



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

# *The Communicator*

2022 VOL. 12—October

*Rose Knight, Director 2021-2023*



**SCR Director, Rose Knight, AKA AFGC Flower Show Chairman**

**What a beautiful display of NGC Flower Show Awards!**

## South Central Region Members at National Garden Clubs Headquarters



From left to right: April Pratt, Oklahoma President, Rose Knight, SCR Director, Terri Waterman, Arkansas President, Debra Sorrell, NM Garden Clubs President Elect, Gwen DeWitt, Texas President, Lee Taylor, Texas President Elect, Suzy Andrego, SCR Communicator Editor, Doris Jackson, Judy Grotts, Form SCR Director and NGC Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Chairman, Barbara Baker, NGC Permanent Home and Endowment trustee, Linda Lawson, Past SCR Director and Sarah McReynolds, Incoming SCR Director.

## *Message from the SCR Director...*

### *"Plant America – Embrace the Future"*



Summer is drawing to a close! Although the weather is still warm our thoughts turn to the things we enjoy in the fall: kids in school, sports, and the beginning of a new and wonderful garden club year. Innovative programs, old friends and new, it is exciting! It has been a busy summer here in Arkansas. In August we had our fall board meeting as many of you did, followed by Course 3 of Flower Show School. That turns our thoughts to garden club and fall flower shows for sure!

I encourage every club in SCR to focus on membership! Let's invite new people to join us in this wonderful adventure: garden club! A new club is forming in Conway, Arkansas with twenty members! I believe if we challenge our members to look outside their local club to the broader world of state conventions, SCR, and NGC Conventions, they will gain a new understanding of the wonderful organization we are a part of.

It is exciting to know that Sarah McReynolds from TGC is beginning to plan for her upcoming term as SCR Director. The excitement and experience that Sarah will bring to the office is wonderful to anticipate. Please mark your calendars for SCR Convention "Spring Into Green" to be held at the Embassy Suites in downtown Oklahoma City on April 19-21, 2023, where Sarah will be installed. It is not too soon to save the date for SCR Convention 2024 to be held at the Delta Hotel in Little Rock April 22-23, 2024. Think about a Denim and Pearls evening of fun to kick off the convention!

I am thankful for the response to the SCR Gardening Hero for SCR Scholarships! What a wonderful way to Embrace the Future. Twenty nine "Heroes" and counting. At convention we voted to increase the scholarship in 2023 from \$1000 to \$2000 due to the success of the fund raising effort. It is not too late to honor someone from your club! The SCR Gardening Hero entry form is available in the SCR Communicator and on the SCR Website. We will continue to push for more Heroes in SCR, and I hope you will be inspired to name your very own Hero!

Heather White, SCR/NGC Penny Pines Chairman is planning a new Penny Pines contest for SCR this year. At Convention 2023 we will have new winners. Remember the goal is to



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

plant trees, trees, and more trees and our contest is a tool to remind us! Get those applications in to NGC. I was excited to hear that by working together NGC has raised over \$775,000 for reforestation! Let us continue our efforts to help reforest America one plantation at a time!

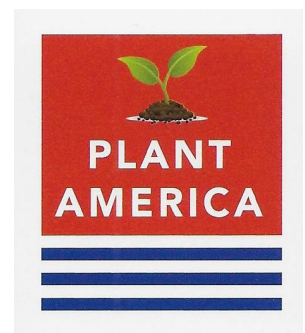
The 2023 SCR Adult Awards Guidelines are now on the website. Adult Awards Chairman, Rose Schultz has revised our SCR Awards to synchronize with the new NGC Awards Guidelines. No small task. You will find the process user friendly, and I encourage you to apply!! Linda Jean Brown, Youth Awards Coordinator stands ready to assist!

Let us all continue to "Plant America," play outside, and embrace the future!

### **PHOTOS of Director Rose & SCR State Presidents at National Garden Clubs Headquarters**



*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 get 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.

### **SCR GARDENING HEROS NAMED**

### **NEW GARDENING HERO STORIES**

**We are sad to say ..... there are  
Not any gardening hero stories  
..... Please consider  
nominating someone  
as an SCR Gardening Hero!**

## Blue Star/Gold Star, Shirley Tetreault, Chairman



### **Wow! We are up and running .....**

You just can't keep a good thing down! Our Blue Star Markers are rising to the occasion. Las Sembradoras Garden Club ordered a marker, however, the club disbanded, and the marker was never placed for dedication. It was lost then found and lost again. As of August, the 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 this beautiful marker that honors our military men and women has a permanent home and will be dedicated this fall. This special marker will be located at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Everyone that enters the facility will have an opportunity to view it. Finally, home!

Mountain Garden Club purchased a marker that was severely damaged beyond repair without anyone to come to the rescue, until now. The John D. Rider, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11999 have stepped up to the plate to replace the marker. They will work in cooperation with the Village of Cloudcroft. Plans are to have it placed in a park and include an American flag alongside.

Covid may have shut some things down, but it did not damage our spirit for our Veterans and this wonderful country. Let me know if you have a special story that you would like to share or pictures of what is happening in your state.

## NEW GARDENING HERO STORIES (continued)

***Won't You Consider Honoring Someone you know  
and love as a Gardening Hero?***

***See the next page for the Gardening Hero Application***







## NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT, Christine Longthorp

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

### Greetings from New Mexico,

Our Land of Enchantment has welcomed the monsoon season to heal our parched land. After the devastating forest fires set as a "controlled burn" that decimated 300,000 acres of forest and landmark buildings, we now, have respite with heavy rains and hope of renewal. Our Penny Pines Chairman is asking for donations so that we can reforest for future generations. I love how we can ask for a national forest by name to be planted which makes the donation personal.

Meanwhile, all around the State our members are entering their County fairs and the New Mexico State Fair opens this week here in Albuquerque. In preparation several members have travelled to outlying towns to teach basic design and how to enter horticulture. One of those towns had such a huge response to the classes that they are considering forming a new garden club. I have such gratitude for these women for taking the time to encourage the public to exhibit and help increase the numbers and standard of entries. This especially applies to the youth who are our gardeners of tomorrow.

We have also arranged for two Blue Star memorials be installed this year, one at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe and one in the SW area of our State. I will enclose photos in my next message.

This October we will have a Fall Board Meeting with the Executive board, Past Presidents and all five District Directors attending only. This is to take the pressure off a dwindling membership so that our energy is focused on the Annual Spring Convention being held in Albuquerque in 2023. I am hoping this action will simplify and be efficient.

We are also revisiting the Awards booklet to reduce the number of awards but still cover all the areas where members like to compete. From time to time this has been an appropriate action as our lives change and we need to redirect our energy. New Mexico Garden Clubs is a fluid organization responding to the needs of the public we serve and the knowledge that our members share. We encourage New Mexicans to be responsible for the care of our Land of Enchantment.

*Christine Longthorp*

NMGC President 2019-2023





## OKLAHOMA STATE PRESIDENT, April Pratt

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

### *Greetings from Oklahoma,*

Just like all of you in this Region, we have been experiencing drought and a hotter-than-average summer. Some have said to me, "I don't remember it ever being like this before," but, I always respond, "How long have you lived here?" Yes, every 10 years or so, we do have this exact kind of weather. Remember when we were kids and we had 100 degrees practically every day from July 4 and no rain until the State Fair began? And many of us didn't have A/C – only swamp coolers. Some days it was cooler outside than inside. And we struggled to keep that vegetable garden going, or we wouldn't have very much to eat! And, before you ask, NO! I am not old enough to remember the Dust Bowl, guys! ☹️ So, it's been a struggle, but as I'm writing this, we are getting a bit of rain today. God always provides. Sometimes, I'm just not patient enough.

