

“The FUTURE Starts with US!”

# THE OKLAHOMA GARDENER

SUMMER 2021

Issue 7

**OKLAHOMA GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS**

**PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!**

**APRIL 6-8, 2022**





# THE OKLAHOMA GARDENER

*Summer 2021*

*Issue 7*



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## OFFICERS

**President: April Pratt**

1904 S. Blvd., Edmond, OK 73013-5148  
(405) 812-5902 [Aprilgc@cox.net](mailto:Aprilgc@cox.net)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Carolyn McCabe**

PO Box 916, Noble, OK 73068  
(405) 899-4228 [Orchids@mbo.net](mailto:Orchids@mbo.net)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Melanie Spence**

275195 E. 1870 Rd., Comanche, OK 73529-4096  
(580) 483-9712 [Mamason89@yahoo.com](mailto:Mamason89@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:**

**Treasurer: Donna Marsheck**

402163 W. 2650 Drive, Bartlesville, OK 74006-0555  
(918) 440-1325 [Dmarsheckgardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:Dmarsheckgardenclub@yahoo.com)

**OK Gardener Editor: Nancy Capps**

6270 Alameda St., Norman, OK 73026-0836  
(405) 517-9507 [Nancy\\_jrm@yahoo.com](mailto:Nancy_jrm@yahoo.com)

**Historian: Gloria Rogers**

3 Oak Hill, Shawnee, OK 74804-3248  
(405) 273-5207 [Gloriafrogers@gmail.com](mailto:Gloriafrogers@gmail.com)

<b><u>Content:</u></b>	<b><u>Page:</u></b>
2021 – 2023 Officers .....	1
President's Message.....	2
Save the Dates.....	3
District Reports .....	4-9
Garden Clubs' Activities.....	10
Miscellaneous.....	11-12
NGC Award of Excellence.....	13
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl.....	14
Espoma.....	15
Horticulture Articles.....	16-18
Flower Show Q & A.....	19
For your Calendar.....	20
Gift Ideas .....	21
2021-2023 Officers & Committees .....	22-25

## HAPPY SUMMER EVERYONE!



I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. I know our weather has been fairly mild for an Oklahoma summer, and I took advantage of every minute of it. Now, we are dealing with a complete change-over to our real summer. Seems like that's the way it's been for the past few seasons! It just changes overnight.

It has been very discouraging to see how many clubs have disbanded over the past year and how many members we have lost. Since the pandemic began, and our clubs were unable to meet, we lost our connection to each other. Because of that disconnect, some became disinterested and decided that garden club was no longer a value. So sad!

Because we are going into a rebuilding phase, we are all going to have to pull together and help get the excitement back. That means every one of us! I know your immediate reaction is, "I'm too old," "It's time for the younger people to do that," or "I'm not in good health," etc. Well, I want you each to know that YOU ARE VALUABLE. *You may not be able to do the things you used to do, but you have important, vital experience and knowledge to share with others.*

I don't want to preach a sermon here, but I discovered something when studying the other day that really jumped out at me. In Joshua 13:1 -- *Joshua was now old, getting on in years, and the Lord said to him, "You have become old, getting on in years, but a great deal of the land remains to be possessed."* The lesson is: You still have work to do – not everything has been accomplished! Otherwise, why are you still here? Being "old" is no excuse. Unless you are done with this life, you have things to do. Be open to new challenges, new and exciting experiences. Don't become stagnant and staid. Stay involved, stay focused, stay excited.

You may not be able to process spreadsheets or set up email groups, but you can still balance a checkbook the way it was always done, you can still lead a meeting, or you can still support your club in a youth project, if someone is there to help with the "heavy lifting." You still have a pen, paper, envelope and a stamp. Write a note to potential members. Mailmen still deliver mail. Call your members and encourage them. Phones still ring. You still know all you always knew. Share it with all of us!

I love you all and I'm looking forward to hearing from you about what you are doing.

*April Pratt*  
*OGC President*

# **OKLAHOMA GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS**

## **PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!**

**APRIL 6-8, 2022**



The **Northeast District Garden Clubs** would like for you to **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW**, for the **Oklahoma Garden Clubs 2022 Convention**. It will be held on April 6, 7, and 8 in Tulsa at the Hilton Garden Inn Midtown. We are planning for this to be an event you will not want to miss. Informational, inspirational, and entertaining, along with loads of food and fun.

Watch your emails and newsletters for information as these important dates get closer.

**PLAN TO GET INFORMED! PLAN TO BE  
INSPIRED! PLAN TO BE ENTERTAINED!  
AND...PLEASE PLAN NOW TO BE THERE!**

## **NORTHEAST DISTRICT (report given at Convention)**

Northeast District started the Covid 19 year off with a tour to Philadelphia to The Largest Flower Show on US soil, 17 garden club members went and had a fantastic time. We arrived home in time for the Shutdown and then Zoom entered the picture and proved to be our salvation.

Lots of zooming, emailing, and texting kept our district in touch. Even Covid didn't keep Annie Early and members of Chouteau Garden Club from taking Bud vases with flowers to the Nursing home and City Hall, they still took care of the Cemetery. And wrote their monthly Column in the local paper.

