



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

The Communicator

2022 VOL. 12—June

Rose Knight, Director 2021-2023



South Central Region with front center dignitaries South Central Region Director Rose Knight, and NGC President Mary Warshauer, Orlando, FL, May, 2022, plus all SCR members attending.

Message from the SCR Director...

"Plant America – Embrace the Future"



Dear SCR Members,

Thanks to Nancy Giffhorn, the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs, and our faithful members the 91st SCR Convention "Tropical Island Getaway" was an enormous success! The Tremont Hotel was quaint and wonderful, our speakers from Moody Garden Rainforest and the Flower Banks Garden were excellent! We all enjoyed the tour to Moody Gardens and shopping on the "Strand", but the real reason for the success of the meeting was YOU our members who attended from each state. We had just under 100 attendees including our NGC President Mary Warshauer and 44 first time attendees! It was so satisfying to meet each of you face to face! We have all drawn closer to old friends and made new ones because of attending convention!

Prior to our SCR Convention, I represented SCR at the AFGC Convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas and the OKG Convention in Tulsa. The OKG Convention was packed with workshops and wonderful speakers including a favorite of mine, Robin Pokorski, who spoke on leadership. I made new friends in Tulsa and enjoyed time with old ones! After the OGC Convention Mary Ann Holman, former OGC President was honored as "SCR Gardening Hero" on her 90th birthday.

After the SCR Convention I attended the TGC Convention in Austin. What a blast! Texas President Gwen Dewitt was a gracious hostess, and I was honored to spend time with NGC President Mary Warshauer. The tour of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the evening "Bat" Cruise were highlights in a convention full of wonderful things – a Photograph Show and a Botanical Arts exhibit, among others.

My fifth convention as your director was NGC in Orlando, Florida! It was impressive, and I had the privilege of representing you as a member of the NGC Executive Committee where every director had an opportunity to share information. I met the Directors from the other regions and learned about
(Continued on Next Page)

Message from the SCR Director (Continued)

their activities. As your director I was honored to be a member of the NGC Scholarship Committee and I can report that 36 NGC Scholarships of \$4500 each were awarded to wonderful deserving students from across America!! There were so many great programs and activities and a striking petite design flower show. Every member should attend NGC Convention at least once!

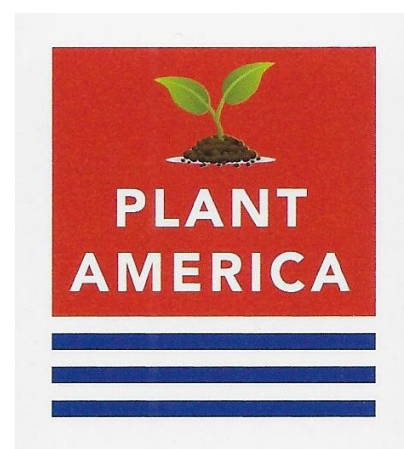
The focus at the beginning of our term was and still is Scholarships! At the OGC Convention we named two SCR Gardening Heroes: Johnita Turner and Marilyn Lay, members of Viola Garden Club and leaders in OGC. At the SCR Convention we added Sheila Brown from Dig 'N Design Garden Club in Seabrook, Texas, Linda Jean Brown, SCR Youth Awards Coordinator, Suzy Andrego, a member of NMGC and SCR Communicator Editor, and Mary Warshauer, NGC President. At the TGC Convention we honored the crown jewel of TGC and SCR Renee' Blaschke, former NGC President. I am thankful for the response to this effort to raise money for SCR Scholarships! What a wonderful way to Embrace the Future. Twenty five "Heroes" and counting. We voted to increase the scholarship in 2023 from \$1000 to \$2000 due to the success of the fund raising effort.

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 shared exciting news about the 186 plantations for a total of \$12,648 our region has contributed. Awards were given to the 2022 winners, TGC and Hondo Garden Club for the most plantations. At Convention 2023 we will have new winners. Heather has redesigned the contest to award on plantations per membership numbers to give a more level playing field. Just remember the goal is to plant trees, trees, and more trees and our contest is a tool to remind us! Get those applications in to NGC now so that your state will be a part of our 2023 contest and help to reforest America one plantation at a time! Congratulations Heather, for your enthusiastic leadership!

