



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

The Communicator

2021 VOL. 10—June

Rose Knight, Director 2021-2023

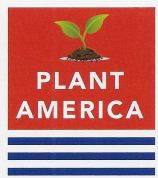
Message from the SCR Director... ***“Plant America – Embrace the Future”***

A heartfelt thank you to April Pratt and OKG! I was entertained royally at the OKG Convention in early April. I was able to begin my term in a warm supporting environment among old friends and new! We enjoyed great fellowship, programs, and food at the Hilton Garden Inn Bricktown.



We jump started our scholarship fund raiser “SCR Gardening Hero” by naming two OKG members as Heroes! Donna Marsheck was honored by Rose Knight and Mary Jean Easterling was honored by her sweet daughter, Lucy Easterling Clinton. Arkansas has stepped up to honor three members: Phyllis Byrum by her daughter and son-in-law Bryan and Amy Byrum, Pat Haering by Verna Garvan Design Study Club and a three-generation trio, Lena Belle Keahey Thornton, Martha Sue Reed Thornton and Rose Thornton Knight by John Knight. I am delighted that we can honor those who have led the way and, in the process, and embrace the future with our term scholarship! I challenge New Mexico and Texas to encourage individuals, clubs, districts, or their states to join Oklahoma and Arkansas in this effort!

OKG began the Penny Pines contest by passing the hat to honor former SCR Director, Linda Lawson with a “plantation”. When my local garden club, Primrose met we appointed a Penny-Pines Chairman, Betty Bass, for our club and raised funds for two plantations to honor two people: founding member, Bettye Baker and outgoing President, Rosie Huddleston. In Arkansas we will plant in the “Ouachita National Forrest”. I hope we will have “plantations” in all our member states over the term!



Director's Message Continued-

I have asked Suzy to publish our updated SCR Awards Guidelines. We have two wonderful leaders for the term: Rose Schultz, Adult Awards Chairman, and Linda Jean Brown, Youth Awards Coordinator. All our potential awards have donors, so we are off and running! Please review the guidelines and make plans for your club.

Nancy Rana, SCR Alternate Director will promote "Fun with Pollinators" our Director's Project for the term. The description and entry form for "Fun with Pollinators" is included in the guidelines. These ladies stand ready to answer questions regarding all awards! I am looking forward to a wonderful awards ceremony on April 19-21, 2022 at our SCR Convention in Galveston, TX.

I enjoyed five zoom meetings for NGC last week. I think we are all ready for fun, fellowship and to get back to work to "Plant America"! Join us for the journey and let's Plant America, play outside, and embrace the future!

Rose

2021-22 YOUTH AWARD CONTESTS

#19 SCR Bird Poster Contest

2021-22 Adult Male Painted Bunting – *Passerina ciris*

#20 Poetry Contest

2021-22 "Sing With the Song Birds"

#21 Recycle/Sculpture Contest

#22 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Smokey Bear "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

Woodsy Owl "Lend a Hand-Care for the Land"



SCR DIRECTOR'S PROJECT "FUN WITH POLLINATORS"

Our theme "Plant America – Embrace the Future" coincides with the NGC project, "Plant America – Play Outside". The purpose of the SCR Director's project "Fun With Pollinators" will involve youth in our four states leading them in projects that provide education about pollinator gardens and projects and promote the objectives of NGC. Projects to consider – pollinator gardens or projects at schools, churches, youth garden clubs and other youth organizations.

Prize Awarded:

\$100 – Presented to the club sponsoring the best Youth Pollinator Garden

\$100 – Presented to the club sponsoring the best Youth Pollinator Project
(Construction of Bat Houses, Mason Bees Houses, etc.)

Resources include:

Power Pollinator Book available for download from www.gardenclub.org

Plant America Grants and Youth Pollinator Grants sponsored by NGC and described on the website www.gardenclub.org

Who May Apply: Any individual garden club that is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., and South Central Region. One project per garden club may be submitted.

Application Deadline: Chairman must receive on or before December 1, 2022, via email.

How to Apply: The application will be on the SCR website, in "The Communicator" and available through the State Presidents.

Program Criteria: Involving and educating youth in our community on critical issues about pollinators, total involvement and participation by club members and youth from youth garden clubs, schools, or youth organizations. A one-page report describing the project including photos must be submitted to the Chairman. Report not to exceed 3 pages.

Questions: Nancy Rana, Chairman of the Director's Project "Fun With Pollinators", 350 Plantation Drive East, Heber Springs, AR 72543

Phone: (501) 206-7401 **E-mail:** nancygmrana@gmail.com



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

SCR DIRECTOR'S PROJECT

FUN WITH POLLINATORS

Date of Application: _____ **Name of State Garden Club:** _____

Applicant (Club name): _____

Contact (Name of individual representing club): _____

Email: _____ **Phone #:** _____

New Project: Yes ____ No ____ **Beginning date:** _____ **Completion Date:** _____

Description of Project resulting in the best pollinator garden or pollinator project by a Youth Garden Club or other youth organization.

List of garden club members and youth involved:

South Central Region **GARDENING HERO**

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

An important aspect of our work as a non-profit organization is provide scholarships. Scholarships are provided at the state, region, and national level. The purpose of scholarships is to offer financial aid to students and encourage the study of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Forestry, Agronomy, Plant Pathology, Environmental Concerns, City Planning, Land Management, and other allied subjects. SCR provides a \$1000 scholarship to a deserving student each term. To provide funding for the 2021-23 term scholarship we have established the **SCR Gardening Hero** program.

Is there someone who has provided outstanding service to garden club that you wish to honor? Someone who has worked unselfishly to promote our goals, someone who invited you to become a member, mentored you, encouraged you? Perhaps someone who is no longer with us that had an impact on our organization. Help us to further horticultural education, conservation, and landscape design through our scholarship!

State garden clubs, districts, local clubs, or individuals may honor a person as an **SCR GARDENING HERO** with a \$100 donation to the SCR Scholarship fund. Each honoree will receive a certificate and recognition at state and region conventions, in the Communicator, SCR Website and Facebook Page.

QUALIFICATIONS: All members of garden clubs in the four states of South-Central Region are eligible to be honored as SCR Gardening Hero.