Welch Garden Club Carol Mayfield president said they were active making center pieces for public functions when asked. They decorate a pole on main street to support different occasions. They provide auction items for the Welch Volunteer Fire Department plus monetary donations. They have flower planters on main street which keep a variety of color for the seasons. Each member decides on her arrangement and color scheme. They decorated the planter at the Veterans Memorial Site this year. Even with Covid they applied for a Plant America Community Project Grant. Their Yearbook won 1<sup>st</sup> Place all the way to and even the National Level.

Bartlesville Green Thumb president Charlene Wells stated that her club was following the recommendations of the city. And they were working on one of their projects that of naming all the wildflowers in JoAllen Lowe Park. They are members of the council and help maintain the corner of State Highway 75 and Frank Phillips Blvd. Another project is the weeding of the Court House. A new project is the planning of a Garden Tour. They have a slate of officers for the upcoming term and the incoming new president is here today Karen Hey.

Bartlesville Council of Garden Clubs, Kloma Laws reported they are still maintaining the Monarch Way Station on Frank Phillips Blvd. and planting pansies among the many daffodils at that corner. They are the Mayors for Monarch City. They yearly judge the District Science Fair in February. And presented awards in Biology, Horticulture and Conservation. Some members package and give away wildflower seeds at meetings.

The Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs, Linda Barry president stated they have been busy even Covid didn't keep them from having meetings. Zoom meetings with excellent programs have kept them interested. Plus, in person when able one of those was a tour of the Linnaeus Gardens at Woodward Park.

Tulsa Garden Club, never slowed down in fact it speeded up to warp speed thanks to President Rose Schultz. Rose was the guide for the District Philadelphia tour. She found venues where her Strategic Planning Team could meet. They proceeded in writing a new Mission Statement for the club. Setting Goals and Objectives revising Bylaws and presenting Education possibilities. They did not miss a meeting; it was either Zoom or an in person with all safety precautions taken. She and her committees have a vision of where and what they want to see happen in the future.

The committee saw a need to assist our new student judges in getting ribbons and judging credits so with the help of the District a Northeast District flower show was planned and held in December. In January the Club hosted a Zoom Designer's Workshop, where three National Garden Clubs Inc. credited instructors presented short programs. Then a second flower show was held in March. All three were a success. Now our students have all the blue ribbons they need and are working on their judging credits. We had the honor of third vice president of National Garden Clubs Donna Rouch, as

one of the judges. Several members have been giving program to other clubs and organizations via Zoom. A New "Become A Member" brochure was created during this time with the New Logo. I hope you read the Article starting on page 24 of the Spring Issue of the National Gardener which will be the last paper issue published, it tells of some of the projects done by this club over the years.

Northeast District has held Zoom class for anyone who just want to learn about the technique, or how to host their own meetings. Members are now attending Church, and Master Gardener and Calligraphy, Yoga and NGC Educational Schools just to name a few. We have been guest of the Dallas Founders Judges Council webinars and programs. Many attended the Wednesday Mooseville programs hosted by the Pacific Regional Director. Several members attend the Michigan Lunch and Learning Series that National recommended. By the end of the year one student will be a consultant of three of the National Educational Schools. And every class has been done via Zoom.

Remember: *"Plant a seed for thought, Plant a seed of knowledge, and Plant a Seed of Kindness" it costs nothing and the rewards are well worth your time.*

Judy Grotts  
Northeast District President 2019-2021  
[JudyGrotts@cotc.net](mailto:JudyGrotts@cotc.net)  
918-630-1979 cell



**Tulsa Garden Club**  
*"Planting Plants, Growing Friends"*  
Rose Schultz, President  
79 Members

Outstanding Programs held during President Schultz's administration:

1. Strategic Planning. A task force of eight worked 12 hours in 3 sessions to determine new and directed Club Planning. These were presented to and approved by the Board and presented at our first meeting in October.  
**Vison** – to engage the community through gardening education  
**Mission** – to embrace civic and environmental responsibilities by providing education, resources and networking to promote the love of gardening  
**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** – "Everyone can grow in our garden" Tulsa Garden Club is committed to creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive culture where contributions of all community members are valued, respected, and appreciated.  
**Goals** – Goals determined for Membership, Awareness, Education and Organization.
2. Branding Package – In keeping with the fresh strategic planning, a branding package to be used with all published materials was developed. A new design logo and with accompanying varied use options is in place.
3. Mum's the Word – a non-event event to raise money for our educational projects during the pandemic was held in November. A Mum was delivered to all club members by the event committee with a request for donations. Response was great and 8,365\$ was raised.

### Outstanding Achievements

1. Dick Conner Correctional Center Horticulture Program – Our scholarship program works closely with the horticulture program and provides money for their needs – garden wagons, licensing exam fees, tools, stones, etc. This program provides training to utilize when terms have been served and they are released.
2. Rose Fund – Charitable donations are accepted to purchase plants for the Tulsa Memorial Rose Garden to honor and remember individuals in the club and the community.
3. Alternative Programming during the pandemic – Great lengths were taken to keep the club intact despite meeting regulations and not being able to meet in our regular location. Meetings were held by Zoom, educational workshops were held by Zoom, meetings were held in large restaurants with distancing, committees met in homes with distancing, monthly newsletter was greatly enhanced. We have survived.
4. Petite Design Holiday Specialty Flower Show – Held in December at a Designers Mall. Terrific response from ourselves and neighboring clubs with 62 entries.

