well as places to hide from hungry predators. As you clean up branches, twigs, leaves, etc. in the Fall, pile them in an out of way corner. This is a great place to discard your Christmas tree too.



- Leave dry plant stems standing in the garden – all kinds of insects will crawl inside to spend the winter. Ladybugs gather in large clusters to overwinter on the dead plant stems, particularly in more sheltered parts of the garden.
- As winter progresses, birds will become more dependent on the food you put out. Feeders get used more heavily, so hygiene is important – get into the routine of washing them regularly.



- Water is an important need during winter for wildlife, especially if you live in an area with little snow cover. Place baths in a sunny area to make them more visible to birds and to help melt the liquid. Even in places with abundant snow and ice, it costs birds precious calories and body heat to melt frozen water, so take the time to pour boiling water over frozen baths and dump the ice

or use a submersible heater made for keeping fountain/bird bath water from freezing.

## **Winter Wildlife Gardening** — (Continued)



- Turn your hanging baskets into bird hotels for roosting on cold nights.
- Dragonfly larvae stay active even in midwinter, so always clean your pond with care. When you net leaves out of the pond, pile them loosely into a 1 or 5 gallon bucket. When you lift off the leaves after 10-15 minutes, you can pour the collected water back into the pond, hopefully saving many larval forms that live in our ponds.
- Toads and newts like to spend the cold winter months in greenhouses or under pots or piles of bricks. Frogs are more likely to be seen in piles of leaf litter, and will even

hide at the bottom of ponds.

- Patchwork leaf-cutter bees use holes in dead wood as nest chambers to overwinter, as do several other insects. Help them by drilling holes in a log or block of wood and tuck them in a protected corner.
- While the garden is sleeping, it's a great time to get out those plant catalogues and plan what you can add to your yard to increase its effectiveness for supporting wildlife. Remember that wildlife habitats need 4 things: Food, Water, Cover, and Places to raise and feed young. Try to think in terms of 4 seasons of interest and purpose, i.e., spring pollen and nectar, summer/fall/winter seeds, brushy cover, evergreen, etc.

## **SCR Bird Poster Contest**—*Margaret West, Chairman*

“We’ve received SCR Bird Poster Contest entries from half of our region, and we look forward to receiving them from the other two states. Remember the February 21 deadline to show us how talented your young artists are! Winners will be announced at the SCR Convention in Galveston.





## PLANT AMERICA.....in the Fall

By From NGC President Nancy Hargroves

Fall is not just the time to think about harvesting pumpkins and preparing the garden for winter. Fall's cooler temperatures are the perfect time to plant bulbs that will give blooms the next Spring and many more Springs to come.



There is a new daffodil this year - *Narcissus Brent and Becky's Bulbs* cultivar for National Garden Clubs. The bulb was sold for three years exclusively to members of NGC. *Brent and Becky's Bulbs* donated a portion of the sales to the PLANT AMERICA GRANTS Program



bulb available to the public 'Plant America'. In 2018 obtained a new daffodil Garden Clubs. The bulb was exclusively to members of NGC. donated a portion of the sales to the PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY PROJECT started in 2017.

Brent Heath is a daffodil hybridizer, but he did not hybridize this new daffodil bulb. He selected it on a trip to Holland in April 2018 when he was visiting his friends and colleagues, the Hulsebosch Brothers in North Holland, who specialize in growing sustainable and organic bulbs. Brent has several criteria for choosing a new cultivar. First, he observes how it looks growing in the field, as that translates to how it looks growing in a garden. Then he looks for an upward facing blossom that is held above the foliage.

While still standing with Brent in Holland after choosing this National Garden Clubs, the call on his cell phone from Morgan, the company in the United Kingdom that sells English plants and seeds worldwide through their websites and company wanted to acquire this cultivar. The grower told them



in the field in the United Kingdom. The grower received a call from Morgan, the company in the United Kingdom that sells English plants and seeds worldwide through their websites and company wanted to acquire this cultivar. The grower told them



minutes too late, as Brent Heath had just selected it for his company.