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

Rose



The Adventures of Our Director, Rose Knight



SCR Convention FUN!!



SCR Convention FUN!!



More SCR Convention FUN!!



More SCR Convention FUN!!



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

Linda Jean Brown by David Stephen Brown

My wife, Linda Jean Brown, has been a member of Dogwood Garden Club since 1996. She served as President for a total of eight years. She has held many positions during her years as an active member. Linda Jean has dedicated years to making our community a more beautiful place to live. She continues to find ways to help others by bringing new ideas to her club, but the one I believe she deserves recognition is for working with non-profit organizations. These organizations all have different mission statements or themes and are very community oriented.

The idea she brought to the club and named the "Festival of Trees" was a contest we saw while vacationing in Destin, Florida during Christmas. Her enthusiasm for helping non-profit organizations was overwhelming and the garden club decided to give it a try in Texas. She organized the project from start to finish and by writing the guidelines, spreading the idea by word of mouth, and writing articles for the local newspaper and her contest began to take shape. She has judges from other towns come in to judge the contests using a specific scale of point system. This event is not about the most beautiful

NEW GARDENING HERO STORIES (continued)

tree, but about how the trees reflect the mission statement of each non-profit. She approached a local business and asked the General Manager to consider underwriting the cash prizes for the top winners and as they say, the rest is history. Each year she contacts him and each year he says "of course." This year marks ten years of helping non-profit organizations by giving them the opportunity to win cash prizes for their worthwhile causes. Originally held in the local mall, the event has moved to a new venue in the downtown merchants' store windows. This award gives non-profits the opportunity to have their names mentioned in public and a chance to win cash prizes to help with the volunteer work they do. Not only do non-profit organizations benefit from the vision she had, but this event inspires the community with the Christmas spirit.

Linda Jean is my gardening hero and I wish to honor her as "SCR Gardening Hero."

David Stephen Brown

August 2021

Sheila Brown by Dig 'N Design Garden Club

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

Dig 'N Design Garden Club

November 2021

Seabrook, Texas

Renee Blaschke by Rose Knight and Nancy Voyles May 2022

We wish to honor Renee' for her service to NGC as President, to SCR, and TGC. Renee' is well known in Texas for her gracious leadership, she is the crown jewel of SCR, and one of the crown jewels of NGC.

Renee's tireless commitment to our organization on every level, her business acumen, and her warm engaging manner has won her count-less friends. I have been a fan since meeting Renee' at SCR Convention in NM in 2017 where she won my respect with her humor and down to earth approach.

Continued on Next page.

NEW GARDENING HERO STORIES (continued)

Renee' willingly stepped up to serve SCR as Parliamentarian for this term and we are grateful for her guidance and honored to call her "friend."

Suzy Andrego by Rose Knight April 2022

I wish to honor Suzy for her service to NMGC, SCR, and NGC. Suzy is gracious in sharing her expertise in all aspects of our organization with all who call on her. She is tireless in making sure that anything she touches is perfection!

Her service as SCR Communicator Editor the 2021-2023 term has enabled our members to stay in touch through challenging times when we have been unable to meet in person. Her dedication to all things garden club is inspiring.

Suzy brings a ray of sunshine to any gathering! I will always be grateful for the assistance and reassurance she has given me! I am honored to call Suzy "friend".

Mary Warshauer April 2022

We wish to honor Mary Warshauer for her service to NGC, Inc. as President. Her leadership during a challenging time in the history of our organization has been positive, inspiring, and critical to the future.

Mary's theme "Plant America—Play Outside" is a message to us all that we must be outside to enjoy our beautiful world to lead the next generation of gardeners and potential garden club members to appreciate nature and desire to protect our environment.