### Regional Awards Received

1. South Central Region Garden Clubs Yearbook Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Tulsa Garden Club.  
Garden Club Flower and Show Schedule – “Celebrating Gems of the Past 90 Years, Our Emerald Anniversary” Award of \$25.00
2. Oklahoma Garden Clubs – Yearbook Award – large club – Tulsa Garden Club



## **NORTHWEST DISTRICT**

### Guymon Rose Garden Club

In April a bench was placed at Sunset Park in memory of Past President, Mary Ann Montano. A tree was also planted at the Guymon Public Library in memory of Past President, Sharon Petty, aka the Tree Lady. Both presentations were attended by family members and RGC members.

Spring found the Rose Garden Club cleaning up around Guymon. We participate annually in the Guymon City-Wide clean-up efforts; this year we joined with the Glasswing Youth Garden Club to pick up trash along Memory Lane. RGC also did spring cleaning at our past projects at the Guymon Post Office, Guymon Municipal Airport, Fowler Park and the Cemetery Babylands.

The Guymon Rose Garden Club has been busy trying to “gear up” some of the programs that were put on hold during the pandemic. This summer we’ve been collaborating with the Guymon Delphinium Garden Club and the City of Guymon in the Yard of the Month program. It’s a fun program to work on together and sometimes we even include kittens in the process 😊.

As Covid restrictions were slowly lifted, RGC members enjoyed reuniting so much that we decided to have “Coffee in the Garden” through the summer months to stay connected. What’s better than coffee and friends in the garden?!



RGC and the Glasswing Youth Garden Club will meet in July to discuss the direction of the Glasswing club. The former President of the Glasswings, Kendall Brown and her mother RGC member and sponsor, Marlene Brown, have stepped down from all duties as Kendall graduated HS and Marlene is pursuing career opportunities that will consume her time. There are four remaining Glasswing members that have expressed interest in continuing as a group. We hope the meeting proves to be productive in assisting the Glasswings move forward and grow as a group.

We look forward the working with the Delphinium Garden Club during the 2021 Texas County Fair in August.

*Submitted by Jill Johnson, President*

### Guymon Delphinium Garden Club

At our May meeting we gathered in the evening at Sunset Lake in Thompson Park, Guymon. We filled 8 hayrack planters on the railings of the walking path and fishing dock with flats of various annuals. Moisture retaining crystals were added to the potting soil and moisture pads were laid in the



planters just below the root zone. Various members volunteer to water 3 times a week if it hasn't rained. Many people who use the walking path have told us how very much they enjoy the flowers. Some say they even do a little deadheading!

In June we held our annual Tour of Gardens. We had 3 lovely yards to tour and could also visit Helm's Nursery where local Master Gardeners were available to answer questions. Helm's Nursery also generously provided a 10% off coupon on each ticket!

We are cooperating again this year with Rose Garden Club and Glasswing Butterfly Youth Garden Club and the city of Guymon to sponsor the Beautify Garden Yard of the month contest. We also choose a

local business or church for the Bright Spot Business award. The public is encouraged to nominate yards or businesses through our Facebook page. One yard is chosen each month June through September from each of the city's 4 wards. Our goal with this program is to make our community more appealing to the eye. A beautiful yard or garden can bring so much joy to so many!



*Submitted by Mary Long, President*





## NORTHCENTRAL DISTRICT

It looks like the pandemic may really be behind us finally after over a year of confusion and chaos.

Unfortunately, many of the clubs in the NCD have lost members for a total of 30 and two clubs have disbanded altogether, Petunia of Perry (11 members) and Pisces (two members).

On a brighter note, the clubs have begun meeting in person again.

The North Central District held their first Executive and Full Board meeting since September 2020 on July 13th. There were 12 in attendance. President Carolyn McCabe provided lunch for all.

The North Central District hosted a successful in person Oklahoma State Convention on April 8-9, 2021, at the Hilton Garden Inn Bricktown with at least 45 people in attendance including the incoming and outgoing SCR Directors, Rose Knight and Linda Lawson and the State President, April Pratt. The Late Bloomers and Viola Units provided the table arrangements for the Friday night supper; the Silent Auction was conducted by the Amaryllis Unit and brought in over \$600.00, Registration and Welcome tables were manned by the Cushing Gladiolus; Nancy Capps from the Apogon Iris Unit developed the program and oversaw a Flower Fashion Show at the Friday night supper; Pat Murrell from the Garden Party Rose Unit provide table favors for the luncheon and both suppers and Carolyn McCabe provided the table arrangements for the Friday night supper.

Garden Council: The Oklahoma City Garden Council hosted the Festival in the Park on May 15, 2021, with at 58 vendors including tables for following clubs and societies; Oklahoma State GC, Viola GC, Late Bloomers GC, Amaryllis GC, Herb, Iris, Day Lilly, and Horticulture Societies, the Oklahoma Gardeners Assn., and the Friends of Will Rogers Garden Foundation.