Please send your tax-deductible donation of \$100 to SCR Gardening Hero Chairman and include a paragraph describing the impact of the honoree. Checks should be made to SCR Scholarship Fund. The chairman will prepare the certificate and arrange for recognition at state and region conventions and SCR publications.

Nancy Voyles, 2926 Hwy 75, Parkin, AR 72373



NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT, Christine Longthorp

"Growing in Harmony in the Land of Enchantment"

I am reminded of the lyrics to a favorite song "Summertime and the living is easy" from Porgy and Bess so that now Spring is in our rear view mirror and the extreme heat of an early Summer is already here.

Our NM Garden Clubs are back to meeting in person finally even though we usually take the summer off. They are having hugely successful "home-dug" plant sales and brought in much needed money to restart projects. As membership is down after the pandemic there are plans to "kick-start" our numbers by holding socials and field trips and personally inviting neighbors and members who have not renewed. Everyone is eager to see one another and feeling missed and special can persuade someone who has been alone.

I have been travelling the State encouraging clubs and helping make plans for educational programs and tapping those who work from home and want to learn more about drought tolerant plantings and vegetable gardening. Today there was a Parade of Gardens and I handed out my card to dozens of interested members of the public.

We are scheduling District meetings for September prior to our Fall Board meeting to be held in Las Cruces on October 27th and 28th. This will be a combined meeting with a two year Awards banquet being the finale. Most of my board and chairpersons have remained as we did not get to fulfil our plans this past year. I am also reaching out to the VA hospital to create my President's project which is a Sensory garden and will be an ongoing endeavor for years and much needed in these times.

I hope to have lots to tell you in my next report but meanwhile send hope and best wishes to you all.

Christine Longthorp



OKLAHOMA STATE PRESIDENT, April Pratt

"The FUTURE Starts with Us!"

Yes, we went from cold to hot overnight. And we are experiencing Gulf humidity ("Air you can wear"). It's absolutely miserable outside after 9:00 a.m. So, I've been up at daylight trying to get things done outside.

Many of our clubs have spent the last month or so trying to connect with their members in person. Some have had year-end celebrations by touring a member's garden, many have begun their regular, in-person meetings and holding plant sales.

OGC held their Annual Convention in April. SCR Director, Rose Knight, attended and was installed, along with Carolyn McCabe, SCR Secretary. We presented the 2021 NGC Award of Excellence – Non-member to Pat Woodrum, co-founder of the Tulsa Botanic Garden. At the luncheon, everyone wore flower-decorated hats. A Flower Fashion Show was held at the Friday evening banquet and it was amazing. Thanks to Carolyn McCabe, Chairman, and her team for an excellent convention and such creative ideas. It was so wonderful to get together in person and be able to have fun with our gardening friends again.

Oklahoma City Council of Garden clubs had their 31st Garden Festival in the Park in May, celebrating National Garden Week. The crowd was tremendous – probably the largest ever. People were excited about the plants we offered and had dozens of questions about garden clubs and how to join. Many of those interested were looking for evening meetings, so if you are interested in starting a club that meets in the evenings, please let me know. I will help in any way possible. Or consider holding an evening meeting for your club occasionally and invite guests. Quite a few that were seriously interested were teachers. They would be perfect members to cultivate for our NGC, SCR and OGC focus on youth.

We remember many precious members who are no longer with us since this pandemic started. Most clubs lost their members by simple disconnecting and neglect – these members we can save! Typically, our clubs do not meet in the summer, so I'm encouraging all of the club leaders to take the time at least once a month throughout the summer and get in touch with your members – A great idea is to hold an afternoon tea, or meet for lunch at a local restaurant -- so that you can hit the ground running when you meet in the fall. (Photos on Page 11.)

Get EXCITED!

Affectionately, April Pratt



ARKANSAS STATE PRESIDENT, Terri Waterman

"DIG, PLANT, GROW"

Hello to all our garden club members. Things are starting to heat up here in Arkansas, and not just the weather! Many of us are vaccinated and ready to feel some semblance of normalcy. Garden clubs are starting to meet physically, and we are planning our combined Convention/Mid-year Board Meeting in August and our 2021 District Meetings in October and November after having to cancel everything in 2020. Our August Board meeting will be August 23-24 in Little Rock at the newly renamed and redecorated Delta by Marriott Hotels. I'm so looking forward to seeing a room full of garden club members and excited about the interesting educational speakers we will have over the two days. Another thing I have missed is Flower Shows; both entering and judging. We will be having our Flower Show Schools Course I on August 2-3 at the Faith United Methodist Church in Little Rock and we have 38 people registered, 18 of them who will be getting credit to start their judging journey.

Congratulations to our many Arkansas garden clubs who won multiple State, Regional and National awards. I was so happy after the year we've had to see so many rewarded for their gardening efforts.

After a record breaking freeze in February and what some call the 'great landscape reset' I was happily surprised at how much of my horticulture made it through. I don't think I'm the only Arkansan that has pushing my planting zone due to the milder winters we've been having but last February was extreme. My daffodils smirked as they raised their multicolored heads, peonies screamed hallelujah and exploded with blooms, and my camellias and gardenias whimpered as they dropped their many leaves. Happily, I trusted the many garden experts here and held off doing anything drastic like pulling things out and pruning to the ground and most of my trees, bushes and perennials are making a heroic comeback. Now I will give everything damaged a lighter, shaping pruning. My Spring bulbs and ephemerals are played out, my azaleas have had their flush and now just have spots of color here and there, and my irises are going into their well-deserved summer dormancy. Elephant ears and cannas are just now stretching their leaves up towards the sun and roses and daylilies are teasing with pops of color before their true summer bloom-out. Being out in the garden is so glorious this time of year and even weeding is not too much of a chore.

Be sure and stay hydrated while outside working and don't forget to stop and sit a spell and enjoy all your hard work. Good gardening.



TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT, Gwen DeWitt

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

With the advent of the vaccine and the reopening of the State, clubs are slowly returning to in person meetings and activities. This allowed TGC Inc. to have its 93rd Spring Convention in San Antonio in April. Members from all over the state along with Gay Austin NGC and Linda Lawson SCR, gathered to celebrate Fiesta de los Jardineros.