We had a great time this summer getting together in person and connecting again with all our friends in SCR and NGC. NGC presented our nominee, Allan Storjohann, the Award of Excellence for Non-Members, a well-deserved recognition of all he has done for Garden Clubs over years. He is pictured here with



Donna Donnelly,  
Chairperson and  
Mary Warshauer,  
NGC President.

We also had the honor of presenting MaryAnn Holman, at her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration, the SCR Gardening Hero award to thank her for her years of dedication to our organization.

Continued on Next Page

We are gearing up for a busy and exciting season here. We have several things going on – We kicked off our fiscal year with a State Board Meeting last month to share all the new things that are happening. Our Judges Council is holding a Symposium September 13 & 14. North Central District is hosting a Wildflower Workshop on September 29. Cushing Gladiolus and Tulsa Garden Club are co-sponsoring an Environmental Studies School in October, being held virtually, so if you need a refresher, or want to find out what it is all about, everyone is invited to attend. I have the brochure available now, so just send me an email and I will forward it to you.

AND, we are working right now on the SCR Annual Convention being held:

**April 19-21, 2023, right here in Oklahoma City.**

We hope to have the registration form available by October and we will share it with everyone as soon as it is ready. We have some great things planned, and if you haven't had a chance to visit OKC before, you may be surprised at all the fun things to do here in this beautiful city. Put it on your calendar now so you don't schedule over it (and you may want to add a day or two to your trip to see more of the area).



Hope to see you ALL in OKC!

*Affectionately, April Pratt*







## ARKANSAS STATE PRESIDENT, Terri Waterman

**“DIG, PLANT, GROW”**

Greetings from Arkansas!

It's Back to School for many and that includes our Student Flower Show School Judges. We just finished a very successful Flower Show School III in Little Rock. There were 11 student judges for credit and a number of garden club members as auditors for both days of Horticulture and Design. We studied beautiful Transparency and Creative Mass designs and tons of succulents for our horticulture. AFGC also has two other NGC Schools in the works – a Garden Study and a Landscape Design Study course are being developed, though it will be a bit of time before we get them ready for registration. I look forward to adding these extra educational opportunities for our garden club members and their communities.

I've also been busy as Symposium Chairman getting ready for our Judges Symposium on September 28-29 in Little Rock. The registration brochure is on our AFGC website, [arkasasfgc.net](http://arkasasfgc.net), for anyone interested in attending. We will be studying Pelargoniums and Chrysanthemums with Karen Booker, as well as Cascade and Multi-rhythmic floral designs with Claudia Bates. I'm also excited that we will have Dave and Keiko of Catalpa Pottery, [www.catalpalanepottery.com](http://www.catalpalanepottery.com), bringing their beautiful Creative floral design containers for sale.

Arkansas had a very productive Mid-Year Board Meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> in Jonesboro. Several important proposals were presented and approved:

- Our AFGC Avenues magazine that has been mailed out twice a year will now be distributed electronic only. This will tighten our total budget during a time when membership is trending down and production costs are increasing. Our Convention and Mid-Year Board registrations were included in the magazine but are now available on our website and Club Presidents will be responsible for ensuring members have hard copies when needed.

- A By-laws change was approved for a \$2 State dues increase for a total of \$8 per member per club, starting with the 2023 fiscal year. This will enable AFGC to fund our budget without depleting our Endowment Fund and ensures better fiscal health.

The AFGC website has been getting better and better thanks to our wonderful Website Chairman, Nancy McGraw. She is constantly adding program information, event registrations and photos. One of the NGC programs I hope to promote more is the Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial program. Phyllis Byrum, our AFGC Blue Star Chairman, has initiated a 'Quarters for Blue Star' fundraising effort at our various meetings around the state, i.e., Conventions, District Meetings, etc. These quarters (and any other denomination of money) will go towards funding new Memorials, as well as renovating current ones. Hopefully, we will have a list of existing memorial locations around Arkansas on our website as well as photos of these memorials as members visit them.

Arkansas weather has returned to normal throughout most of the State and I hope that others around us are getting much needed relief from heat, drought and flooding. Happy Fall gardening to all our SCR members.

*Terri Waterman*



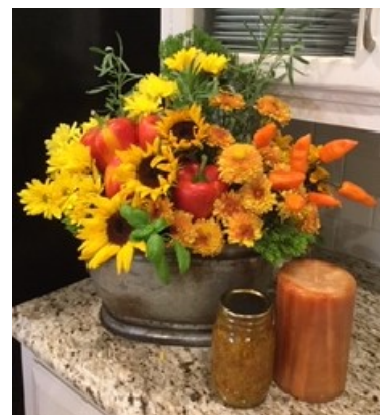
Flower Show instructor Janice Hamlin with her Creative Mass design at Arkansas FSS Course III.



A few of our lovely Past Presidents at AFGC 2022 Mid-Year Board VIP Table: L-R: Rose Knight, Jean Gipson, Derenda Stanley



Two designs  
by Barbara  
Baker







## TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT, Gwen DeWitt

**"To Preserve the Past,  
Serve the Present and  
Insure the Future."**

Year one as TGC Inc. President has flown by. The first year has been spent traveling across the state attending District and State Conventions along with SCR in Galveston and NGC in Orlando. I visited clubs and gave programs, preformed installations, presented certificates and Zoomed. Best of all, I met wonderful garden club members, state presidents and our wonderful SCR Director, Rose Knight!

Summer was a welcome respite giving me more time with the family, a chance to work in my garden and a chance continue my education by attending and passing NGC's Environmental School and Garden School. Attending the Environmental School at Old Fort Parker is like going to summer camp. We had a field trip, did a craft and learned interesting information on water. Dr. Novak of Rice University instructed Garden School at the San Antonio Garden Center. Part of the Garden School course was a teaching tour of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. One more section for both and I will receive my consultancy then Landscape Design here I come!

I highly recommend you consider taking the Environmental School and Garden School classes as well as the other NGC Schools. You will gain knowledge, take interesting field trips and develop lifelong friendships.

I'm so proud of the clubs that participated in the Penny Pines contest! You came through and made it a huge success! Needless to say the real winner is the National Forests. New seedlings will grow to provide oxygen, habitat for critters and beauty for future generations.

With that in mind, SCR has initiated a new Penny Pines contest for the second and final year of Rose Knight's tenure as SCR Director. Once again, I would like to see Texas support Rose's goals by purchasing Penny Pine Plantations. This is a great way to honor someone special by purchasing a Penny Pine Plantation in their name.

September is just around the corner and I will be back on the road. My schedule for fall is already filling up with trips to clubs to give programs and celebrate special events, Fort Worth for the TGC Fall Board Meeting, St Louis for the NGC Board Meeting and a symposium. The little red car is gassed up and ready to go!

*With Regards, Gwen DeWitt*

# **SPRING INTO GREEN**

**In Frontier Country  
SCR ANNUAL  
CONVENTION**

**April 19 – 21, 2023**

**Embassy Suites  
Downtown Medical Center  
741 N Phillips Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104**

**Get it on your  
Calendar NOW and  
Join Us in  
Oklahoma City  
For Lots of Fun!**



## **TREES—*Lucy Clinton, Chairman***

You might need to move a plant because it is too crowded, because it gets too much or too little shade, Or simply because it may be just more appealing in another location.