*Submitted by Carolyn McCabe, President*



## SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

The Southwest District is focusing on membership and recruitment and youth projects. The district is working with the Lowe's Store Manager to set a booth in Lawton to create a new Lawton Garden Club. In addition, we have been advertising the SWD and Dahlia Garden Club group page to increase membership. We also, are going to try to promote the Penny Pines contest within District.

Ft. Cobb Improvement Club, Grandfield Rose Club, and Cement Club attended the Walters Dahlia Garden Clubs Annual Membership/Appreciation Banquet and SWD Board Meetings Aug. 24 and Oct. 03 to elect nominating committee and discuss OGC Convention, Environmental School, and membership. Ft. Cobb Improvement Club and the Walters Dahlia Garden Clubs met for SWD Board Meetings Feb. 26 at Mike's Sports to discuss new officers, OGC Convention, Environmental School, and membership. Incremental weather caused the other clubs not able to make the drive. Melanie Spence, Linda Capp, and MaryAnn Holman plan to visit a meeting at Ft. Cobb Improvement Club (14 members not to include 3 new members). Last fall, at the SWD Board Meeting, Lucy Clinton was

sent NGC National Life Member certificate and pin. This was given to her as the exiting president of SWD for her dedication and hard work. Lucy has always been great to us and present when called upon and we wanted to share our thanks.

Twelve members of Fort Cobb Improvement Club met after fifteen months June 15th at the Church of Christ. Members brought their brown bag lunch and reorganized with the following officers: Lucy Clinton-President, Bernice Henderson-Vice President, Pam McLemore-Secretary, Letha Wilson-Treasurer, Phyllis Stockton-Historian.

We will celebrate our 85th anniversary in 2022 and everyone paid their dues. We will take the summer off as usual and conduct the flower show at the Fort Cobb Fair. Entries will be taken the morning of September 9th. Our next regular meeting will be October 12th. We will be using our plans for 2020 for October 2021 through May 2022. Yard of the Month was reinstated. That program provides good publicity for the club. Bobbie Wilson has moved to Texas to be closer to her family. Bernice Henderson celebrated her 93rd birthday in April; but is experiencing some struggling with some health issues. Mary Nightingale suffered a stroke and is now at home. Wilma Fullerton brought day lilies for all interested members.

Melanie Spence, SWD President and MaryAnn Holman attended the Cement Club October 11 to discuss district convention and OGC Convention. The club gained 4 new members that day to increase from 3 members to 7 members. The club had many great ideas to get Elgin involved in the poster contests and work with the school Ag teacher in Cement. The club continues to focus on the town's Peace Garden as its community project and assists with the community garden by the Ag school. The Cement Club currently has seven members and the club has elected new officers for new term: Yvonne Doby, President; Pat McCauley, Vice President; Therease Dacus, Secretary; and Shirley Mize, Treasurer. The club prepared for the convention with hand stitched gourds as center pieces, a baby blanket and a bench (made by Cement Ag class) and hopefully some stitched gourds will be for sale. Goodie bags will be used as "take away's". The club will not have a display board. Pat McCauley and Joan Koch are attending OGC convention.

**The Grandfield Rose Unit Garden Club** has increased to 14 members. They are: Phyllis Branham, Linda Capps, Ann Colyer, Vicky Colyer, Charlotte Davis, Bettye Ingram, Geneva Redway, Joyce Varner, Betty Walker, Linda Moore, Dana McIntyre, Jean Ann Redway, Robbie Lawson and Mary Ann Josefy.

The officers are: President-Vicky Colyer; Vice President-Betty Walker; Recording Secretary-Ann Colyer; Treasurer-Bettye Ingram; Corresponding Secretary-Joyce Varner and Historian-Phyllis Branham.

We have been taking donations to purchases trees for the Grandfield Memorial Cemetery. A lot of our donations are in memory of loved ones who have passed away. We also planted a plot of wildflowers downtown Grandfield.

We recently had a fundraiser. People paid to have pink flamingos placed in someone's yard. As people were "flocked" they also paid to have someone else flocked with the flamingos. We had a great response to this. The community really got into it and had a lot of fun with it.

*Submitted by Melanie Spence, President*



## GARDEN CLUBS' ACTIVITIES

### Rose Unit of Shawnee Garden Club

The Rose Unit of the Shawnee Garden Club works with the city of Shawnee to maintain Rose Garden Park. The Rose Garden Neighborhood held a party at Rose Garden Park in May and included Garden Club members and their spouses in the celebration. They had a local food truck, and entertainment was provided by the Shawnee High School Jazz Band. They chose a time when the flowers and shrubs in the park were at their peak!



**Rose Garden Park in late March and Early April**



**Late April, Early May**

**Delphinium Garden Club** members have been working on beautifying their city.



### NEW PLAY OUTDOORS ACTIVITY LOG FOR YOUTH

For Grades K-5. On NGC's website – search Publications, under Youth Publications, you will see three different publications – Play Outdoors Activity Log, Ecological Warriors Workbook and The Pollinator Power Book. If you haven't seen these publications – be sure to check them out. The all three are great resources!