Members were encouraged to dress for Fiesta, enjoying the amazing floral display along with the fellowship of our garden club friends. In addition to doing the business of TGC, we were presented informative programs from speakers on Cibolo Nature Center, succulents, environmental concerns, floral design and pollinators. Workshops, a river cruise and a night time ghost tour complete with a stroll through San Antonio's oldest cemetery with flashlights to keep one from tripping over gravestones provided fun and adventure. Carol Moore, past TGC Inc. President, served as installing officer over what has to be one of the most entertaining installations ever! It will certainly be remembered by all that attended and all that viewed it on YouTube.

Since convention, I have been hard at work completing the Chairmanship List, attending NGC Inc. Spring Convention via Zoom and working with Directors and members.

Our NGC Schools start up in person this summer with Environmental School #2, Land & Related Issues in July at Old Fort Parker, Grosebeck, Texas. I will be attending and sleeping in the Historic German Prisoner of WWII Barracks. It will be a fun trip for me – we lived in the area at Fairfield State Park when my husband was a young park superintendent for TPWD!

Other NGC schools are ramping up with Flower Show School II in October - other schools to follow in the spring and a Symposium in October of 2022. Texas will be hosting the SCR Spring Convention in Galveston in April – ya'll come!

Now I just need to sneak a little time in the greenhouse to finish planting the 200 'Carolyn Whorton' caladium bulbs before writing my newspaper column!

Oklahoma Garden Club Photos



SCR LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, Mary Ann Holman

ARE YOU A SCR LIFE MEMBER?



Our Director, Rose Knight wants many more SCR Lifetime memberships. And I do too. Mostly we think of our lady garden club members. But what about the many men who help us? Father's Day is coming up would be nice to remember someone special with a SCR life membership!

I will mail it if you want or deliver it at the next SCR Convention in Galveston, TX, Spring of 2022!!! Yeah !!!! I am happy to continue to serve as Life Membership Chairman at President Rose Knight's request.

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

(available with a magnet back or standard pin back)

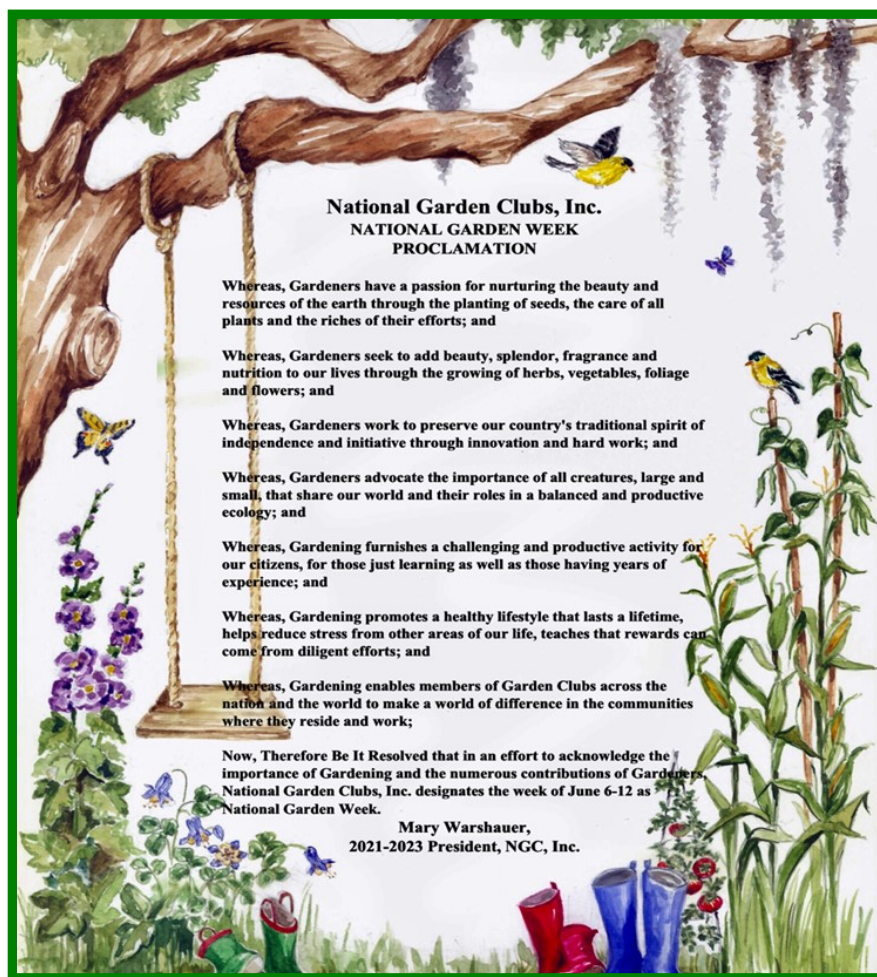
All proceeds from the SCR Life Membership sales now go to the \$1000 SCR Scholarship given in the second year of a term (Which will be 2021).

Congratulations to Our Newest SCR Life Member:
Rose Knight, Arkadelphia, AR

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

National Garden Week—Chairman, *Sarah McReynolds*



June 6-12, 2021

Sponsored by National Garden Clubs. Go to gardenclub.org for more info

Join NGC a clubs across the country and celebrate National Garden Week June 6-12, 2021. Promote NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, gardening and involvement of garden club in your community. Publicity if the key to the promotion of National Garden Week.

Ideas to Consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your library.
- Sponsor a hands-on workshop
- Plan a garden tour
- Plan an activity with your youth
- Place flower arrangements at public facilities

Proclamation to download:

<https://www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/ngw-proclamation-2021.pdf>

Poster to Download: https://www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/ngw-poster-2021_0.pdf

YOUTH ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN, Linda Jean Brown

Our Children...Our Future

If we don't teach our children at a young age the importance of our precious Earth and its inhabitants then we have missed a valuable opportunity. They are eager to learn from garden club members. They think we have so much knowledge.

It is each person's responsibility to educate our youth, our future generation, to carry out what we hold so dear to us, nature, wildlife, and our precious environment.