Perhaps, you may want to share a plant with a family member or a friend. In my area, there are several abandoned homes and spots homes used to be. We enjoy trying to save a flowering quince or save an old rose from destruction. Let's wait for the temps to finally back off of the triple digits and the nineties and hope that we can accomplish transplants before we have a

Smaller plants will survive better than larger ones. Strive for a happy medium. Don't bother with trying to transplant unhealthy specimen.

Indicators of include the length growth, the

the number of the size and color

Digging is key in

Avoid injuring as

possible. Start

outer edge of the

carefully remove

working your way

the major roots.

out six to twelve

trunk. Dig with

spade toward the

hurting the roots.

is located cut, trim

and undercut the

tackled a big plant,

tip the root ball

burlap under-

you could wrap and with small nails secure the burlap. Planting should start with dig-

ging a hole a foot deeper than the roots and twice as wide as the ball itself. Loosen that

soil in the bottom to optimize drainage. Add soil and build up a mound beneath the

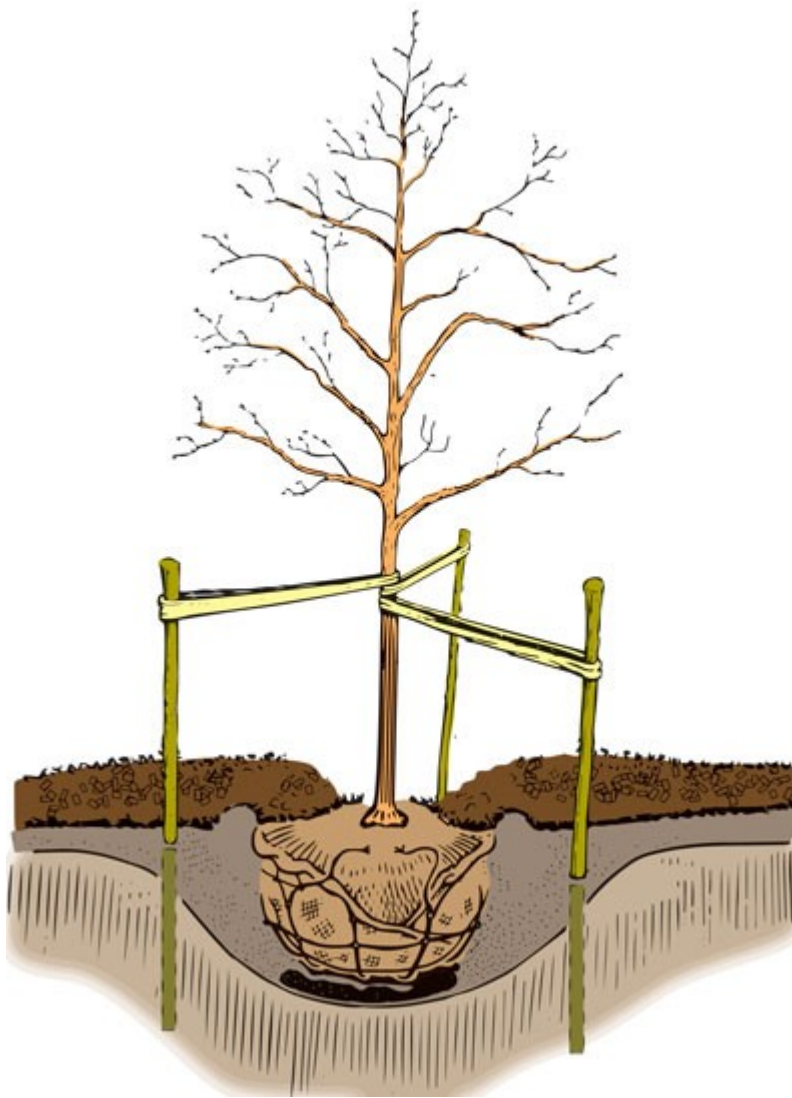
plant. It should sit the same level that it was before the move. Fill the hole with three-

fourths soil and a quarter of the hole should be filled with water. It is possible you will

want to drive a couple of stakes to secure the plant. Other considerations on a larger

shrub or a tree would involve stakes and guy wires. You can wrap wire with short pieces

of garden hose that has sprung a leak. Good luck with your transplanting endeavors.



freeze.

survive better than

for a happy

bother with trying

unhealthy

healthy plants

of the annual twig

condition of buds,

dead branches, and

of the leaves.

transplant success.

many roots as

digging from the

crown and

the soil while

to the trunk and

Before you dig, go

inches from the

the back of the

plant to avoid

After the root ball

and shape the ball,

roots. If you have

you may want to

and tuck a roll of

neath. In this case,





# Cushing Gladiolus and Tulsa Garden Clubs

Present



**SERIES Z-001 COURSE 1**

***The Living Earth***

**October 8 and October 15, 2022**

**Via Zoom**

**NGC ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL**

**ALL STUDENTS NEW TO ZOOM MUST ATTEND ZOOM TRAINING**

**7 – 8 p.m., October 5, 2022**

**ALL TIMES CENTRAL**

**(ESS Brochure attached to this Communicator)**



## SCR Director's Special Project, Nancy Rana, Chairman

I'm sure you have read about the South Central Director's Special Project, "Fun With Pollinator's". The main objective of the project is to educate our youth about pollinators and their importance in our world today. The projects can be conducted with students at schools, churches, youth garden clubs or other youth organizations.

A \$100 award will be given to the club sponsoring the best youth project and an additional \$100 award will be given to the garden club who sponsors the best youth pollinator garden. Spring is just around the corner so now is the time to plan your project. The deadline to apply for the award is December 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

## 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 Oklahoma City 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 2023).*



### **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



# 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.

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List of garden club members and youth involved:

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Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

# ANNOUNCING

## 2023 Smokey Bear & Woodsy

**Children from first through fifth grade  
are invited to participate in this annual  
drawing contest featuring conservation icons  
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl!**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl.

view last year's contest winners:

<https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-poster-contest>.

Smokey Bear is  
national Smokey  
teaches personal  
careful with  
Bear visit



**Smokey Bear says: "Only you can prevent wildfires!"**

recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention. The original Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey's message, "Only you can prevent wildfires!" encourages responsibility for wildfire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, burning yard waste, and matches. For more about Smokey visit <https://smokeybear.com>.

Woodsy Owl is  
teaches and teach-  
dren to "Lend a  
reusing, and  
littering. For



**Woodsy Owl says: "Lend a hand—care for the land!"**

America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a hand, care for the land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reducing waste; gardening, planting, and caring for trees; using resources wisely; and not littering. For more about Woodsy Owl visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids/woodsy-owl>.



## Poster Tips

A good poster has a bold and simple design.

The poster's message should be easily understood and delivered both in the picture and in text.

An educator, parent, guardian, or other adult should provide 11" x 17" paper for a child to create their poster.

Find inspiration for your poster with promotional and educational products from the National Symbols Cache, [www.symbols.gov](http://www.symbols.gov).

Posters will be judged for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message.

## Prizes

The national grand prize winner of the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest will be honored with a recognition ceremony in Washington, DC. A round trip, 4-day, 3-night stay—including mileage and

accommodations for four—will be provided. The recognition ceremony is typically held late in the summer.