Rose Knight

Nancy Rana

Terri Waterman

April 21, 2022

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

See the next page for the Gardening Hero Application

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

SCR GARDENING HERO

All funds benefit SCR Scholarship Program

Date of Application: _____

Name of Honoree: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Garden Club: _____ **State:** _____

Name/Names of Donor: _____

Contact Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Garden Club: _____ **State:** _____

Why I wish to honor _____ as “SCR Gardening Hero”



NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT, Christine Longthorp

"Growing in Harmony in the Land of Enchantment"

Greetings from New Mexico,

The SCR and NGC Conventions are now in our rear view mirror and were both a huge success. Galveston and Orlando hotels were excellent and to see each other in person was the best. It makes a big difference to share information face to face and to be with all the State Presidents and Regional Directors was definitely energizing.

New Mexico is in the midst of the worst forest fire on record and is affecting all of our mountain garden clubs. We are praying for an end to this drought and the wind that has been relentless this spring. Please add a plantation to Penney Pines and request it to be planted in the Carson, Lincoln and Santa Fe National forests? As we flew over the area on our way home it was devastating to see 350,000 acres burned to the ground. Please help reforest our Land of Enchantment.

NMGC members are planting their vegetable and annual gardens and getting ready for Garden tours that are open to the public and State and County Flower Shows. This recent climate has once again provided exceptional roses and if the wind doesn't dry them up we will have amazing entries for the shows.

I have been encouraging our members to call the people who have not renewed their membership after the pandemic and invite them to summer socials. It is a good idea to pick them up and rekindle friendships. If gardening is the number one pastime in the country we need to find a way to appeal to that segment of society. We have a couple of nurseries who allow us to have a table on the weekend and take names etc. of those who want more help growing in our climate.

Often I watch people with carts of flowers leaving big box stores and I know they are wasting their money on plants that don't thrive in high desert. The shows and tours give the public a good idea of what really grows here so it is a great outreach.

We send our warmest wishes for a safe and productive summer to our Regional sister States.

Christine Longthorp

NMGC President 2019-2023



OKLAHOMA STATE PRESIDENT, April Pratt

"The FUTURE Starts with Us!"

Greetings from Oklahoma,

Oklahoma Garden Clubs has struggled to hold on for the past couple of years, just like the rest of you. Our clubs have worked hard to adjust to the new attitudes and expectations of their current members and have collaborated with other clubs to entice new members to join.

I am impressed with the creative ways in which we are meeting and inviting prospective members. In our Southwest District, the clubs are now so spread out that it is difficult for the remaining members to travel to meetings. They recognized the need for a new club in Lawton, with a population of over 95,000, and without a club for the past 5 years. The members of all the clubs in the District held a one-day workshop at Lowe's in the city, presenting the basics of raised-bed plantings. Lowe's employees taught the workshop, and the District purchased some of the clearance plants to provide a make-and-take project. Just in that one day, they were able to identify 18 people who were very interested in a garden club. There is a follow-up workshop on herbs and dish gardens planned for next month. Another club in the South Central District added 8 new members after holding a community project. North Central District clubs joined to make wildflower seed balls at a community event and added 5 new members. We, as a State, are working on a way to help fund these membership drives with grant applications.

We held our Annual Convention recently, in Tulsa and were honored that Rose Knight attended. Along with the necessary business, there were several workshops on membership and leadership with Robin Pokorski, and other great topics with very knowledgeable presenters. At the convention, we recognized our NGC Award of Excellence – Non-Member recipient for this year, Allan Storjohann; two clubs who received NGC Plant America grant; and many more state award winners. We presented three scholarships to Oklahoma State University Horticulture students – overall, our state was able to offer almost \$15,000 in scholarships this year.

Despite the challenges we are facing, I believe our members are getting tough, getting creative, and building closer relationships with each other while they are working together. I'm excited to see what next year looks like.