South Central Region's purpose is to teach our youth gardeners to use their eyes to see Horticulture and then grow it; to see Conservation and then practice it; to see our Resources and then conserve them; to see Color and then use it; to see Civic Projects and then adopt one so they may act wisely, ever mindful of the fact that horticulture is the strongest argument for our existence. Kids love to get their hands dirty. One important way we can show them "Plant America", NGC's Theme, is by observing Arbor Day and letting them participate in the planting of the trees.

We are in an ever changing world and getting fresh ideas is not only important but also exciting. Under the 2021-23 SCR Director, Rose Knight, using her theme, "Plant America - Embrace the Future" along with her committee and chairmen she will be encouraging garden clubs and their members the importance of getting your clubs involved in the youth in their communities by participating in South Central Region's Youth Award Contests.

We need to continue to focus on the importance of encouraging our youth of tomorrow the importance of making our planet, Earth, a better and cleaner place to live in today. We have several youth contests that will help teach them to learn and appreciate what they have right in front of them.

The SCR Bird Poster Contest 2021-22 theme, "Adult Male Painted Bunting - Passerina ciris, is a unique way for students to get in touch with nature by using their resources and learn about different birds that migrate across our great America. If you are unfamiliar with this bird, I recommend looking it up. With its many bright colors it is a beauty. This contest is for grades 4th - 8th.

We have the Poetry Contest with the 2021-22 theme "Sing With the Song Birds" to offer grades Kindergarten thru 9th grade. NGC's Poetry Contest enables our students to use their imagination through the art of writing. This is unique simply because it does not require the poem to rhyme. Students can use their ideas and come up with a great poem.

Our Children...Our Future (continued)

Another important way to encourage our kids is with the Youth Sculpture Contest, a great contest for the youth to use their imaginations and create their own view of artwork constructed out of recyclable, reused, and reduced material. When the youth create sculptures using recycled, reused, and reduced materials they are being taught how to keep our environment free of litter and still find useful ways to use such litter by turning it into art. In the past, kids really liked this contest because as they say...the sky's the limit...on using their constructive minds and make art.

It is necessary to educate the children about the importance of protecting our valuable resources. Encouraging them to participate in environmental posters Smokey Bear who says "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" and Woodsy Owl who says "Lend a Hand-Care for the Land" is just the beginning of learning about our world and ways to keep our forests safe for both the trees and the animals living in.

It is each person's responsibility to encourage our youth to keep the planet green and to get involved with saving the environment. We encourage each garden club to get involved with schools in their communities to get our youth involved in junior gardening. Together, we can "Embrace the Future."

I would like to challenge garden club members in South Central Region to step up and sponsor a Youth Jr. Garden Club and to get them involved in making our world a safer and cleaner place to live. If you have questions about getting started please feel free to email me or give me a call and we can talk and try to work out a program that will work with your garden club members and youth.

One never knows the impact you may have on one of these students. I would like to share with you some of the most beautiful thank you notes that I have had the honor of receiving this year.

I really appreciate all of the work you have done for children like me. It is amazing for you to devote your life to helping children have these opportunities. It must be a lot of work to organize everything and for that I thank you. Not only have you given us this opportunity to win money for something we did and teaching us responsibility but because of you, we know more about Native American culture. I do not know who has won the contest but I do know that you had a huge role in it.

Thank you so much for helping our class with these competitions. You have taken the time to consider us and help us participate in them and I greatly appreciate that.

Our Children...Our Future (continued)

The projects we have done have been really fun for me. They have helped me learn about new things in a pleasurable manner. The way that these activities and competitions have been organized really makes all that we are doing in class truly exciting. The activities that we have done are really engaging and hands on. This type of work is what really helps us learn and have fun. Thank you so much again for taking the time to let us do these enjoyable projects.

Thank you for giving our class an opportunity to be in a Poetry contest. We really appreciate what you are doing for young adults in our community. It really helps young people in our community with what you do. I know this letter sounds repetitive but you just seem like a nice lady who helps anyone in need. So thank you for what you do.

I would like to say thank you for getting our school involved in the contests. It means a lot that you are giving us these different opportunities even though you don't personally know us. Once again, thank you I really appreciated and enjoyed the contest.

Thank you for giving us your time so that we can participate in joyful activities and win prizes. I appreciate your hard work so much because it helps us engage in the things we like to do and it gives us a sense of accomplishment. We have had much pleasure in participating in the competitions. We have been anticipating these results and are very excited to know the results. We appreciate your consideration of our class's happiness and learning. We've learned a lot from these competitions and are excited about future contests.

Thank you so much for giving our class the opportunity to participate in a competition like the one you presented to our teacher. I wanted to thank you for the competition because I feel like it pushed me because I have never been good with poetry so thank you for giving me a contest to challenge me. Mainly, thank you for doing this even though you do not personally know us and giving motivation to kids who might not be the best in school.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for everything you have done for our class! Thank you for all the work you have done to sponsor us. This encourages me to push myself and to accomplish many things. I will try my best to give school much effort so that one day I can make the world a better place.

Linda Jean Brown, 30 Waco Dr., Elkhart TX 75839 (903)478-3264 H

(903)724-2656 C Ljbrown3264@windstream.net

HORTICULTURE EXHIBITING CHAIRMAN, *Mary Ann Moreno*

Exhibiting Daylilies

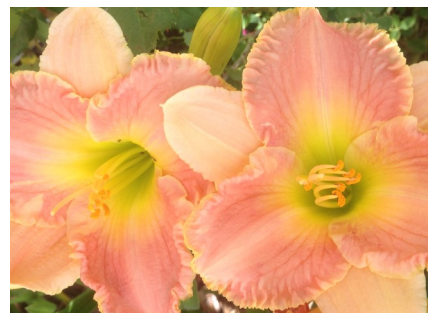
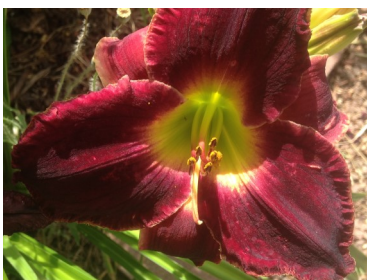
The wonderful daylily, a perennial that is grown throughout the United States, and a favorite of mine and gardeners who want lots of color and an easy to grow plant. The botanical name of this flower is Greek, *hemera*, meaning "day," and *kallos*, meaning "beautiful," because the flower is only open for a day. Daylily Societies usually have a Daylily Show in late spring to early



summer when Daylily plants are blooming. To really appreciate beautiful Daylilies, see the show and fall in love. You will soon be ordering catalogs, visiting nurseries, and if you are lucky get to visit a prominent Grower/Hybridizer in your area.