The National Garden Clubs, Inc., will award a \$50 check to each of the first-place national winners.

## Recognition Ceremonies

It is recommended that local and/or State recognition ceremonies be coordinated in conjunction with local events during Earth Week in April or during National Public Lands Day (last Saturday in September).

Woodsy Owl and/or Smokey Bear should be present at these award ceremonies if possible. The Forest Service conservation education and fire prevention regional coordinators can help you identify local Forest Service offices that may assist you when planning for a Smokey Bear and/or Woodsy Owl appearance at your event. A list of coordinators is available upon request via email at [sm.fs.symbols@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.symbols@usda.gov).

Certificates of participation are free of charge. You can download them from [www.symbols.gov](http://www.symbols.gov) or by requesting hard copies via email at [sm.fs.symbols@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.symbols@usda.gov).

The National Garden Clubs will announce the first-place national winners for each grade level and the national grand prize winner at their 2023 annual meeting.

Certificates and prize money (\$50) for the five national winners will be mailed following the National Garden Clubs' 2023 annual meeting. The national grand prize winner will get the certificate, a trophy, and a framed copy of the winning poster during a recognition ceremony in Washington, DC.

The Forest Service conducts the recognition ceremony for the national grand prize winner, which takes place every year in Washington, DC, typically during the summer.

## 2023 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Rules

Competition may include students from first to fifth grade.

Posters are to be completed by individual student artists.

Posters must have correct spelling (posters with spelling errors will be disqualified).

All posters must feature Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and must not feature both together.

Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!

Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy's conservation message: Lend a Hand—Care for the Land!

All posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires or conserving natural resources.

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl must be presented in their correct colors (they are official icons protected by law); check the colors on the website [www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids](http://www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids) or [www.symbols.gov](http://www.symbols.gov).

Each poster entry should be 11 x 17 inches in size.

Materials that can be used include crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors, and the like.

The choice of paper color and texture is up to the child.

No three-dimensional posters, computer-scanned, or electronically generated images will be accepted.

All poster entrees must be sponsored by a recognized local garden club.

The local garden club chairperson must submit the poster entries to his or her State chairperson no later than January 20, 2023. The State garden club chairperson must submit the five winning posters from his or her State to the regional garden club chairperson by February 24, 2023.

The following information should be written on the back of the poster in the lower-right corner (do not use a dark marker for this information as it may show through):

The name, address, phone number, and email of the sponsoring local garden club.

The artist's name, address, contact phone number, grade level, school, teacher's name, city, and State. (Should school policy preclude giving students' addresses and phone numbers, please include the school address and phone number).

## **Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Contest by Jennifer Moreno, Chairman**

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2023 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest! The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles. All poster entries must be sponsored by a local NGC-affiliated Garden Club. Smokey Bear posters must include



Smokey's wildfire prevention message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires! Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy's environmental message: Lend a Hand, Care for the Land! Posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires and protecting the environment. Each entry should be 11 x 17 inches in size. The following information should be written on the back of the poster in the lower-right corner: the artist's name, address, home phone number, grade level, school, teacher's name, city, and state. Should school policy preclude giving students' address and phone number, please include the school address and phone number. Each poster must also show the name of the sponsoring local Garden Club as well as an address, phone number, and email for the local Garden Club. (Do not use a dark marker for this information as it may show through.) The deadline for submitting posters to the NM state chairperson (which is me) is January 20, 2023. The deadline for the states in the SCR to submit posters to the SCR chairperson (which is also me) is February 24, 2023. Please send poster entries to my address: 305 Fairmount Park Avenue NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123. For complete rules, ideas, etc...go to the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) and then go to Youth Contests>Smokey Bear Poster

Contest. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions! I'm here to help!



Jennifer Moreno,  
SCR Regional Chairman  
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest  
Email: [Moreno\\_jen@aps.edu](mailto:Moreno_jen@aps.edu) Phone: 505-217-4307





Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

# 2023 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest TIMELINE



Date	Activity	Responsibility of
August 2022	Information packages mailed to poster contest chairpersons and Forest Service conservation education and fire prevention coordinators	Forest Service
January 20, 2023	Local winning posters must be received by the State garden club or poster contest chairperson	Local garden club or poster contest chairperson
February 24, 2023	State winning posters must be received by the regional garden club or poster contest chairperson	State garden club or poster contest chairperson
March 17, 2023	Regional winning posters must be received by the National Garden Clubs poster contest chairperson	Regional garden club or poster contest chairperson
April 7, 2023	Judging to select the national winners for each grade level	National Garden Clubs poster contest chairperson and Forest Service staff
April 17–28, 2023	Selection of the national grand prize winner	Forest Service employees
May 2023	Announcement of national poster contest winners	National Garden Clubs (at their national convention)
Late summer 2023	National grand prize winner recognition ceremony in Washington, DC	Forest Service and National Garden Clubs, Inc.





Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

# Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest HISTORY

What is now known as the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest began as an initiative of the New Mexico State Garden Club in 1959.

In 1960, the National Council of State Garden Clubs (today's National Garden Clubs, Inc.) decided to replicate this contest and called it the National Smokey Bear Coloring Contest.

The winners of the first National Smokey Bear Coloring Contest were announced at the National Council of State Garden Club's 1961 convention by Mrs. N.P. Marton, Junior Gardening Chairman, and Miss Elizabeth Mason of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

The name changed to the Free-Hand Smokey Bear Coloring Contest in 1971. Contest organizers asked children to draw original entries rather than color in a preexisting template. One year later, conservation took its place beside wildfire prevention in the first Woodsy Owl and/or Smokey Bear Poster Contest.

In response to the environmental concerns in the 1970's, the contest was known as the Environmental Poster Contest. Entries to the annual competition could include either Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl but were not required to.

In 1994, the contest celebrated Smokey Bear's 50th birthday under the name of the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. The contest became a national art competition in which children draw their interpretation of Smokey Bear and his wildfire prevention message or Woodsy Owl and his conservation message.

Today, the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest is an annual tradition amongst elementary schools, scout troops, and youth groups across the Nation.



## Youth Activities, Linda Jean Brown, Chairman

### Our Children...Our Future

As members of the garden club world we are encouraged to teach our children the importance of our precious Earth and its inhabitants. The door of opportunity awaits us. We don't want to miss a valuable opportunity. They are eager to learn. They are able to express themselves as they compete with SCR Youth Contests. Trust me, they do express themselves whether it be drawing a bird that they may not have ever seen, to writing a very interesting poem, or even creating a sculpture of all recycled materials. They love to express themselves.

It is each garden club member'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. We need to continue to focus on the importance of encouraging our youth of tomorrow the importance of making our planet, Earth, a safer, cleaner and better place to live today and tomorrow.

The **SCR Bird Poster Contest** 2022 -23 theme, "Adult Male Great Blue Heron" Ardea herodias, 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. This contest is for grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

We have the **Poetry Contest** with the 2022 -23 theme "Seeds, Trees and Bees, Oh My – Celebrating the Diversity of Nature" to offer grades Kindergarten - 9<sup>th</sup> grade. NGC's Poetry Contest enables our students to use their imagination through the art of writing. Students have bright minds and have the opportunity to use their ideas and come up with a great poem.