**AND, we will see each one of you
in Oklahoma City, April 19-21, 2023!**

Affectionately, April Pratt



ARKANSAS STATE PRESIDENT, Terri Waterman

“DIG, PLANT, GROW”

I hope that everyone is healthy and doing well. It's such a great time to be in the garden here in Arkansas. The weather is not too hot or cold, not too humid, the bugs aren't too excessive...yet. I'm enjoying a lull in garden club events to spend more time in my own garden. My peonies and bearded iris have bloomed out, but there are still Louisiana and Japanese iris, hydrangeas, roses and even some native azaleas still going strong. I might even get some time for a few projects that are on my ever growing to-do list before things start to get busy again. August brings Mid-year Board meeting on August 8-9 in Jonesboro, Flower Show School III on August 15-17 in Little Rock while in September I will be attending the NGC Fall Board meeting in St. Louis on the 19-22 and chairing a Judges Symposium on September 28-29 in Little Rock. The symposium will be at the C.H. Vines 4H Center which allows for lodging, meals and training all in one facility for the 2 days. We will be studying Pelargonium and Chrysanthemums and designs will be Multi-rhythm and cascade. We will also have David and Keiko Hergesheimer of Catalpa Pottery as a vendor; you can expect to see some great design containers for sale. This will be my first time chairing a symposium so I'm excited but a little nervous. But a mentor once told me if you aren't doing things that are uncomfortable once in a while, you aren't growing.

You can find more information and any required registration forms for the above events on our AFGC website, arkansasfgc.net.

Spending time in my garden is great, but spending time in Orlando last month at the National Garden Club Convention was also a great time. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs hosted an invigorating meeting which included educational and creative opportunities. There were garden tours before the convention started, as well as design workshops and a National Petite Flower Show. Any garden club member is invited to attend the national Convention so please think about going to one. The 2023 Convention will be May 2-5 at the Greenbriar Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV. I am already excited and making plans.

Take care and don't forget our NGC President, Mary Warshauer's, message: Play Outdoors!

Terri Waterman



TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT, Gwen DeWitt

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

My theme song should be “On the Road Again” with trips to District spring conventions in Sunnyvale and Columbus. Each convention conducted business, had great programs, great shopping, and the camaraderie of old and new friends. Bill McKinley of the Benz School of Floral Design amazed us in Sunnyvale while Columbus had Jay White; publisher of *Texas Gardener Magazine* gave an excellent program on pollinators. Since District IV presented me with bee wings and a headband with antennae, I was dressed appropriately!

In April, I traveled to Galveston for the South-Central Region convention. SCR Director, Rose Knight presided over a fun convention with a trip to a rain forest at Moody Gardens, a workshop making shard art, awards, shopping, good food and fellowship. We even did a little business!

I was able to meet Terri Waterman, president of Arkansas, Christine Longthorp of New Mexico, and April Pratt of Oklahoma. We had a lot of fun getting to know each other and their members that attended. NGC Inc. President, Mary Warshauer heard Texas was fun and attended.

The Penny Pine contest was a resounding success. Between the four states, we purchased 186 plantations. That’s a lot of trees, trees that will be planted to replace those destroyed by wildfire, storms and insects. Those trees will provide oxygen, habitat for critters and beauty for future generations.

Back home, my protocol chair had emergency surgery. With the 94th TGC Spring Convention coming up, Paula Copt-Duplant stepped up to help and the two of us worked on protocol. I can assure you; I now know more about protocol than I ever dreamed of. SCR Director Rose Knight and NGC President Mary Warshauer were our honored guests at the completely wild, wacky, and weird convention in Austin. With all the activities, we still conducted business, gave out awards and honored Peggy Moreland as Garden Club Member of the Year.

Greg Behl of Texas Disposal Systems presented a program after which we toured the Texas Disposal System Facilities – giraffes and rhinos, oh my! One of the highlights of the convention was a program on “Bats....The Pollinators” and an evening Bat Cruise. Prior to the cruise, we had a workshop making bat fascinators – nothing like a group of women fighting over feathers and sparkles for their little hats! A tour of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center proved interesting. Programs presented included “Botanical Arts-Horticulture; Looking Good,” “Photographing Flowers” with a judged photography show, “Grandmothers Garden: a History of Gardening in Texas” followed by a vintage fashion show. The Patsy Cline impersonator was amazing with people dancing and singing along to the classics! I was one of 43 state presidents attending the NGC convention. NGC had a petit flower show, workshops, shopping, educational exhibits, and interesting programs for us to attend. We conducted business, received awards and a certificate for serving on the National Garden Club Board of Directors. It was amazing meeting presidents from all over the United States and finding out how they operate. Thank heavens summer is almost here and life will slow down - now all I have is the President’s meeting for District VII in San Antonio, Trustee’s summer meeting at headquarters, Environmental School at Old Fort Parker in July and Garden School at the San Antonio Garden Center in August! Have a grand summer!