Three types of Daylilies You should know.

1. Dormant: The Daylily has been bred to withstand very cold temperatures (freezes) and loses its leaves in early winter.
2. Semi Evergreen: in the middle of temperature ranges. Some regions like California and places in the upper southern states can grow Semi Evergreen Daylilies. Foliage may stay green, or not.
3. Evergreen: True warm growing Daylilies. Hot temperatures and warm winters. The Foliage stays green all winter. The plant tag or catalog should tell you what type you are buying.

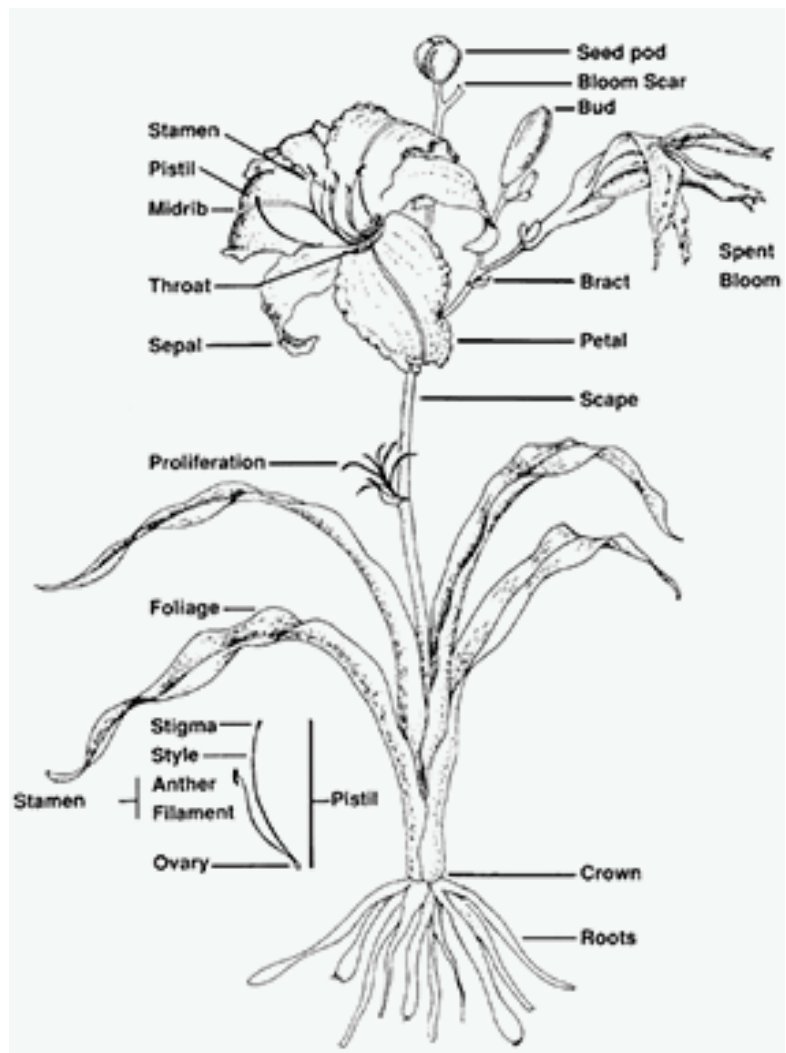


Exhibiting Daylilies (continued)

To judge a Daylily specimen, we look for some prominent information.

1. The open flower is in proportion to length of stem(scape). No tiny flower on long, thick stem, or large flower on short thin scape.
2. The flower petals and sepals are the same size, no tears, blemishes, color is even, no scarring on the scape.
3. Exhibited as a single scape, without foliage, not to exceed 36 inches,
4. Must be clean of old spent blooms, and old bud stubs neatly trimmed
5. Branching must well spaced and not crowded
6. Multiple blooms or buds evenly spaced on scape, no overlapping of flowers.

This article is being written to encourage you to get out into your gardens and be one with nature for a few hours. Share your knowledge with you Garden Clubs and friends. Remember you can't take it with you? Well, your knowledge is that way too. So share and help someone learn something new. I feel better already.



RECYCLING Chairman, Carol Moore

FUN FACTS

Plastic — 5 plastic bottles recycled provides enough fiber to create on square feet of carpet or enough fiber fill to fil one ski jacket. Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.



Cans — every 3 months Americans throw enough aluminum in the landfills to build our nation's entire commercial air fleet.. Recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV for 3 hrs.

Paper — Americans throw away enough office paper each yr to build a 12 ft high wall from Seattle to NY (a new wall every year). Recycling a stack of newspaper just 3 ft high saves one tree.

Did you know

Garden clubs can make plastic mats for the homeless people — I think it takes 500 or more plastic bags but it certainly is a good project for a garden club to take on or find someone who does this. In Palestine, Texas there was a blind woman who used to crochet the plastic bags into mats for the homeless.

NGC SCHOOLS OFFERED IN OUR REGION

YOU CAN FIND REGISTRATION FORMS For all Educational Schools on the SCR Website.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL 2 July 16-18, 2021

Land & Related Issues— Field trip on Caring for the Environment

Contact: Sarah McReynolds (254) 747-1144

Old Fort Parker , Inc. 866 Park Road, Groesbeck, TX 76642

Sponsored by: Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL I August 2-4, 2021

Faith United Methodist Church, 9820 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72205

Sponsored by: Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs & AR Judges Council

**CONTACT: Rose Knight, FSS Chairman , 110 Maple Ct. , Arkadelphia, AR 71923-9385
jkknight@suddenlink.net or 501-519-3505**

Facebook Chairman, Isabel Olsen



Please Visit Us, FRIEND US and Follow Us!!

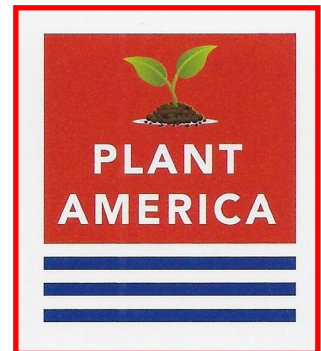
TAKE A MOMENT AND “LIKE” US

on FACEBOOK!!