The next step in the process was to select a name for the daffodil. Even though the initial plan was to name it N. 'National Garden Clubs', Brent advised that N. 'Plant America' would have more appeal when this daffodil went on the world market. (Continued on Next Page)



## **PLANT AMERICA.....in the Fall (Continued)**

A search was done in the database of named daffodils to be sure the name was not already in use. Then the name, photographs and description were submitted to the Royal Horticultural Society, who is the International Registration Authority for the genus *Narcissus*. The registration was approved in late June 2018.

*N. 'Plant America'* is split corona daffodil with the Color Code - 11 W-Y. The yellow perianth segments of this mid-season flower fold back smoothly over its white petals. It has a nice thick substance for long-lasting flowers. It has a strong stem and is up-facing. It grows best in full sun to a height of 12"-16", depending on the richness of the soil.

Besides being a daffodil hybridizer, Brent and Becky Heath are flower bulb suppliers, garden writers, photographers, lecturers, consultants, and educators. Brent's grandfather began growing daffodils in 1900 in Gloucester, VA where *Brent and Becky's Bulbs* is located. Brent's knowledge and credentials in hybridizing and growing daffodils is extensive. Recently Brent was the advisor to New York Botanical Garden for their *Million Daffodils project* to celebrate its 125th anniversary year in 2016. The 2017 Philadelphia Flower Show named a hybrid daffodil created by *Brent and Becky's Bulbs*, 'Starlight Sensation', as the "Best Hybrid" in the show.

2021 is the first year that the *N. 'Plant America'* daffodil bulb is available for purchase by the general public from *Brent and Becky's Bulbs* on their website (<https://brentandbeckysbulbs.com/product/narcissus-plant-america/?v=7516fd43adaa>) and in their print catalogue. Many individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs are participants in their *Bloomin' Bucks* program which donates 25% of each member's purchase from *Brent and Becky's Bulbs* back to the garden club.

This website not only contains many other spring-flowering bulbs to purchase but also has two sources of gardening information:

The LEARN section contains articles on gardening topics. Some include "All About Daffodils" (<https://brentandbeckysbulbs.com/all-about-daffodils/?v=7516fd43adaa>), "Synthetic vs. Organic Fertilizer", "Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring (Spring Rejuvenation Made Easy)".

A free email newsletter that contains timely gardening information can be sent to your email inbox by submitting with your email address.

Brent and Becky Heath also have a third source of gardening information with a blog site that can be found at <https://brentandbeckysblog.com/blogs/news>. Their fourth source of information – in-person lectures by Brent – has been limited by the pandemic. However, by selecting the BRENT tab on their website, the procedure is given for having Brent give a presentation by ZOOM.

Brent Heath's philosophy is "Plant bulbs and harvest smiles."

National Garden Clubs' philosophy is "PLANT AMERICA in the fall - with 'Plant America' bulbs and harvest smiles."

## **World Environmental Concerns, Sarah McReynolds, Chairman**

### **Mélange May Be The Cause Of Large Iceberg Break Offs**

As the ice-and-snow rubble known as *mélange* melts in Antarctica's ice shelves, rifts can grow and icebergs break off even in the brutal cold of winter such as A-76, the name of the latest iceberg break off in Antarctica.

Researchers have found *mélange* – *a mixture of windblown snow, iceberg bits, and sea ice lodged in and around ice shelves* – is critical in holding ice shelves together. These ice shelves may break up even faster than scientists had expected due to rising air temperatures and when the *mélange* breaks apart.



In recent decades, ice shelves in the Antarctic Peninsula have been moving and disintegrating more rapidly. Cracks deepen into rifts that cut through the shelf from top to bottom and widen across, finally releasing icebergs into the ocean. If this process continues until enough of an ice shelf breaks off the glaciers, the sea level rises, and a lot of fresh water is released into the ocean causing a lot of side effects in the ecosystem.

Scientists have been studying up on *mélange*. This messy, chunky mixture has natural properties similar to glue or grout, filling cracks or gaps and sticking to ice and rock. When it accumulates in a crack in an ice shelf, it creates a thin layer as hard as the surrounding ice that holds the crack together. At the sides of ice shelves, layers of *mélange* glue the ice to the rock walls around it.