With Regards, Gwen DeWitt

Our Region State President's Receiving NGC Awards



Our Region State President's Being Acknowledges by the NGC President, Mary Warshauer.



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!**



SCR PENNY PINES CONTEST

2021-2023 SCR DIRECTOR ROSE KNIGHT ADMINISTRATION

Background: The NGC Penny Pines program has been an ongoing project for NGC for many years and is a cooperative effort between NGC and the USDA US Forest Service. The program provides for the reforestation of the US National Forests by providing “plantations” of 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, heatherm-whitemd@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.

[Continued on page](#)

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

DATE	ARKANSAS	OKLAHOMA	NEW MEXICO	TEXAS	TOTAL
04/2021	0	0	0	0	0
05/2021	3/\$204	1/\$68	0	3/\$204	7/\$476
06/2021	0	7/\$476	0	0	7/\$476
07/2021	0	2/\$136	2/\$136	0	4/\$272
08/2021	0	0	1/\$68	8/\$544	9/\$612
09/2021	1/\$68	2/\$136	0	2/\$136	5/\$340
10/2021	4/\$272	4/\$272	0	19/\$1,292	27/\$1,836
11/2021	2/\$136	5/\$340	3/\$204	32/\$2,176	42/\$2,856
12/2021	5/\$340	5/\$340	2/\$136	16/\$1,068	28/\$1,904
01/2022	0	1/\$68	0	56/\$3,808	57/\$3,876
02/2022	0	4/\$272	4/\$272	3/\$204	11/\$748
03/2022	5/\$340	3/\$204	4/\$272	1/\$68	13/\$884
12 Month TO-TAL 04/01/2021 THROUGH 03/31/2022	20/\$1,360	34/\$2312	16/\$1,088	140/\$9,520	210/\$14,280
SCR CONTEST TOTAL 05/01/2021 THROUGH 01/31/2022	15/\$1,020	27/\$1,836	8/\$544	136/\$9,248	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.

Penny Pines, Continued from Page

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, 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.



TREES—*Lucy Clinton, Chairman*

High winds did a good deal of natural pruning in April and May in Oklahoma. We had two days of no wind in six weeks.

Be Like a Tree
Stay grounded.
Connect with Your Roots.
Turn Over a New Leaf.
Bend Before You Break.
Enjoy Your Unique Natural Beauty
Keep Growing.

by Runi

And the boy loved the tree...very much.
And the tree was happy.

Shel Silverstein



SCR LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, *Mary Ann Holman*

End of the year for many clubs while others continue working on projects all summer. Maybe you want to honor someone special with a SCR life membership! A very nice way to acknowledge those special Garden Club members. I will mail it to you if you wish to honor someone this summer, maybe at an ice cream social or some other special event.

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

(available with a magnet back or standard pin back)

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

Order from:

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



National Garden Clubs Orlando Convention in PHOTOS



YOUTH AWARDS, Linda Jean Brown, Chairman

Adding a little fun while handing out Youth Awards recently at SCR Convention in Galveston, TX.