## MISCELLANEOUS



### New Officers for the Oklahoma City Council of Garden Clubs 2021-2022

April Pratt, OGC State President, presided over the installation of the officers for the OKCGC 2021-2022 year at the May 14, 2021 Council meeting: Left to right, April Pratt, OGC President; Marilyn Lahr, Historian; Judy Grotts, Parliamentarian; Virginia Janway, Treasurer; Jean Calder; Finance; Cheryl Hoffman, Secretary; Judith Miracle, 2nd VP; Nancy Capps, 1st VP; Carolyn McCabe, President.

**Newspaper picture at February 27 Flower Show**  
President Clara Bishop, Vice Pres., Mary Early, Sec.,  
Linda Lawson, Linda Smith, Allen Koch. Standing:  
Charlotte Sims, Carolyn McCabe, Jim Lawson, Judy Grotts and Myra Williams. PHOTO BY MAXINE WHEELAN



### Flower Fashion Show at the Oklahoma Garden Clubs 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention



## MISCELLANEOUS continued...



### Peggiann Combs Recognition

On Monday, June 7th, 2021, Peggiann Combs, founder of the Okemah Garden Club, was presented City Resolution 2021-4 by the Mayor of Okemah, Oklahoma, Mike Fuller, at a reception in her honor Oklahoma, proclaiming that June 7th will be remembered as Peggiann Combs Day.

Peggiann Combs, with her family seated around her, receiving Resolution No. 2021-4 Proclaiming June 7th as Peggiann Combs Day.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OKEMAH, OKLAHOMA, PROCLAIMING JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> AS PEGGY ANN COMBS DAY IN THE CITY OF OKEMAH, OKLAHOMA. WHEREAS, the people of the City of Okemah, in the State of Oklahoma desire to recognize and honor its citizens who have selflessly served their community; and WHEREAS, Peggy Ann Combs served on the Okfuskee County History Board; and WHEREAS, Peggy Ann Combs served as the Chairwoman of the OSU Extension Committee; and WHEREAS, Peggy Ann Combs was the founder of the Okemah Garden Club; and WHEREAS, Peggy Ann Combs was an Okfuskee County Home and Community Education Member; and WHEREAS, Peggy Ann Combs was the Manager of the Holiday House and was active with the 4-H Kids Summer Program; and WHEREAS, the City of Okemah appreciates Peggy Ann Combs' service and believes it is important we acknowledge our citizens who selflessly serve their community. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OKEMAH, STATE OF OKLAHOMA: That June 7th is hereby proclaimed as "Peggy Ann Combs Day" in the City of Okemah. Adopted this 24th day of May, 2021 by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Okemah, Oklahoma. (SEAL) ATTEST: Relena Haddox, City Clerk THE CITY OF OKEMAH, OKLAHOMA.



### NGC TOUR

**March 20-25, 2022 – Charleston Gardens**

**Sign up right away, limited to only 40! Deadline is August 15, 2021**

**\$2200 double occupancy, with Single supplement \$1000**

**[Maryannbryant1@gmail.com](mailto:Maryannbryant1@gmail.com) or 770.893.1570**



## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS' AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



After a successful career as a librarian and Executive Director of Tulsa City County Library from 1976-1996, **Pat Woodrum** completed the Master Gardener program with OSU, fulfilling her desire to advance her love of gardening. In 1999, she joined with Barry Fugate, Director of Tulsa Master Gardener program, along with others, to create a world-class botanical garden in Oklahoma. After two years of study, a master plan was developed for the Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden (later renamed to Tulsa Botanic Garden), and Pat was appointed Executive Director. In 2004, 170 acres of land was donated and by 2008, a 7-acre lake and temporary Visitor's center were constructed. In 2009, the garden opened to the public for the first time. Since that time, the garden has expanded, offering classes for children and adults, provides a beautiful wedding venue, boasts over 2,000 members and surpassing 28,000 visitors. Along with serving on the Board of Tulsa Botanic Garden, she is a past Chairman of the Board of Tulsa Garden Center.

Gay Austin, NGC's president said: *"Each year, NGC's Award of Excellence recognizes exceptional individuals, organizations or institutions that advance our organization's goals and purposes. The Award of Excellence is our organization's highest honor for non-members and by recognizing these deserving recipients from different parts of the nation, NGC hopes to educate and inspire others in communities coast-to-coast."*

I was honored to present **Pat Woodrum** with National Garden Clubs 2021 Award of Excellence at OGC's 2021 Annual Convention.

*April Pratt  
OGC President*





## SMOKEY BEAR AND WOODSY OWL

This past school year not your normal school year. School was open, school was home bound, school was open again and this year contest was for Woodsy Owl who turns 50 years old on September 15, 2021 so the contest this past year for 2021 was for Woodsy Owl only.

But be prepared for this coming school year of 2021-2022 will be both Smokey Bear "Only YOU can prevent forest fires" and Woodsy Owl "Lend a Hand - Care for the Land". Go to your school, go to your grandchildren, go to your neighbor's child, just surprise me this coming year with a lot of entries.

We congratulate our winning entry celebrating Woodsy Owl, and our winner was, Olive Wells - Green Thumb Garden Club, Bartlesville.

*Marilyn Lay*  
*Chairman - Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl*



### SUBSCRIBE TO THE NATIONAL GARDENER, to get it in your inbox

Go to National Garden Club's website ([www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)), then search for "The National Gardener." The website will take you directly to TNG page and you will see the button "Subscribe" and follow the directions. You will get an email confirming your subscription.