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. This contest is available to grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

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 has celebrated 70 years and **Woodsy Owl** who says "Lend a Hand-Care for the Land" and has recently celebrated 50 years are just the beginning of learning about our world and ways to keep our forests safe for both the trees and the animals living in. This is a great contest for our elementary age kids. Grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our SCR Director, Rose Knight's theme is "Plant America – Embrace the Future". Together, we can "Embrace the Future" and we can make a difference as we reach out to our future gardeners, your youth. One never knows the impact you may have on these students.

*Let's come together as we close our this term and with the best of the best contest winners in our South Central Region Garden Club Youth!*

[ljbrown3264@windstream.net](mailto:ljbrown3264@windstream.net)

**(903)478-3264 (h) (903)724-2656 (c)**



## **2022 – 23 SCR Youth Award Contests & Guidelines**

Our purpose: 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. Lead our youth to carry out our NGC Theme “Plant America.”

SCR Youth Activities Coordinator  
Linda Jean Brown  
30 Waco Dr.  
Elkhart TX 75839  
(903)478-3264 (h)  
(903)724-2656 ©  
[Ljbrown3264@windstream.net](mailto:Ljbrown3264@windstream.net)

### **#19 Bird Contest: ( 2022-23 )**

**Adult Male Great Blue Heron** *Ardea Herodias*

All poster entries are to be submitted to  
**SCR Bird Chairman, Margaret West, 920  
Center, Conway, AR 72034-5249**  
[margaret.west@conwaycorp.org](mailto:margaret.west@conwaycorp.org)



- All entries must be sponsored by a local garden club.
- Posters must feature the “SCR Bird of the Year”.
- Eligible students are 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades. Home schooled students are eligible.
- Materials may include: crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors, etc. Paper choice is decided by the student. The size must be submitted on an 8 ½ x 11 inch page.
- Print students name and school and garden club name City and State to the back of your page.
- Each club should have entries judged to determine a first-place winner for each grade level.
- First Place winners from 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders should be mailed to SCR Bird Chairman.  
**ONLY ONE FIRST PLACE ENTRY PER GRADE ACCEPTED FROM YOUR STATE AWARDS CHAIRMAN.**

## **Youth Award Contests (continued)**

### **Scale of Points:**

Originality	25%
Method	25%
Artwork	25%
Overall Effectiveness of the entry	25%
Total	100%

- Copy winning entries as they will not be returned unless a club member attends the SCR Spring Convention.
- Posters may include artwork pasted upon a 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of paper.
- No 3D allowed.

### **#20 Poetry Contest:**

**2022 – 23 Theme:**

**Seeds, Trees, and Bees, Oh My – Celebrating the Diversity of Nature”**

All poetry entries are submitted to **SCR Poetry Chairman, Sheila Thome, PO Box 2543 League City, TX 77574** [gardenkidskemah@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenkidskemah@yahoo.com)

- Eligible to Special Education and English as a Second Language Kindergarten – 9<sup>th</sup> grades.
- All entries must be typed and titled.
- Print students name and school and garden club City and State to the back of your paper.
- Sponsoring garden club may be that of a grandparent.
- All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Poems do not have to rhyme. Poems may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or Haiku
- The theme should not be used as the title to any poetry.
- Long longer than 24 lines (including title) maximum 42 letters/spaces per line
- Include at least one of the following keywords from the theme: Seeds, Trees, Bees, or Nature.

### **Scale of Points:**

Title	10%
Content	40%
Creativity	30%
Style	20%
Total	100%

## **SCR PENNY PINES CONTEST**

### **2021-2023 SCR DIRECTOR ROSE KNIGHT ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Background:**

Pines program ongoing project many years and effort between USDA US Forest program pro-forestation of Forests by “plantations” of



The NGC Penny has been an for NGC for is a cooperative NGC and the Service. The vides for the the US National providing native seedling

trees to the region where the designated National Forest is in exchange for a \$68.00 fee. The donations are tax deductible and are in these increments because of a legal Memorandum of Understanding between NGC and the USDA US Forest Service. In our areas, the number of native tree seedlings vary per plantation as the number is determined by the cost of the seedlings.

**WHO:** The SCR Penny Pines Chairman is Heather White – 979-220-7545, [heathermwhitemd@aol.com](mailto:heathermwhitemd@aol.com). If you have questions about the contest, please feel free to contact her. Each state will be asked to have a Penny Pines Chairman to help spearhead the activity for this contest, but individual clubs can directly contribute (see HOW below).

**WHAT:** Donations to the Penny Pines Program will be tracked for each state in SCR, and the state with the most donations/member will win as well as the club with the absolute number of most donations. A formula for assessing donations based on state membership will be calculated from numbers obtained from NGC Headquarters.

**WHEN:** The time period of the May 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023. Payments and forms must be by NGC processed by NGC Headquarters within that period to be credited for this contest.

**WHERE:** All 4 states of South Central Region have US National Forests. In addition, donations may specify a state, ex. California, or may specify a specific forest, ex. Sequoia National Forest.



**WHY:** Every club and state should donate to the reforestation of our great nation with native species and preserve the beauty of our National Forests. The forest is responsible for so many aspects of environmental preservation by preventing erosion and serving as a natural barrier to weather elements such as wind, snow, and hurricanes, providing habitat for wildlife, clearing toxins and producing oxygen, as well as providing pleasure and recreation.

**HOW:** Donations are in \$68.00 increments only. Each donation can be given in honor of an individual or organization – ex. Heather White or A&M Garden Club, or in memory of a deceased member. Signed certificates from NGC Headquarters will be sent to the specified address. Multiple individuals cannot be listed on the certificates. A letter acknowledging the donation will also be sent showing it is tax deductible.

Forms are available to submit with the payment on the NGC Website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), under Projects, then the Penny Pines tab. You can complete a form and pay online OR download a form and mail it and the check to NGC HQ in St. Louis, MO.

**WHAT DO YOU WIN?**

- 1) Recognition at the SCR Convention in 2023
- 2) \$68.00 Plantation in honor of your state President for the location of their choice
- 3) \$68.00 Plantation in honor of the club with the highest number of donations for the location of their choice
- 4) Bragging rights of course! And **WE ALL WIN** by preserving our National Forests.



## **SUMMARY OF SOUTH CENTRAL REGION PENNY PINES DONATIONS** **APRIL, 2021, THRU MARCH, 2022**

### **12 Month TOTAL 04/01/2021—THROUGH 03/31/2022**

Arkansas—20/\$1,360

Oklahoma—34/\$2312

New Mexico—16/\$1,088

Texas—140/\$9,520

South Central Region TOTAL—210/\$14,280

### **SCR CONTEST TOTAL 05/01/2021—THROUGH 01/31/2022**

Arkansas—15/\$1,020

Oklahoma—27/\$1,836

New Mexico—8/\$544

Texas—136/\$9,248

South Central Region TOTAL—186/\$12,648

- Note that donations are credited based on processing through NGC HQ as of the last day of each month, and provided to the NGC Penny Pines Chairman in the monthly spreadsheet.
- Top State contributions was from Texas and the top club contribution was from Texas, District VII, Hondo Garden Club with 14 plantations.
- Additionally, money collected for NGC President Mary Warshauer on Wednesday, 4/20, amounted to just under 4 plantations, Heather White contributed to make it 4. Mary agreed to donate 1 plantation per state in her honor.
- Heather White received \$40 in donations Thursday, 4/21, which will be applied to make up a full plantation to donate in honor o SCR Director Rose Knight to Ouachita NF in Arkansas.
- Heather White, SCR Penny Pines Chairman, will donate a plantation on behalf of Texas President Gwen DeWitt to Texas NF.
- Heather White, SCR Penny Pines Chairman, will donate a plantation on behalf of Hondo Garden Club to the NF of their choice.