**And share your state, district & club events
& news with us.**

SCR PLANT AMERICA CHAIRMAN, Renee Blaschke

Plant America is a grant program established in 2017 during the administration of President Nancy Hargrove's. The sole purpose of sponsoring a new ongoing 2 year project that not only enriches the lives of citizens as well as the environment of their communities and could involve the participation of our youth. Suggested projects include tree plantings, renovating community landscapes and developing food gardens, etc. It has also been suggested to consider the development of memorial gardens that garden club members could maintain with funds received from an available grant of up to \$1000;



There might be a Veterans facility, community hospital. Senior citizens home/ nursing/ rehab/residential center that residents and patients could enjoy while providing a relaxing atmosphere with landscaping on their grounds.

Many members of NGC are already involved in a variety of community projects but continuing funding creates a burden on the members. But Plant America would be a valuable asset.

Perhaps your club has been the donor of a Blue Star Memorial marker in your community. A suggested project might be landscaping to enhance the area. of the marker. Many of our smaller communities have limited staff for maintenance and this support from your club would be welcomed and appreciated.

Information, application forms and additional details are available on the NGC website have appeared in the National Gardener.

Please keep me abreast of any of your projects. Let South Central Region be an example of the dedication of our members to our communities , our country and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Let me hear from you.

WAYS AND MEANS CHAIRMAN, Joan Hopper

Let us take this time to let you all know about something exciting coming to SCR Ways and Means. We are going to get a chance to **win a BEAUTIFUL BARN**

QUILT. If you are not familiar with Barn Quilts, google them. They are really taking a hold and spreading throughout the US.

Within the next few weeks more information will be going out to the State Presidents.

We hope all our State President's will encourage each local club to participate and make this a successful project. It takes the help from all four states to make our Region successful. We thank each and everyone for all the work you put into making the SCR so great.

TREES & SHRUBS CHAIRMAN, Lucy Clinton

Trees and shrubs have needed so much more attention this year. Here it is June and my tree surgeon is coming June 3. One good thing is that the unusually cloudy and cool weather has definitely given gardeners a reprieve of sorts. I was sure that my nandina and the red tipped photinos were goners. I kept trimming and all three are going to make it. I'm still hoping that the crape myrtle bounces back too; but it will be at least six feet shorter and my lopper won't make a dent in making progress.

Last year we lost our pears, one freeze in March.

This year we will have although it doesn't look to Our hackberries froze that this year they have also

berries have been showing their stuff, soon they will turn orange and later in the summer they will be red. In September they turn brown. The first big dip in temperature will make them browner and the first frost and freeze will make them black and start to fall. Many shoots will survive the winter and show up in the spring.

Remember the very best time to transplant any tree or shrub is when the plant is still dormant in early spring or in the fall.

The one thing that can be transplanted earlier in the spring and later in the fall are the evergreens. If it doesn't get to triple digits you can transplant evergreens in the month of June. Healthy plants are key in transplanting. Any wilting, stunted growth, malformation, and diseased spots are signs of poor health.

One project here on Gawkey Creek is potting up several trumpet vines for distribution for Fort Cobb Improvement Club. We are having a brown bag lunch and paying our dues and electing officers. It will be our first in person get together since March 2020.

On a note, wildflowers may not be as prevalent as most years; but the wildflowers are lasting much longer.



Environmental Concerns-H2O Protection Chairman, Sarah McReynolds

Donkeys Digging Water Wells

In the world's deserts, some of the largest wild spaces left on earth, roam wild donkeys and horses. These are all descendants of a once essential labor force who became obsolete a labor force with combustion engines. Therefore, they were turned out in the wild. Now, these wild animals seem a threat to the environment. They have been the target of mass eradication and lethal control programs in America, Australia and other deserts in the world.



Across the Kimberley in Western Australia, helicopter pilots use to see strings of wells in dry stream beds. All of these wells started disappearing as mass shootings were conducted to kill and eradicate the feral donkeys. The only places these wells are found now is at Kachuana Station, where the last of the Kimberleys feral donkeys are protected. Feral horses (brumbies) also have been observed digging wells deeper than their own height to reach groundwater in Queensland Australia. Now In the vast Kimberley there are loss of many species due to lack of water and wildfires are rampant. The wells are gone that were dug by the donkeys and all the fauna and wildlife has dwindled.

These wild animals were considered a threat to the natural environment, now scientists are taking another look at the benefits of the larger animals digging water holes for the smaller animals and birds. In North America, where feral donkeys and horses are widespread there is a dramatic increase of water availability in desert streams, particularly during the hot summers. At some sites, the wells are the only sources of water. These wells just don't provide water for the donkeys and horses, but they are used by many other species. Incredibly, once the wells did dry up some, they became nurseries for the germination and establishment of wetland trees.

Despite these ecological benefits in desert environments, feral animals have long been denied the care, curiosity and respect native species receive. There are signs of change as news fields of study such as compassionate conservation and multi species justice are expanding conservation's moral world, and challenging the idea that only native species matter. A lot of times these feral animals are the result of mans intervention. When we no longer need animals, we leave them to fend for themselves. And usually they surprise us with their adaptability and desire to live and improve their world around them.

DESIGN EXHIBITING CHAIRMAN, Barbara Baker

Have a Flower Show in Your Home

Use those garden club lessons and programs and make designs for your own home – but even better, invite members to have a flower show in your home. Rather than another flower show in a bland public building, members and especially guests will better relate to designs in a home setting. Our homes are more Transitional now with a mixture of inherited antiques (*which the children do not want*), travel finds, casual pieces from Pottery Barn and even fun pieces from Hobby Lobby. Our rooms are more casual, usually with neutral backgrounds – such as grey, beige and cream. We bring in Color and Pattern and Texture with fabrics, plush cushions, natural fibers and accessories. Our floral designs will enhance the home's colors and add life.



The committee will designate locations and provide dimensions. Members view the area in advance. Section A Welcome! Class 1 Living Room, Exhibit 1 Oval walnut Cocktail Table; accessory books to remain; space allotted 24x32", Exhibit 2 Lamp table with glass top to left of sofa, space allotted 18x24", Exhibit 3 Lamp table...Design tips: choose a minor Color/s from the fabric pieces - the design will then show up rather than fade in. Is the size in Proportion for the actual and visual Space.