NGC is encouraging all clubs, districts and states to submit articles (on that same page). Limit your article from 500 to 1500 words and send in a WORD document. You can add images (recommended!). The editor ensure it looks professional and will fit to the space allowed.

Advertising guides are there on that page, too. You can advertise your events, flower shows, or any other special milestones for your club.



## AMARYLLIS GARDEN CLUB OKLAHOMA CITY COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

Has been awarded an Espoma Plant America Grant for 2021

The Amaryllis Garden Club was approached by the Edmond, OK Police Department for help with their landscaping. We accepted this challenging project to show our support for our First Responders. We have held several workdays just to clean up the planting beds, which were in very sad shape. We also planted daffodil and tulip bulbs, in particular, Brent & Becky's Plant America Daffodils. We have planted several heat-tolerant plants, such as Autumn Joy Sedum, Lamb's Ears, and Yucca. We have also added some seasonal color. The Espoma Plant America Grant will make the gardens even more beautiful, with their top-of-the-line products.



Left:  
Linda Johnson (President), April Pratt & Phyllis Steinhour

Right:  
Diane Palmisano



April Pratt, OGC President  
Diane Palmisano  
Linda Johnson  
Kathy Carter, New Member



# PENNY PINES

OGC has thus far received from NGC Awards submitted by SW Dahlia GC, 1 Award submitted by OGC, Inc., 1 Award submitted by NE Hopeful Redbud GC, and 2 Awards submitted by NE Tulsa G.

*Submitted by Chair, MaryAnn Holman*



## HORTICULTURE



### Plants That are Butterfly and Hummingbird Magnets

Butterflies add so much to our lives. Not only are these fluttering beauties gorgeous, but they help pollinate flowers and vegetables. There has been a lot in the news lately about the declining numbers of monarch butterflies. Too many pesticides and herbicides and too little habitat because of increased construction and land taken up by lawns and recreation instead of plants has made life hard for all kinds of pollinators. We can do our part to help increase butterfly, hummingbird, and pollinator populations by making our yards into a welcoming wildlife habitat.

Articles by  
Pat Neasbitt -  
Master Gardener,  
Horticulture  
Chairman  
**Check out OGC  
website for all  
her great  
articles!**

- **The first and most important thing to increase populations is to NOT use pesticides and herbicides.**
- **The second most important thing is to remember that Native Oklahoma Pollinators need Native Oklahoma Plants to feed and nurture them.**
- **Butterflies like flat flowers** that create a landing pad where they can flutter and eat at the same time.
- **Daisy-shaped flowers** like Zinnias, Daisies, and Coneflowers will also attract butterflies and provide nectar for adult butterflies.
- **Blossoms made up of clusters of smaller blooms** like Butterfly Weeds, Cleomes, Garden Phlox, and Verbenas are also tasty treats.
- **Other butterfly magnets** are Autumn Sages, Black-eyed Susans, Gaillardias, Gauras, Hollyhocks, Lantanas, Liatris, Monardas, Pentas, Purple Coneflowers, Salvias, and Sedums.
- **Butterflies must also have host plants** to lay their eggs and for the larvae to feed on until they form a chrysalis. Dill, Parsley (Italian flat-leaf), and Fennel are great host plants for our State Butterfly, the Black Swallowtail, and are also very pretty plants mixed in with your flowers. Once you plant dill, it will reseed and you'll have plenty for you and the butterflies each year. I have beautiful bronze fennel that overwintered even through the polar vortex this year and are over 5' tall. Keep in mind that butterfly larvae are caterpillars, so be careful which ones you smush and spray BT on. Not all caterpillars are bad and most don't do enough damage to your plants to actually destroy them. Native plants are especially resilient and super tough.

**Hummingbirds** are another group of flying show-offs that will provide hours of entertainment and

beauty in the garden.

- **While hummingbirds feed on a wide variety of plants**, they seem to prefer feeding on flowers that are brightly colored and funnel-shaped. Orange and red flowers are high on the hummingbird's preference list but hummers will feed from other nectar flowers regardless of their color. Some good native Oklahoma wildflowers to plant are Autumn sage, Cardinal flower (probably the number one flower to attract hummingbirds), Columbines, Cross vine, Indian paintbrush, Liatris, Monarda (bee balm), Garden Phlox, Red morning glory, Savias, Trumpet vine, Trumpet honeysuckle, and Wild sweet William.
- **Many of the plants that attract hummingbirds also attract butterflies so you get double the pleasure.** Plant a variety of plants that will provide a profusion of blooms from early spring through late fall. Planting large groups of flowers in different locations in your yard will give more color and attract butterflies and hummingbirds better. It will also help reduce conflicts between the territorial little male hummers who will fight if flowers and feeders are too close together.

**Trees and shrubs provide perches, nesting sites, and protection from predators and Oklahoma weather.** They also harbor insects that are an important source of protein for hummingbirds. When you plant a new tree or shrub, go Native, and plant an Oak (many to choose from), Red Maple, Caddo Maple, Shantung Maple, Lacebark Elm, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Bald Cypress, Oklahoma Redbud, Deciduous Holly, Evergreen Holly, Beautyberry, Chokeberry, Oakleaf Hydrangea, or Rose of Sharon. Happy Butterfly & Hummingbird Gardening!