SCR Spring Convention, Galveston, TX

YOUTH AWARDS GIVEN

April 21, 2022

SCR Youth Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl 2021 Contest

1st grade

Natalie Pantoja
McGregor G.C. - McGregor TX

2nd grade

Alfonso Villar
Waverly Park G.C. - Ft. Worth TX

3rd grade

Shayne Culen
Sunnyvale G.C. - Sunnyvale TX

4th grade

Marianne Stepp
Sunnyvale G.C. - Sunnyvale TX

5th grade

Whitely Comer
A&M G.C. - College Station TX



YOUTH AWARDS, Linda Jean Brown, Chairman



SCR Poetry "Sing with the Song Birds" 2021 Contest

Kindergarten

Sumedha Jayanth

A&M G.C. - College Station TX

2nd grade

Alicia Coburn

Polk Co. G.C. - Livingston TX

3rd grade

Jacqueline Chu

A&M G.C. - College Station TX

4th grade

Fiza Sahar

A&M G.C. - College Station TX

5th grade

Angelica Gerdes

A&M G.C. - College Station TX

6th grade

Malak Farraj

A&M G.C. - College Station TX

7th grade

Matthew Donovan

Garden Club of Rogers - Rogers AR

8th grade

Nolan Catagnus

Garden Club of Rogers - Rogers AR

9th grade

Victoria Staples

Dogwood G.C. - Palestine TX

YOUTH AWARDS, Linda Jean Brown, Chairman

SCR Youth Bird Adult Male Painted Bunting 2021 Contest

4th Grade

Karley McMahan
Iris Garden Club – Clinton AR

5th Grade

Sarah Beth Matthews
Iris Garden Club – Clinton AR

6th Grade

Paris Quarles
Primrose Garden Club – Arkadelphia AR

7th Grade

Alice Kneebone
Primrose Garden Club – Arkadelphia AR



SCR Youth Recycle/Sculpture 2021 Contest First Place Winners

5th grade

KynzLeigh McNeil
Polk Co. G. C. - Livingston TX

7th grade

Emma Kelly
Dogwood G.C. - Palestine TX

8th grade

Madalyn Heidbreder
A&M G.C. - College Station TX

SCR Youth Contests 2021

Cash Breakdown

Bird - Adult Male Painted Bunting

Sponsored by:

6 Mile Garden Club – Hemphill, TX

(5) 1st place winners @ \$20/ea



\$100.00

Recycle/Sculpture

Sponsored by:

Dogwood Garden Club – Palestine, TX

(3) 1st place winners @ \$20/ea

\$60.00

Poetry - “Sing with the Song Birds”

Sponsored by:

Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., District III

(9) 1st place winners @ \$20/ea \$180.00

Poster - Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl

Sponsored by:

Pionette Garden Club – Palestine TX

(5) 1st place winners @ \$25/ea \$125.00

Total Cash Prizes \$465.00

Thank you to my Sister Garden Clubs for your generous donations.

You are the BEST Sisters, EVER!!!



YOUTH AWARDS, Linda Jean Brown, Chairman

South Central Region has a rich garden club history which will continue for many, many years to come. Garden club members in our region have a drive and determination to educate our youth on the importance of keeping our environment safe and clean.

Some of the ways we can teach them is through Youth Contests such as: The Bird Art Work, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters, Poetry, and Recycle/Sculpture.

By reaching out to our youth one never knows the impact it will have in their young lives or how they will touch our lives. Just by letting these kids know we care about them and by visiting their schools to teach them gardening is such a rewarding time to spend with this group of eager minds.

Recently I received letters from students for taking the time and commitment to get them involved in our projects, programs and contests.

*One student wrote: **"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, I thank you for doing this even though you do not personally know us, and giving motivation to kids who might not be the best with school."***

We as garden club members are encouraged to continue to educate the next generation.

I challenge the garden club members of South Central Region to step up and sponsor a Youth Jr. Garden Club in your community. How do we sponsor a Youth Jr. Garden Club you may ask? Please feel free to give me a call or email and I will explain the process. It is quite simple and extremely rewarding for both the students and you.

Our youth...Our future

Linda Jean Brown

SCR Youth Activities Coordinator 2021-23

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2022-23 Youth Award Contests

#19 SCR Bird Poster Contest

"Adult Male Great Blue Heron" Ardea Herodias

Eligible 4th – 8th grades

#20 Poetry Contest

"Seed, Trees and Bees, Oh My – Celebrating the Diversity of Nature"

Eligible K – 9th grades

#21 Recycle/Sculpture Contest

The purpose of this contest is to encourage our youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment using recycled, reused, and reduced materials.