How may the design be more creative in a more transitional style setting. Consider unusual proportions or non-traditional plant materials. (Obake green anthuriums with Green Ice Calathea in formal dining room)

Have a Flower Show in Your Home (Continued)

Art is chosen not because the “colors match” but for how it makes you feel. Rather than being too literal, how can the painting or art be interpreted with plant material.

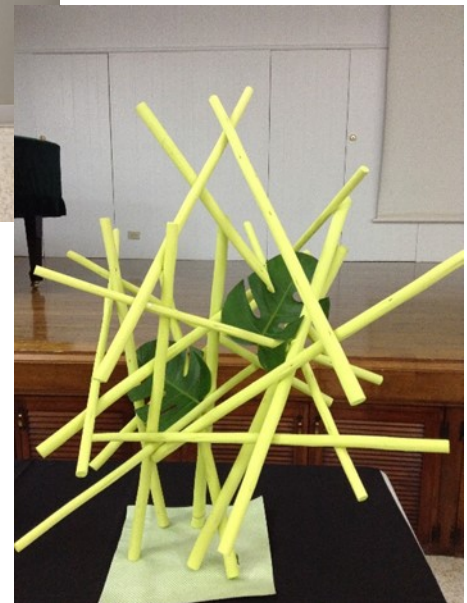


The exhibits could be in any room – much more interesting than the rec center – the laundry room, bathroom counter, around the swimming pool – floating in the pool. Petites on a bookshelf. Fruits and vegetables in the kitchen...can be eaten later. Hint: the room settings may be unique but do not let accessories overwhelm.



Have a Flower Show in Your Home (Continued)

For larger or more sculptural exhibits, a pedestal may be added for floral art, e.g. in the entry, corner of dining room.



Horticulture is not an afterthought - stage exhibits in a room with good lighting and room to view specimens - and away from the cat (they nibble). Hint: one year we had horticulture outdoors under a canopy; overnight the rose aphids came in and ate the orchids.

Artistic Crafts in a home: decorated shoes, handbag, wreaths, candle rings, pressed flower invitations, decorated packages.

SCR NGC SCHOOLS LIAISON, *Idalia Aguilar*

Are you, your Garden Clubs or your State Digitally Active?

As SCR NGC Schools Liaison, I was asked to write an article....however this is instead a special opportunity for me to send a call inviting all SCR members to become digitally active. Why should you accept my invitation? The main reason is that it will add a new window to your home, and it opens to a wonderful new world. Our challenge is to encourage online communications between the Garden Club members of Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The task may not look easy, but it can be absolutely achieved. The first step is requesting the help of NGC new Virtual Committee, and they will gladly offer classes in managing an online platform.

The second step would be to share Guidelines on how to help our 445 Garden Clubs and 21 youth Clubs on how to organize and offer online activities as Tutorials, Forums, Horticulture or Design Workshops.... When this happens, I could then begin my job promoting in our four states the opportunity to organize online schools or attend those being offered in other NGC Regions!

Are you interested? If so, please contact me... and together we can use the internet to help our 12,000 SCR members to take advantage of this exciting NGC educational online outreach that presents an opportunity to study without leaving our homes! Indeed, it's often said that "we have arrived at the future", please let me know if you are ready to learn and become part of it?

idaliaaguilarv@hotmail.com or call 979 229 8281



Blue Star Memorial Chairman, Shirley Tetreault

As your SCR Blue Star Chair I am in the process of compiling a list for each state. This issue will feature New Mexico and our next issue will feature Oklahoma. These list are for your convenience when traveling our states. They are a beautiful sight and it is a wonderful program honoring our Military men and women. Due to Covid-19 our markers have been at a standstill and in need of repair, however, we are expecting all states to pick up in 2021. The price has increased as of July 1, 2020 so please access the NGC Website for new prices. It would be fantastic if you could send me pictures of any memorials that you may visit in any one of our four state. Attached are pictures of our re-vamped marker in Albuquerque, NM. These markers are a small token of our appreciation for our veterans.



New Mexico Blue Star Memorials and Locations

23 Memorial Markers as of 6/1/2021



- 2018 District I - **Rededication**, Albuquerque Garden Center, Saturday, July 28, 2018
- 2017 District V - Ft Stanton Cemetery, Tuesday, September 26th, by Lincoln County Garden Club
- 2016 District IV - Bataan Veterans Memorial Park, Silver City, NM, Thursday, October 6
- 2016 District III - **Rededication** - Clovis, NM, Sunday, August 28 at 2:00 p.m. **
- 2016 NM Garden Clubs Inc. - Conchas Dam, Saturday, July 2 at 10:00 a.m.
- 2016 District III - Angel Fire GC - Angel Fire - Shuter Library - Sunday, June 12th at 3:00 p.m.
- 2014 District V - Home GC - Roswell - Gen. Douglas L. McBride Roswell Veteran's Cemetery
- 2014 Home GC - Roswell - **Rededication** - Court House lawn in Roswell, NM Thursday, September 18
- 2012 District I - Uptown GC - Albuquerque - Veteran's Memorial Garden on Louisiana, June 23
- 2011 District I - Uptown GC - Albuquerque Garden Center, July 11
- 2011 District IV, Socorro GC - Isidro Baca Veteran's Park, November 11,
- 2010 District III, Santa Rosa GC - Park at Guadalupe County Court House, November 11
- 2008 District III, NMGC Inc. - State Highway 60/84 Visitor Center, Texico, November 9
- ** Rededicated on August 28, 2016 in Clovis, NM**
- 2007 District II, Los Alamos GC - The Lodge Memorial Rose Garden, July 4
- 2006 District IV, Sunshine Valley GC - Veterans Memorial Park, March 7
- 2005 District IV - Mesilla Valley GC - Veterans Park, Roadrunner Parkway, Las Cruces, NM, June 17
- 2002 District V, Home GC - Chavez County Admin Bldg, Roswell, NM, February 22
- ** Rededicated on Thursday, September 18, 2014 in Roswell, NM**
- 2000 District III - Angel Fire GC - DAV Vietnam Memorial in Angel Fire, July 4
- 1997 District V - Mountain GC - Library Garden, Cloudcroft, corner of Burro and Swallow St. June 13
- 1996 District IV Robledo Mountains Vista GC - Ft. Selden Cemetery, Radium Springs, NM, October 16
- 1986 District I - Desert Planters GC - Memorial Rose Garden - Aztec, NM, August 21
- 1986 District IV - Sunshine Valley GC - Memorial Highway, Highway 80
- 1986 District IV - Town & Country GC - Gough Park in Silver City, NM
- 1962 District I - Trailblazers GC - Salmon Ruins, Hi way 64 San Juan County Archaeological Center