## **FLORAL DESIGN TECHNIQUE**

**by Barbara Baker**

Grouping (HB 82) A collection (three or more) of like materials placed closely together in the design, but individual components retain their separate identity.

A similar technique is Color Blocking used by florists and interior designers – making a bold style statement through the combination of relatively large areas of two to three solid colors. Florists might use different size blooms and textures.

The result is the same - the intense concentration of color will draw attention to the flowers and to the area.

These techniques are very useful in Creative Mass, Grouped Mass, Abstract, Featured Plant Material and Tapestry Designs.



Interpreting  
Art



Tapestry



## Wildlife Habitat, Terri Waterman, Chairman

### TIPS FOR HELPING WILDLIFE DURING HEATWAVES OR DROUGH

Many wild creatures can live for extended periods of time without food but... they need water *much* more regularly. Having convenient supplies of clean water can make a huge difference to the survival of local wild species such as birds, butterflies and small mammals, during times of extreme heat and drought such as we are seeing during the summer of 2022.



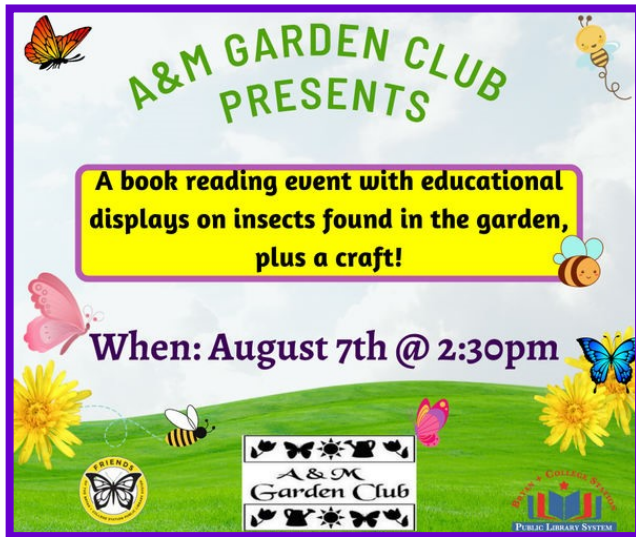
Smaller creatures we might find around our

local community are not very wide-ranging and are less likely to head off to local bodies of water, while more mobile species can become dehydrated due to lack of proximity to water. Sudden hot conditions and prolonged drought throw wildlife off their normal routines and put them at risk. Here are a few simple pointers you can follow to help that situation and make a real difference to animals and plant life in your area:

1. Make a special effort to keep your **birdbaths** full or think about getting one if you do not currently have one.
2. Hang a “**drip jug**” over your bird bath – a basic plastic milk jug filled with water with a tiny hole in the bottom. The birds will hear the drip and it will attract them for a cool bath and a drink. There are a number of terrific ways to enhance your garden with water features including misters, bubblers and more.
3. Put out some **additional water-filled containers**. Placing a couple of containers (one shallow and one a little deeper) on the ground will help other creatures such as ground squirrels, raccoons, and many others.
4. Use **water-conserving garden practices** such as using a generous amount of mulch to cover garden beds. This will help insects, worms and other invertebrates.
5. **Watering plants** in your garden will help to keep them healthy with natural moisture and the droplets are a favorite of bees and butterflies.
6. Don't forget the **hummingbirds** – they rely on nectar from plants, and summer conditions can dry up natural supplies that a good hummingbird feeder can help replace. There are many websites providing good nectar recipes and plans for feeders.
7. Often communities will put watering restrictions in place during times of drought. These are good times to capture water that might otherwise go to waste. One thing you can do is put a bucket (or two) in your shower, especially while waiting for the water to heat. While you bathe, the bucket fills with drinkable water for wildlife that would otherwise go down the drain. (Make sure soap doesn't get in the bucket.) Many communities encourage residents to install backyard rain barrels that gather rainfall from the roof and store it for drier times.

And remember that a garden that has food, water and shelter for local wild creatures, large or small, would make a terrific NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat®. It's easy and fun. (excerpted from several National Wildlife Federation articles, [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).)





The A&M Garden Club's President's Project was a book reading event at College Station Ringer Library on Aug 7. A&M GC President Heather W, organized the event with the children's librarian Ms. Makenzie. The "Sunday Family Day: Bees and Butterflies" event included A) book readings of 1) "The Hungry Caterpillar" by Sherry F, 2) "Bats" by Makenzie, 3) "Monarch Butterflies" by Sharron R; B) educational displays on insects in the garden (butterflies and bees); plus several craft tables, refreshments and photos were all staffed by about 15 A&M Garden Club and La Villita

DAR members. Over 30 children and about 25 parents attended.

Ringer Library posted on August 1 - <https://www.facebook.com/RingerLibrary/>. "Curious to learn more about bees and butterflies? Well you're in luck! The A&M Garden Club will be at Larry J Ringer Public Library on Sunday, August 7th, at 2:30pm to share facts about these insects. And to add to the fun, there will be stories, educational displays, and a craft! We'll "bee" seeing you there!"

**We wanted to Share this successful event with other clubs in SCR.**







Photos of the Exhibits, Family, A&M GC members and Books & Crafts





## Herbs, By Sherie Clarkson, Chairman

### Poisonous Plants of Blarney Castle

When I travel, I there is a garden tour schedule. One of my travel is Ireland and must see in that most people think of Blarney Stone. And many a bucket list, kissed the stone see.



always make sure or two on the favorite places to Blarney Castle is a country. Immediately kissing the famous that is, of course, on but once you have there is much more to

You will see over 60 acres of parkland and lush gardens, including a fern garden and icehouse, arboretums and a pinetum with rare species of trees, a herbaceous border of colorful perennials and the Seven Sisters garden inspired by a legend about the King of Munster. But the place I always head is the Poison Garden. Located behind the castle battlements, it may look like any other botanical garden, but once you see the warning signs with skull and crossbones and cages carefully constructed to contain the deadliest of the plants you know this is no ordinary garden.

Blarney Castle's "Poison Garden" Cork, Ireland – built in 1446, the castle still has its original "poison garden" which contains



poisonous plants. The plants are all labeled with information about toxicity, their medieval medical uses as well as modern uses. "Do not touch, smell or eat any plant!" visitors are warned, with a note that children must be accompanied at all times. Many of the herbs in this garden are very familiar to gardeners and



are probably in many of their gardens. Foxglove, tobacco, Wormwood, common rue, rhubarb, and even marijuana. However, there were several that would be in very few private gardens as they are highly toxic. Three of these are:

Wolfsbane - is a beautiful and poisonous – fall-blooming perennial. It also has a colorful history associated with werewolves, vampires and witches. In Greek myth, wolfsbane (Aconitum) originated from the toxic slobber of a three-headed dog named Cerberus, the scary canine guardian to the gates of Hell. In the Dark Ages, wolfsbane was said to be used by witches in spells and potions and was one of several ingredients for an ointment that, when applied to a broom, would allow flight.