Eligible 4th – 8th grades

#22 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Smokey Bear – "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

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

Eligible 1st – 5th grades



Adult Awards, Rose Shultz Chairman

Attached to this Summer issue of the Communicator, you will find a newly updated Awards Handbook. If you have any questions about what awards to apply for, or how to submit for them, or Possibly Sponsoring an Award Please Contact me.



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.



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:

Wildlife Habitat, Terri Waterman, Chairman

Tips & Techniques for Building a Proper Insect Hotel

Insect hotels have become very popular as a way to encourage beneficial insects to your garden. We all want to give Mother Nature a helping hand and provide an organic, diverse wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, with popularity comes misconceptions. There are many store-bought insect hotels that have been designed to look pretty, with colorful exteriors and a variety of spaces. Would we want to draw attention from predators to our nursery? Many times the various spaces provided are too small for insects we're trying to draw, or worse, too big; meaning access for predators of the very bugs we're trying to provide for. Many bug houses try to provide for multiple species of insects, actually helping to decimate populations due to competing predators or increase parasites. This has proven especially true for native bees and the canes used to attract them that are left unmaintained.

Below are just a few things to think about when providing an insect hotel:

- Ability to fix the bug hotel to a stable position. Ones hanging off ropes are highly unsuitable as they move in the wind.

- Smooth edged bamboo canes or tubes that are between 6-10mm in diameter. *

* Bamboo canes are not the best material to add to an insect hotel. Solitary bees nest in tubes/canes and should always have their own habitat due reduce the risk of



predation and parasites. Also, unless the canes are sanded off to remove splinters they can actually harm solitary bees and lacewings. They are usually far too big or the wrong depth to be useful.

- When using tubes, try to use paper ones (not newspaper) that are between 6 – 10 mm.

- Easy access to replace materials as they biodegrade or get damaged. This is especially important for solitary bees once the juveniles have hatched to counteract parasites and disease.

- Bug hotels that haven't been treated with harsh paints or stains that can leach out and harm the insects or birds.

- A bug hotel that's accessible from at least 3 sides.

- The insect hotel should always include an overhanging roof for protection from elements.

-

For more information about attracting specific beneficial insects to your yard, the website, www.gardenninja.co.uk, is a good resource.

Garden Club Hosts Mason Bee House Workshop

The Garden Club of Rogers kicked off National Garden Week a day early with a fun, hands-on project at the Rogers Museum's Family Days Event. The event, held each year, brings many Rogers residents into the downtown area for various activities, which include a black smith demonstration, face painting, candle making, petting zoo, and GCR's booth. This year the club conducted a Mason Bee House Workshop. This drop by workshop instructed children (or adults) on how to make a mason bee house using a swim noodle and paper straws. Club members were on hand to assist the children in making the houses and teaching them about the mason bees. They learned about the importance of mason bees as pollinators, how they lay their eggs and where to site the houses for the best results. Since mason bees are solitary bees and do not defend hives or stores of honey, they are gentle and rarely sting, making them safe around kids and pets. In all, 179 houses were constructed, giving mason bees many more places to nest. A display of pollinator plants helped to decorate the booth as well as bees made from recycled products. Pollinator flower seeds and USDA pamphlets on pollinators were handed out. Our Friendly Bookstore donated books on gardening for the children also.

Sherrie Eoff
Garden Club of Rogers

Cost to make 200 Mason Bee houses from noodles was about \$85. Noodles were purchased from Wal-Mart for 98 cents and Dollar Tree for \$1.25. Paper straws were ordered from Amazon.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

- ♦ July 29-31, 2022 Judges Symposium, Albuquerque, NM
- ♦ April 17-19, 2023 SCR Convention, Oklahoma City, OK

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 - “FUTURE”

South Central Region is also on Facebook and Twitter!

South Central Communicator Editor

Suzy Andrego

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