HERBS CHAIRMAN, Sherie Clarkson

Taking care of Your Herbs During the Summer



By now your herb garden should be flourishing with all the good rains and warm days we have been having. Harvest time will soon be upon us and you want to keep your herb garden healthy so your bounty will be plentiful. To ensure this just follow these simple summer care tips.

Watering

In our hot weather, the best way to water is with soaker hoses

which water your plants slowly and deeply. Most herbs like a fine brisk spraying of tops to discourage red-spider mites and also to keep foliage clean. If you are dividing plants or adding more transplants make sure these stay watered until established. Liquid seaweed added to the water when transplanting gives your plants a little boost. Be sure to protect your transplants from hot, dry winds, also.

Mulching

Probably the most important thing you can do in summer care is to thoroughly mulch all your herbs. A depth of 2 inches of mulch material will do more for your herbs during the summer than anything else. A mulch conserves moisture, keeps weeding to a minimum and gives the garden a neat well-cared-for appearance. Be sure to replace mulch as holes appear.

Weeding

Probably the least favorite chore in the garden, weeding is necessary for a healthy garden during the summer. Every weed takes away moisture, prevents proper circulation of air and makes the garden ragged. Weeds also harbor insects and diseases.

Feeding

Herbs grown in well-drained soil with plenty of sun and warmth will do reasonably well but will really flourish if given a little fertilizer. A generous amount of well-rotted manure worked into the soil before planting will help quick-growing annuals such as dill or borage. Then foliage- feed with fish emulsion and seaweed every couple of weeks.

Taking care of Your Herbs During the Summer (continued)

Foliage-feeding your potted herbs every so often with fish emulsion and seaweed will also help them through the summer. Potted herbs need regular feeding through the growing season with a liquid houseplant fertilizer applied during watering once every two or three weeks. Be sure to use your herbs and keep them clipped back to keep them from taking over the pots. Place your potted herbs near the back door so they are within easy reach when cooking.



Summer is also the time to enjoy your herb garden. Take a walk among the herbs in the mid-morning hours right after the dew has dried, noticing the fragrant smells and lovely textures of the different herbs. Make another tour in the evening and notice how different the same garden will appear. Enjoy. After all, this is why you planted the garden in the first place.

WILDLIFE HABITAT CHAIRMAN, Terri Waterman

Nature's Pest Control: Introducing Insectaries into Your Garden



A garden insectary is a form of 'companion planting', based on the positive effects plants can share as a method of deterring pests, acquiring nutrients or attracting natural predators. By becoming more diverse with your plantings, you're providing habitat shelter, and alternative food source, such as pollen and nectar, something many predators need as part of their diet.

Whether you are protecting crops and vegetables, your cutting garden or your rose beds introducing insectary plants can help decrease plant damage or loss without the negative affect of pesticides. At its most basic level, beneficial pest control could be as simple as a single pot containing two complementary crops, or plantings. One of the more common plantings is Basil with Tomatoes.

But flowering plants are particularly important to adult predators, such as parasitic wasps and flies, which require nectar and pollen sources to reproduce the immature larval stages that parasitize or prey on insect pests. Similarly, bees and plant pollinators take advantage of nectar and pollen and use the plants as shelter, giving you double the value with pest control and improved pollination. Several things to consider when establishing an insectary:

Nature's Pest Control: Introducing Insectaries into Your Garden (continued)

1. Intersect vegetable beds with rows or islands of insectary annuals or perennials.
- Consider the size and configuration of your planting areas and the 'dispersion area' of the beneficial insects you are trying to draw. Would an 'island', 'border', or 'integrated' planting work best.

Dispersion capabilities of some common beneficial insects.

LOW DISPERSION Stay in or Near Field	MEDIUM DISPERSION: ~ 1/4 mile	HIGH DISPERSION: > 1/4 mile
Ground beetles	Medium-size parasitic wasps	Syrphid and hover flies
Lady beetles	Predatory wasps	Dragonflies, tachinid flies
Small parasitic wasps	Predatory bugs (hemipterans)	Large parasitic wasps

Adapted from Zehnder G. 2013. Farmscaping: Making Use of Nature's Pest Management Services.

2. Consider site conditions. Choose plant species that are compatible and well-adapted to your soil and growing environment.

Ex. Penstemon and Goldenrod are both drought tolerant and Marigold and Cornflowers need moist sites.

3. Allow some of your salad and cabbage crops to bloom.
4. Include plants of different heights in your insectary.

Ex. Ground beetles require the cover provided by low growing plants such as thyme, rosemary or mint. Lacewings lay their eggs in shady protected areas and on crops such as tomatoes broccoli, leafy greens and alfalfa.

5. Tiny flowers produced in large quantity are much more valuable than a single, large bloom.

For a program on Insectary feel free to contact me for a PowerPoint that can be used at your next garden club meeting or even via Zoom.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

- ♦ July 16-18, 2021 Environmental School 2, Groesbeck, Texas
- ♦ August 2-4, 2021 Flower Show School I, Little Rock, Arkansas
- ♦ September 22-25, 2021 NGC Fall Board, St. Louis, MO
- ♦ OCTOBER, 27 & 28, 2021 NMGC Fall Board Meeting, Las Cruces, NM
- ♦ April 19-21, 2022 SCR Convention, Galveston, TX
- ♦ 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

To access the Members Section use the password - GROW!

(Don't forget the exclamation point)

South Central Region is also on Facebook and Twitter!

South Central Communicator Editor

Suzy Andrego

Communicator Email address: Sandrego@aol.com

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