The plants belong to a genus of highly poisonous perennials known as monkshood or aconite. It grows naturally in mountainous areas across the northern half of the globe and planted in gardens for their deep purple blooms, which continue flowering long after other perennials fade for the season. Ancient Greeks hunted wolves by poisoning their bait with this plant, which led to the common name of wolfsbane.

Mandrake – a root of a plant, historically derived either from plants of the genus Mandragora found in the Mediterranean region. The plants from which the root is obtained are also called “mandrakes”. Mediterranean mandrakes are perennial herbaceous plants with ovate leaves arranged in a rosette, a thick upright root, often branched and with bell-shaped flowers followed by orange or yellow berries. Because mandrakes contain deliriant hallucinogenic tropane alkaloids and the shape of their roots often resemble human figures, they have been associated with magic rituals throughout history, including present day contemporary pagan traditions such as Wicca and Odinism. According to legend, when the root is dug up, it screams and kills all who hear it. To get around this, a rope was tied around a dog and then around the plant and the dog would pull the plant up and die, then the plant would be harmless.



Ricin – Many people have used castor oil but might be surprised to find out that the extraction of castor oil plant (*Ricinus Communis*) leaves a residue which



contains the deadly poison ricin. This was used in the murder of Russian Georgi Markov in London in 1978. He was poked in the leg by the tip of an umbrella which contained ricin. He died three days later in the hospital. Even though it sounds like the plot of a famous spy novel, it is sadly true. Poison has always been called the murder weapon of choice for women and since the gardens were usually tended by the women of the house, many an abusive husband might have found a new herb in his soup.

A species of perennial flowering plant in the spurge family, castor beans are toxic if chewed or swallowed. I have known people that use them to control rodents and have them planted in their herb gardens which children playing around. Native to Africa, the castor bean is a dramatic tropical plant featuring leaves as big as dinner plates and attractive seedpods which is why people like it in their gardens. But the beans can cause oral irritation, burning of the throat, increase in thirst, vomiting, diarrhea and kidney failure. Castor oil is an old-time laxative and purgative, pressed from castor beans, which allows it to become safe.

The gardens have been kept and maintained as an educational tool to help people understand that many plants that have medicinal properties can also be deadly if used improperly. It also gives the history of these plants and how they were used by our ancestors. It is one of my favorite gardens that I have visited in my travels. If you get a chance to visit Blarney Castle by all means kiss the Blarney Stone but then visit one of the most unique herb gardens in the world. Just don't sample the goods.



## IS NUCLEAR ENERGY COMING BACK?

The world has learned to stop worrying about a backup plan for green energy and are starting to take a second look at nuclear energy.

The nuclear industry spent the bulk of the past decade in meltdown. The Fukushima disaster of 2011 triggered a global backlash against atomic energy. Because of this disaster, Japan suspended nearly its



entire nuclear fleet. Germany opted to phase out its nuclear plants, and various other nations either halted, delayed, or canceled planned expansions of nuclear energy.

Then the America's shale revolution flooded the world with cheap gas. Followed by the deployment of wind and solar that yielded rapid cost reductions in renewables so nuclear energy struggled to compete. Who needs the hassle of radioactive waste when building out renewables is faster and cheaper? So the nuclear energy took a dive.

But over the past couple of years, nuclear has acquired a new glow. In 2021, Congress invested more than \$8 billion in subsidizing existing nuclear plants and bankrolling advanced nuclear demonstration projects. If President Joe Biden gets his way, Congress will soon incentivize new nuclear production with a special tax credit.

Meanwhile, the European Commission recently leaked plans to formally declare nuclear energy a "green" investment. More than a half dozen states from across the region are currently pursuing advanced-nuclear power plants.

China, the world's biggest carbon emitter, recently unveiled plans to build 150 new nuclear reactors in the next 15 years — more than the rest of the world has built in the past three decades. **The primary reason for nuclear's rebounding support is simple: It's probably impossible for the world to meet its emissions-reduction targets without a substantial global expansion of atomic energy.**

**Who's reinvesting in nuclear energy?** The UK and France are leading the pack. The UK, which used nuclear power to generate 16% of its electricity in 2020, wants to boost that to 25% by 2050, in part by building eight large reactors. France plans to build six and to extend the lifetime of all existing reactors where it's safe to do so. France already generates 70% of its electricity with nuclear power. Both countries are also among those investing in so-called small modular reactors, although it will be several years before they're in use.

**Why extend a reactor's lifetime?** Many of the reactors in advanced economies are approaching their original design lifetime, which is usually 40 years. The average age of nuclear plants is 38 years in Europe and 36 years in North America; in India it's 15 years and in China just five years. A reactor's longevity can be extended, but only with significant investment in refurbishment. Belgium decided in March to make that investment for two of its reactors. In Japan, Tokyo Electric Power Co. Holdings Inc. has spent about 1.16 trillion yen (\$8.6 billion) reinforcing its Kashiwazaki-Kariwa facility, a plant whose oldest reactor is almost 40 years old.

### **What are other advanced economies doing?**

As part of its efforts to combat climate change, the US government is making \$6 billion available over four years to bail out nuclear power plants at risk of closing prematurely for economic reasons. California Governor Gavin Newsom has encouraged the operator of the Diablo Canyon nuclear facility to apply for the funds, saying, in a reversal, that he wants the plant to keep running given shortages in the years ahead.

Canada's national government, in collaboration with several provinces, aims to be a global leader in advanced reactor technology. Its plan for the development and deployment of SMRs, domestically and abroad, envisages the first units coming online in the late part of this decade.

Japan's government is pushing to accelerate the restart of about two dozen reactors that remain shuttered after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, when three reactors melted down at a plant in northern Japan following an earthquake and tsunami.

South Korea has announced the construction of four more nuclear reactors by 2030 and the extension of 10 older units.

Germany, which decided after Fukushima to close all 17 of its nuclear plants, may pull back from that decision, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz saying that extending the life of the nation's nuclear power stations might make sense in the wake of the Ukraine war and the threat that reduced flows of Russian gas could result in a winter fuel crisis. There's still been no formal decision to continue operating the country's three remaining reactors past 2022.

- Russia, the world's biggest exporter of reactors and nuclear fuel, is building new plants in Egypt and Turkey, while adding business from Myanmar to Uganda potentially worth billions of dollars.

Elsewhere in Europe, Belgium has plans to extend the life of its Tihange 2 nuclear plant to ensure energy supplies this winter. The Netherlands is contemplating two new reactors. Poland is exploring its first. The Czech Republic and Hungary have plans to build large

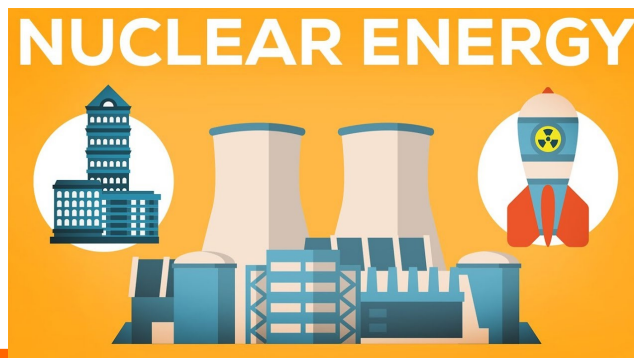


new units. In July, European Union lawmakers voted to allow nuclear energy to be labeled as green investments, removing the last major barrier to potentially billions of euros of funding from environmental investors.