***( Continued on Next Page)***



### ***World Environmental Concerns (Continued).***

In research, when scientist thinned only the mélange, without reducing the thickness of the glacial ice itself, the rifts in the ice shelf widened more quickly. When the narrow layers of mélange thinned to about 30 to 50 feet, they completely lost the ability to hold rifts together. The rifts could rapidly gape open and large icebergs break loose

Scientists have often used the predicted rise in air temperature to estimate how fast Antarctic ice shelves will break up and, as a result, how rapidly global sea levels will rise. But the narrow layers of mélange are melting mainly by contact with ocean water below, which continues year-round. At any time of the year, they may become too thin to keep holding the ice shelf together. And that is exactly what has happened with the large iceberg break off this year, 2022. This process might explain why ice shelves in the Antarctic peninsula started to break up decades before meltwater began to accumulate on their surface.

Recently, the world's largest iceberg has broken off from Antarctica. It was a 1,667 square mile block of ice. It calved from the Ronne Ice Shelf in the Weddell Sea.

What might not be natural is the rate at which this is happening, the acceleration of the process. The iceberg, A-76, took first place from another iceberg that broke off in the Weddell Sea that measured 1,498 square miles.

Icebergs are traditionally named from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally sighted, then a sequential number, then, if the iceberg breaks, a sequential letter.



## **ON THE WILDFLOWER TRAIL**

By Gwen DeWitt

The countryside, cloaked in the new green of spring and glorious swaths of wild flowers beckons visitors to take a tour of our country roads.

Texas is blessed with more than five thousand species of wildflowers. The state's vast size encompasses dramatically different geographical areas with extremes in temperature and rainfall. The South Central zone, South Texas zone, and the Coastal Texas zone converge in Bee Country providing us with a diverse wildflower population.

Texas has attracted professional and amateur scientists since the frontier days to study its diverse flora and fauna. One of the first recorded botanical collectors, Dr Edwin James, a surgeon and naturalist with Major S. H. Long's first expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1820 explored the Panhandle and collected numerous plants for study.

One of the most interesting collectors to grace our great state was Ferdinand Lindheimer, a German intellectual who came to Texas in 1836 to help in the fight for independence from Mexico but arrived at San Jacinto one day after the decisive battle.

Lindheimer settled in Texas and collected sets of plants to send to Asa Gray, a professor of natural history at Harvard. Professor Gray was considered the leading authority on plant life in the United States. Lindheimer explored the uncharted land of the Brazos, Colorado, and Guadalupe River valleys. He packed his two-wheeled horse cart with a supply of flour, coffee, salt, and the pressing paper for his plants and traveled with two hunting dogs. His skill and dedication earned him the title "the Father of Botany in Texas."



Scotsman Thomas Drummond visited Texas from 1833 to 1834 gathering an extensive collection of animal and plant material to send to Sir William Hooker, a professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow and later keeper of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. Many of our wildflowers will have Drummond's name incorporated into theirs.

Dr. Marie Sophie Young, an instructor in botany at the University of Texas and director of the herbarium traveled the Trans-Pecos with a student and a very stubborn burro collecting specimens in the rough terrain of the mountains.

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## ON THE WILDFLOWER TRAIL, (Continued)

and tear skin. She made a significant addition to the existing knowledge of the state's plants in the nine short years of botanizing in Texas. Dr. Young died in 1919 of cancer.

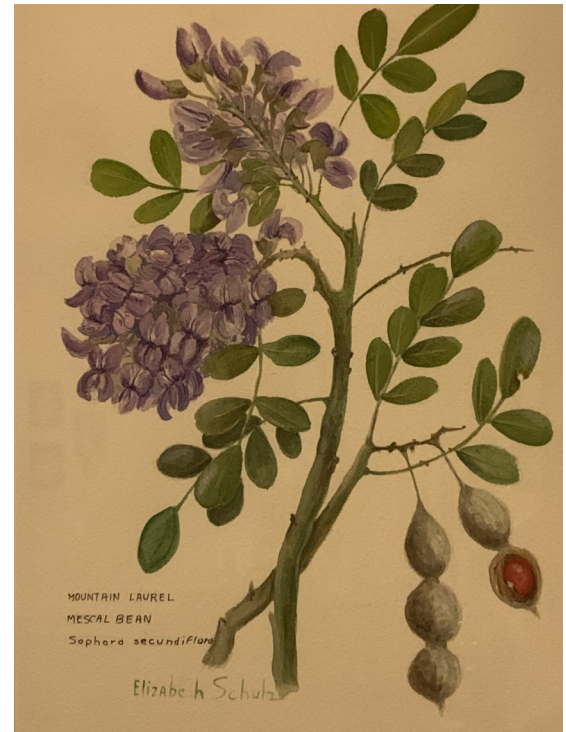
Ellen D. Schulz, supervisor of Nature Study and Science and director of the Witte Museum at San Antonio published *Texas Wild Flowers* in 1928. The book, written in everyday language, became a valuable reference for schools and libraries describing the unique characteristics of common Texas wildflowers. It described their economic value, usefulness and many of the traditions connected with them making the book a hit with the flower-loving public for which it was written.