## Growing Fall Tomatoes in Oklahoma

This may just be the perfect year to grow fall tomatoes in Oklahoma since our summer hasn't been too horribly hot for too terribly long, and we have actually gotten some rain this summer. Fall is a great time to garden because there are fewer insects, fewer weeds, less watering, and it's cooler for the plants and for us.

**If you want to try for a decent fall tomato crop, here are some things I've learned:** There are two schools of thought - set out new plants in July or carry over the spring plants into fall. If you decide to pull out the old plants, you will need to purchase plants that can stand up to the heat and still have time to produce a crop before the first freeze. The problem is that it's almost impossible to find tomato plants to replant in July and who remembers to start seeds when it's 100+ degrees outside.

**The only other way to have fall tomatoes is to use the spring plants already in your garden.** Indeterminate plants (the ones that are 6' tall now and pulling their cages over) are the ones you want to try to rejuvenate for fall. Some sources will tell you to cut them back to about knee high. My experience with this type of cutting back is total failure. They grow from the ends so if you severely cut back the plant you will cut back all of the new growth and potential flowers and fruits. Yes, tomatoes are technically fruits because they form from flowers and have seeds; however, they are not sweet and I don't know of anyone who doesn't classify and consider them as a vegetable.

I've been much more successful with fall tomatoes by just cleaning up the existing plants by removing the dead leaves and cutting back the obviously dead areas of the plant. I've found it also works well for the whole season to actually prune tomato plants and remove about a foot of the lower limbs above the ground. Many tomato diseases are soil-born and spread by splashing on the plants during rain or watering. Tomato plants almost always start showing disease and stress by dying back from the bottom up. Limbing them up and applying a good layer of mulch helps to cut down on diseases and keeps tomatoes off the ground where they tend to rot and get eaten by critters.

I just finished pruning my tomato plants that had grown way too big and gotten way too many leaves because we have actually had quite a lot of rain this summer. I try to keep suckers (the stems that grow in the junction between the main stems) clipped off consistently; however, there were still so many leaves in the center of the plants that they were too shaded and could not get good air circulation. With all the rain, there is danger of the foliage staying wet too long and diseases developing. I had a huge pile of stems and leaves even

though I made sure to only clip those that did not have flowers or developing fruit on them. I only sacrificed one tomato and a few flowers that were hidden and I accidentally clipped. I make sure not to prune any top growth because I want it to keep growing and producing.

**Once you have cleaned up the tomato plants, you need to take good care of them by keeping up an even watering schedule and controlling insects and diseases.** I removed 2 tomato hornworms before they defoliated an entire plant. I know, they turn into beautiful hummingbird moths; however, sometimes they need to be bird snacks instead of being allowed to snack on my tomato plants. Don't apply a lot of chemical fertilizer, or you'll have lots of leaves and no tomatoes. You can give plants a boost after pruning by applying fish emulsion, seaweed extract, or compost or manure tea. With luck and cooler temperatures, your plants should begin to produce again; and you'll have tomatoes until frost.

**Your plants are looking good and starting to produce once again. You've got it made, right?** I've had tomato plants loaded with green tomatoes in late October. They just needed a couple more weeks and they would start to ripen. What could possibly go wrong? Mother Nature can often step in with an early frost. It doesn't take much frost to destroy tomato plants entirely, so if one is predicted, you need to pick the green tomatoes. Once picked, there are a number of methods for ripening green tomatoes. One problem is that a tomato needs to have reached a certain maturity level before it will ripen at all. Sometimes I can tell which tomatoes will ripen - they aren't totally green and hard and have a faint blush of color beginning. Probably the most common method of ripening green tomatoes is to individually wrap them in newspaper and store them in a single layer in a cardboard box or plastic bin. You don't want to just toss them in unwrapped, because if one tomato goes bad, the others it is touching usually will, also. The box should be stored in a cool, slightly humid place out of direct sunlight. If you have a basement or cellar, you have an ideal place. If you stick them under the bed, don't forget to check them occasionally to remove any that are beginning to go bad and look for ripening ones. If you get lucky, you'll have ripe tomatoes for Thanksgiving. If they don't ripen, you can always make chow-chow or have fried green tomatoes.

**Home Gardening & Landscaping** If you are interested in learning more about growing tomatoes and gardening in southern Oklahoma, Betty Sue Tow and I will be teaching ***Home Gardening & Landscaping*** for the fall semester on Mondays from 6-8 at Southern Tech in Ardmore. You can go by to enroll or call at **580 224 8200**.

*Learn what, when, where, and how to plant in Southern Oklahoma, and how to work with what you have to make a lovely yard that is both beautiful and beneficial for the environment. Classes will include Organic Gardening, Landscape Planning, Xeriscape Gardening, Native Plants, Vegetable Gardening, Oklahoma Proven Plants, Lasagna Gardening, Raised Beds, Crepe Myrtles, IPM, Pass Along Plants, Cottage Gardening (New American Gardening), Soil Preparation, Seed Starting, Plant Propagation, and lots more. Hope to see you in class & Happy Gardening!*



**ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS:** Your District President has your Greenbook update now. This updates officers, contests, committees, contact info, etc. You may need this before your yearbook is printed, so be sure to get your copy ASAP. Most of the info is on OGC's website, if you can't make contact right away. Due to increased cost of printing, this is the last paper copy you will receive – in future, you will need to print your copies from the website.