**What about China and India?** Of the 10 reactors worldwide whose construction began in 2021, China accounted for six, followed by India with two. (Turkey and Russia had one each.) Altogether, China has 23 reactors under construction, with the government aiming to expand capacity by almost a third within the next three years compared with current levels. Beijing has also sold its Hualong reactors to Pakistan and is finalizing a contract to build a reactor in Argentina. India expects to start building ten more new reactors between 2023 and 2025.

**There are arguments against nuclear energy that should be taken into consideration before a lot of trust is placed in nuclear energy.** Opponents of nuclear energy say Fukushima was only the most recent accident to demonstrate that reactors are too dangerous. Reactor calamities also released radiation at Three Mile Island in the US in 1979 and Chernobyl in the Soviet Union seven years later. Critics cite large cost overruns that have plagued new reactor projects in the US and Europe as well as the expense and environmental risks of disposing of nuclear waste. But the biggest problem is time: large new nuclear plants require at least a decade to build while western economies need to cut greenhouse gas pollution by half by the end of this decade to meet climate goals. Opponents argue that cleaner and safer forms of energy such as solar and wind power should be deployed more quickly instead.

**Nuclear Energy is growing because of many factors in spite of the negative side.** Nuclear energy's proponents say accidents like Fukushima are rare, that fossil fuels are responsible for more deaths through coal mine accidents and pollution, and that the smaller, advanced reactors of the future will be even safer. The choice, they argue, isn't between nuclear energy and renewables but rather between nuclear energy combined with renewables and a climate catastrophe. Low-carbon sources accounted for about 40% of the share of the world's electricity supply in 2021 -- only about 4 percentage points more than 20 years earlier because, while renewables scaled up, nuclear power scaled down. The need to replace fossil fuels quickly enough to head off extreme global warming, advocates of nuclear energy say, makes it no longer an option, but a necessity.





## **DOWN THE GARDEN PATH**

### **BY THE TEXAS MASTER GARDENER, Gwen DeWitt**

There is an old Texas saying – If you don't like the weather just turn around and it will change! Rainfall has once again turned the countryside a luxuriant green scattered with delicate white blooms of the rain lily. Best of all, I no longer need to drag hoses!

I traveled to San Antonio for the third section of National Garden Club's Garden Studies School hosted by District VII. It is a blessing the District has been able to retain Dr. Novak of Rice University as instructor of the school. One more section and I will have my consultancy.

Some of the subjects covered included factors that influence plant growth, new plant development and evaluation, house plant basics, container gardening and native trees and shrubs. A test followed each section – five tests plus one after the teaching tour of the 41 acre San Antonio Botanical Gardens.

We hit the Botanical Gardens at 8:00 AM in the morning to beat the heat hiking over the gardens discussing the plants and exhibits. The Gardens feature the Texas Native Trail, an Old Fashioned Garden, Water Saver Garden, Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, Sensory Garden and the Conservatories. Of course my favorite was the orchid and bromeliad conservatory. Just couldn't figure out how to liberate some of those amazing specimens!

The Texas Native Trail has sections planted to represent the diverse areas of the state. Everything from the piney woods to the desert areas of West Texas is represented at the gardens. The hill country section had large rocks and shallow pools of water for children to play in. We were able to watch a wedding in the sensory gardens, a child's birthday party in the children's area and families touring the gardens while we took a teaching tour of the gardens.

There was an amazing art installation integrated in the gardens – Rooted in Nature by contemporary artist, Steve Tobin. One of his best known pieces is the Trinity Root, cast from the roots of a sycamore tree destroyed by debris from the 9/11 attack in New York. His work has been on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and in Shanghai, China.

His exhibit in the gardens is a bold nature-inspired series of sculptures that are integrated into the plantings. The intriguing shapes and colors capture the imagination of the visitor. My favorites were the egg-laden nests. Of course the color combinations of the root sculptures with plantings were eye-catching making the visitor reflect on the powerful roots of our link to the natural world.

The bonus class was on the Garden Ecosystem which covered native plants and animals, introduced plants, climate and weather and the gardener. In addition it covered the biological factors, physical factors and microbes of soil.

Since an ecosystem is a biological community, our gardens are a contrived ecosystem located in a part of the natural ecosystem. As the gardener, we play a key role in our garden ecosystem. It is a symbiotic relationship – actions taken by the gardener benefits the garden and the results benefit the gardener.

The garden ecosystem should never harm the natural. Don't introduce invasive plants that can escape into the wild. Avoid use synthetic pesticides that damage microorganisms, beneficial insects, amphibians and birds.

To ensure the garden ecosystem supports the natural - improve the soil with natural materials, recycle organic matter, and use native plants whenever possible. Provide habitat for pollinators, songbirds and small animals. Create balance by providing healthy soil for strong roots while beneficial insects, birds and small animals keep bad insects in check.



The dramatic "Steelroot" sculpture integrated in lime green plantings

Physical impacts on the garden ecosystem include water, light, weather, climate and temperature. Temperature effects plant metabolism. Know plant hardiness zones, whether they are warm temperature or cool temperature plants. Diurnal variation, seasons, dormancy are other considerations that will impact how they perform in the garden.

Recent rains have relieved the drought reminding us how important precipitation is to the garden ecosystem. Rain is always better than irrigation. Water drainage has a big impact on root health dictating what can be planted. Humidity is another water issue which allows for the development of pathogens. Too much water and succulents turn into mush. Not enough water and broad leaf plants wilt.

Climate is the interaction of temperature, precipitation and light. All have an impact on the plants you choose. Native plants have spent a millennia adapting to the climate they are growing in which insures their success and the success of pollinators. A non-native version of a native plant will not support native butterflies and other insects.

Spiders are the terminator in the garden ecosystem removing huge numbers of bad insects. 25 million tons of spiders kill 400-800 million tons of prey per year! Larger species of spiders have been known to take birds and lizards.



As with plants, we need to be careful about non-native insects – they don't have natural enemies to keep them in check and can cause millions of dollars of damage to the ecosystem. An example is the Spotted Lanternfly from China that is creating a major impact on agricultural. The financial losses from damage by the Lanternfly are in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Job losses are in the hundreds of thousands for those in the grapes, apples, hops and hardwood industries.

Reptiles, amphibians and mammals all have value in the garden destroying undesirable organisms, keeping the ecosystem in balance. A garden ecosystem is all about balance – climate, plants, soil, pollinators and critters!

A garden is many things to different people. It can be a place to grow food or flowers. Working the soil gets us back to nature serving as a refuge. It serves as a place to play. When you nurture life in the garden you have a chance to be creative, to heal and reconnect with nature. When I see the butterflies and bumblebees dancing among the blooms, I feel

at peace in my little  
portion  
of heaven!

Dr. Novak of Rice  
University giving  
us an overview of  
the gardens be-  
fore we started  
the teaching tour



"Eagle Nest" another favorite  
located in the Old Fashioned  
Garden



Standing next to huge Ponytail Palm located the Palm



### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

- ♦ January 14, 2023      Flower Show Procedure Course I -Zoom,  
New Mexico Judges Council
- ♦ January 21 & 22, 2023      Flower Show School I, ABQ, NM
- ♦ April 17-19, 2023      SCR Convention, Oklahoma City, OK
- ♦ July 22, 2023      Flower Show Procedure Course II—Zoom  
New Mexico Judges Council
- ♦ July 29 & 30, 2023      Flower Show School II, ABQ, NM

**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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