Swedish naturalist Carolus Linnaeus established the binomial system of nomenclature by which each living thing was distinguished by two Latin names bringing order to the plant world. Each plant has a genus name and a specific name; the last name comes first and is capitalized, and the first name, not capitalized, follows. Wildflowers can have many names which are often colorful and descriptive. Common names can be amusing or poetic. A wildflower can have a dozen different common names.

The Latinized scientific names make it easier to identify the plant. The names become more interesting when we understand their origins. Many of the names come from characteristics of the plant: a *compactus* plant stays small and a plant called *noctiflorus* blooms at night. *Foetidus* indicates "bad smelling," leading one to believe that whoever named *Iris foetidissima*, stinking iris, didn't like the smell.

Elizabeth Schulz, a local conservationist, artist and member of Beeville Garden Club, created a series of botanical studies of wildflowers to educate the public. With her art work, displayed at the Witte Museum of San Antonio as well as many other venues, Elizabeth hoped to bring a greater appreciation of the beauty and importance of wildflowers. Through her art work, she educated us on the importance of preserving our natural heritage.

We are blessed with an abundance of wildflowers that blanket the state in spring. Some years are better than others, depending on the rain. Take the time to go out see nature at its best.





## Plant it Pink, by Charlene Wells

Plant it Pink: a continuing project which recognizes that virtually all of us have been touched in some way by breast cancer. Clubs are encouraged to plant pink gardens at hospitals, cancer centers, Memorial Gardens, and participate in Garden Therapy activities. In Flower Shows, offering pink flower classes and other activities promotes awareness of the fight against breast cancer. Projects may be carried out by NGC clubs working alone or by partnering with appropriate groups of their choice. Just to get you started here are several plants that grow pink flowers.

Daylilies--are the perfect perennial. They are low maintenance and drought tolerant. They can take any soil. They have no pest or disease issues. and yes there are pink ones and red ones.

Hibiscus--There are 2 kinds of Hibiscus: 1) Tropical 2) Hardy. The tropicals like well drained, fertile, loamy, soil and take lots of sunshine. The hardy kind likes the same conditions, except they are wetland /almost swamp plants. Both types need to be fertilized with a high nitrogen, high potassium fertilizer after they come out of dormancy and begin to put on foliage. The tropicals will need to be brought inside when it begins to get chilly. The hardy ones will go dormant for the winter and will come back into growth once the warm days of spring and summer arrive.

Geraniums--Can be grown throughout a range including zones 4-10. The most important detail to getting it right when it comes to growing geraniums is the soil. Peat and perlite will need to be added to the soil.

Dianthus--grows cheerful looking little clusters that have a way of looking happy to see you. They are heat and drought tolerant and respond well to the sun.

Zinnias are a warm weather loving flower. They thrive when planted in the spring in a location that's nice and warm. There are quite a variety--ones that grow tall and ones that are shorter. You have quite a variety to pick from.

Inpatients-- The ones with the pink flowers come in a range of hues from pale pink to a darker red and orange also. Most prefer shade, but there are many new sun loving hybrids on the market these days.

Petunias--are a heat tolerant flower. Be careful about watering-- once a week should be enough.

Following are a couple of definitions that apply to the treatment of Breast Cancer.

Lymphedema: A collection of (serum or *serous*) liquid due to removal of lymph glands/nodes or due to faulty lymphatic drainage. It usually appears as swelling in the extremities.

Neulasta Onpro helps reduce the risk of infection resulting from strong chemo - therapy. It is self-injecting after being attached to the body so the patient can receive their dose at home rather than having to go back to the doctor's office.