# FLOWER SHOW Q&A

## Principles of Design BALANCE

These principles might be easy for some, but for others it is difficult, so to help you understand and to achieve success, here is a little information about balance.

**Physical Balance** – When you are making an exhibit if the vase with the plant material falls over easily, it is out of physical balance. Examples: A top-heavy arrangement in a thin small vase may fall over. Or if you have too much weighted material going in one direction it is out of balance.



**Visual Balance** – can be symmetrical balance, asymmetrical balance or radial balance.



Symmetrical balance – also known as formal balance, flowers are repeated on opposite sides of the exhibit. Using an imaginary central axis, one side of the arrangement is the mirror image of the other side. This type of balance is used in traditional arrangements.

Asymmetrical balance – this is also known as informal balance. This type of balance is created by placing unequal visual weight on each side of a central axis in your container. The selection of the plant material creates the balance. The visual weight of plant material increases: the further the materials are from the center axis, the higher they are in the composition, the more solid, rather than airy the form, the stronger they are in color, the darker they are in color value, the warmer they are in hue, the greater the luminosity of the color, the larger the form. This type of balance is used in creative designs.



Radial balance – takes on the shape of a star-burst, spokes on a wagon wheel, or the appearance of the sun. It can be symmetrical or asymmetrical.



*By Rose Schultz, OGC Judges Council*



## FOR YOUR CALENDAR:



### 2021

August 2-4	Flower Show School – AFGC – Faith United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR
August 23-24	AFGC Convention – Little Rock, AR
September 22-24	NGC Board Meeting. St, Louis Airport Marriott, St. Louis, MO
October 19	OGC BOARD MEETING, Rubye Atkinson Garden Center, MWC

### 2022

February 15	OGC BOARD MEETING, Rubye Atkinson Garden Center, MWC (if necessary)
March 14-16	Flower Show School - AFGC –Faith United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR
April 6-8	Oklahoma Garden Clubs Annual Convention – Tulsa, OK
April 11-17	Texas State Annual Convention – Austin, TX
April 19-21	SCR Convention, Tremont Hotel, Galveston, TX
May 17-22	NGC Convention, The Rosen Plaza, Orlando, FL
July 19	OGC BOARD MEETING, Rubye Atkinson Garden Center in MWC
October 18	OGC BOARD MEETING, Rubye Atkinson Garden Center in MWC

### 2023

March 13-15	Flower Show School – AFGC – Faith United Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR
April 17-19	SCR Convention, Oklahoma City, OK
May 2-5	NGC Convention, The Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, WV

A new **President's Project** is being uploaded to the website this week. It is also in your GreenBook update. Please check it out! You can be awarded \$100 for the work you already are doing.

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<b>HISTORIAN:</b>	Gloria Rogers 3 Oak Hill Shawnee, OK 74804-3248 <a href="mailto:gloriafrogers@gmail.com">gloriafrogers@gmail.com</a>	405.273.5207 Rose Unit of Shawnee

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BY DISTRICT ELECTIONS (District Presidents)**

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<b>Northeast:</b>	Judy Grotts 349334 East 870 Road Chandler, OK 74834-7022 <a href="mailto:judygrotts@cotc.net">judygrotts@cotc.net</a>	918.630.1979 Tulsa GC & Cushing Gladiolus
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<b>South Central:</b>	Joyce Parsons 1 Cherokee St. Shawnee, OK 74801-5507 <a href="mailto:joyparsons@aol.com">joyparsons@aol.com</a>	405.229.8595 Rose Unit of Shawnee

<b>Southwest:</b>	Melanie Spence 275195 E. 1870 Road Comanche, OK 73529-4096 <a href="mailto:mamason89@yahoo.com">mamason89@yahoo.com</a>	580.483.9712 Dahlia GC
<b>APPOINTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>		
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<b>Editor "THE OKLAHOMA GARDENER":</b>	Nancy Capps 6270 Alameda Street Norman, OK 73026-0836 <a href="mailto:Nancy_jrm@yahoo.com">Nancy_jrm@yahoo.com</a>	405.517.9507 Apogon Iris
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<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	Clara Bishop 9808 S. Broadway Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73139-8819 <a href="mailto:13clbishop@cox.net">13clbishop@cox.net</a>	405.641.8607 Cushing Gladiolus
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➤ <b>Credentials:</b> (Incl. Garden Studies & Land- Scape Studies)	Judy Grotts 349334 East 870 Road Chandler, OK 74834-7022 <a href="mailto:judygrotts@cotc.net">judygrotts@cotc.net</a>	918.630.1979 Tulsa GC & Cushing Gladiolus
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<b>Judges Council President:</b>	Charlene Wells 22922 Mimosa Lane Bartlesville, OK 74006-0204 <a href="mailto:slinkpinko@aol.com">slinkpinko@aol.com</a>	918.333.8464 Green Thumb Bartlesville
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