## **HERBS CHAIRMAN, Sherie Clarkson**

### **Herbal Beauty Secrets**

Using herbs to make cosmetics has been around for centuries. Egyptians incorporated beauty preparations in their religious and ceremonial rituals while the ancient Greeks developed a philosophy of all-around health and beauty akin to modern concepts. The Romans indulged further in aromatic rituals and body pampering. A Roman writer in the First century A.D. wrote four books on cosmetics with recipes for hair care, avoiding wrinkles and odors.

By the time of the Renaissance there was an awareness of skin care as separate from medicinal disorders. Recipes for soaps, creams and herbal water were collected and recorded in books and handed down from mother to daughter for generations. During the nineteenth century, cosmetics became



the Renaissance awareness of skin care as separate from medicinal disorders. Recipes for soaps, creams and herbal water were collected and recorded in books and handed down from mother to daughter for generations. During the nineteenth century, cosmetics became

a major industry in America. In 1849, Theron T. Pond offered his "Pond's Extract" to the public. The innovative use of preservatives and mass production created an unprecedented choice. Today's commercial products are often expensive, having vast amounts of money spent on advertising, packing, distribution and testing which can involve cruelty to animals.

Allergies have increased along with the use of chemical preservatives, synthetic perfumes and artificial colorings. As a result, demand has risen for natural ingredients and since then research has demonstrated remarkable therapeutic properties of herbs. Many firms are rushing to create their own ranges of herbal cosmetics. By making your own cosmetics, you can be sure of their contents, you select each ingredient having control over its freshness.



## **Herbal Beauty Secrets (Continued)**

### **Basic Herbal Preparations**

Most herbal recipes use one of these methods --

**Infusing** – put one and a half handfuls of fresh herbs or one ounce of dried into a heat-proof container. Avoid using aluminum, cooper and nonstick pans. Bring 2 and ½ cups distilled water to boil. Pour over the herbs immediately and cover to steep for 30 minutes. Strain and store in a refrigerator for up to three days.

**Decocting** – This method is usually employed for the tough parts of herbs. Pour one ounce of the herbs into a saucepan. Add 2 and ½ cups distilled water, bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes. If more than half the liquid has evaporated, fill up with water to make 1 and ¼ cups. Cool, strain and bottle. Keep in the refrigerator and use within a few days.

**Macerating** – Use this method for herbs likely to lose some of their therapeutic value if heated. Pack a glass jar with the crushed, fresh herb. Cover with vegetable oil, cider vinegar or pure alcohol. Seal and leave for two weeks, shaking the jar each day, strain and top up with fresh herbs. Repeat until the liquid smells strongly herbal. Strain, seal, and bottle. Keeps well and retains its scent.

**Pulverizing** - Grind, bruise, or mash plant fibers and seeds using either a pestle and mortar or blender.



### **Herbs Used**

**Parsley** – Skin toner, antibacterial, dry hair conditioner, gives hair body and luster

**Mint** – Tighten pores, treats dandruff, energizer

**Chamomile** – Softens dry skin, color enhancing herb for blond hair, soothes hands and feet, antibacterial, reduces puffiness

**Lavender** – Dry hair, dandruff, color enhancing herb for gray hair, gives hair body and luster

**Sage** – Oily hair, dandruff, color enhancing herb for brown/black hair, gives hair body and luster.

**Rosemary** – Condition for oily hair, dull skin, increases circulation, treats dandruff, tightens pores.

**Bay** – For sore muscles, tightens pores, stimulates blood.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

- ♦ MARCH 23-24, 2022                      NMGC Annual Meeting & Convention, Artesia, NM
- ♦ APRIL 5, 2022                              Arkansas State Convention, Hot Springs, AR
- ♦ APRIL 6-8, 2022                          Oklahoma State Convention, Tulsa, OK
- ♦ APRIL 19-21, 2022                      SCR Convention, Galveston, TX
- ♦ MAY 16-20, 2022                        NGC Annual Convention, Orlando, FL
- ♦ 2023    SCR Convention, OGC -date and venue TBA

**Is your state planning a school, event or symposium that we can add to the SCR calendar?? If so, please submit the dates and description to the editor, Suzy Andrego**

**The South Central Region Website address: [scrgardenclubs.org](http://scrgardenclubs.org)**

**To access the Members Section use the password - "FUTURE"**

**South Central Region is also on Facebook and Twitter!**

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