



Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
South Central Region, National Garden Clubs

The Arkansas Gardener

June 2025

FROM THE EDITOR Terri Waterman, terriafgc@gmail.com, 405-821-9587

Bobbie Verser has retired as Editor of the Arkansas Gardener and the AFGC Avenues Newsletter. I have agreed to step in and fill her very big shoes. While I get up to speed, the Arkansas Gardener will be publicized quarterly. That way we can ensure that the State Convention and Mid-Year Board meeting registrations get distributed to everyone, as well as two more issues conveying information about what's going on around the State. Please send me pictures and articles to share. Hopefully, in the future I can increase publications.

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE

- ◇ *Welcome from Nancy Rana, State President*
- ◇ *Proposed AFGC Garden Club Manual changes*
- ◇ *Adopted AFGC Standing Rules Changes*
- ◇ *What to expect at Mid-Year Board Meeting*
- ◇ *AFGC Mid-year Board registration form*

Find it fast...

AFGC website:

arkansasfgc.net
(password) DeepRoots

SCR website:

scrgardenclubs.org
(password) TBA

NGC website:

gardenclub.org

NGC Member Services

1-800-550-6007

UA's Extension Office

www.uaex.edu

AFGC Office:

Tracey Bonds
2930 Edgemont Road
Quitman, AR, 72131
501-831-0576
Trix1056@aol.com



FAREWELL FROM PAM ELLIS, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, 2023-2025

My tenure is at an end. On April 30th, a new president was installed at our State Convention. I can't decide if this was the shortest two years of my life or the longest. Stewarding the AFGC these last two years was one of the highest honors I've ever had. Thank you for the trust you had in me and all the support all of you have given me. I couldn't have done it without every member of the

AFGC helping me at every step of the way. We got a lot done these past two years. Scholarships from the AFGC, SCR and NGC were given every year to deserving Arkansas young people just starting their future careers. After having eight Flower Show School courses, Arkansas now has 10 student judges and 6 new Accredited Judges. And clubs, you have really stepped up. There has been at least one flower show in Arkansas every month, with approximately 75% of the clubs participating either by volunteering, submitting horticulture or a design or sending a donation. (Those ribbons are expensive!) This was the first statewide flower show since before Covid. The theme was "A Painted Garden" and it was beautiful. If you missed it, please don't miss the next one. As a student judge myself, I really appreciate those judging opportunities. We have a new Blue Star marker in Bentonville. The installation ceremony was canceled because of a tornado but the marker is there and we are pleased that we have once again been able to honor Arkansas veterans. We also started the first NGC Garden School in Arkansas. The third course will be in Marion, Arkansas September 12 and 13 with the last course being held in September of 2026. All of these were state projects. They don't include the club projects all over the state. The clubs in Arkansas are all working hard to beautify their communities, improve the environment and educate their friends and neighbors.

It has been a great two years and I'm looking forward to the next two years under Nancy Rana. She will be an awesome president and I can't wait to watch her lead the AFGC for the next two years. If I only know one thing, I know it's going to be fun and you won't want to miss a thing. To paraphrase Aerosmith. "You won't want to go to sleep because you'd miss something and you won't want to miss a thing".

Happy gardening,
Pam

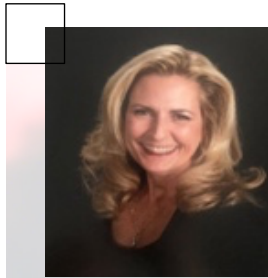
CONTEST

CONTEST

CONTEST

WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A CONTEST FOR THE UPCOMING MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING – ENCOURAGE ALL YOUR MEMBERS TO REGISTER ASAP

- ◇ \$25 Prize to the Club with the highest percentage of members attending the Mid-year Board Meeting.
- ◇ \$50 Prize to the District with the highest percentage of clubs in attendance.



**WELCOME FROM NANCY RANA, AFGC STATE PRESIDENT,
2025-2027**
"Cultivating Flowers and Friendship"

Dear AFGC friends,

As I see the beautiful sunrise and hear the repetitive call of the whippoorwill just outside the window, I am reminded of my many blessings. I am truly honored and thankful for the trust you have placed in me to serve as your AFGC president for the next term. We have assembled an amazingly talented and dedicated leadership team and we will be working together to provide members educational opportunities through our Flower Show School, Garden Study School, state level meetings, and workshops. Our goal is to increase membership, increase our visual presence through the use of multiple media sources, and increase attendance at both the state and the district meetings. Our team is dedicated to these goals and with your help, we can reach them!

The South West District will be hosting the Mid Year Board meeting. We are changing the format and are offering mini-workshops on a variety of topics on the first day. When you register, mark the ones that you are interested in attending. If you have a need that isn't on the list, please share it with us! The theme is "Luau On The Lake" and we want you to come "flamingle" with our flock and have a "flamazing" good time!

Friends, just like flowers, come in and out of our lives with great regularity. Some take a little bit longer to cultivate, but last for a very long time. Some become life-long friendships that can withstand the test of time, while others may have a short season and move on. The theme for the next two years is "Cultivating Flowers and Friendships". It is my hope that our friendship is like a flower that is always in bloom. Working together we can make AFGC a beautiful bouquet!

With poise and a splash of pink,

Nancy

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AFGC GARDEN CLUB MANUAL BY-LAWS

The following By-law changes were approved at the April 29th Executive Committee Meeting and had a first reading at the April 30th Board Meeting. They will be presented for a 2nd reading at the August 7 Mid-year Board meeting for a vote:

CURRENT	PROPOSED	PURPOSE
1. Article VIII. Finances. Section 4. One-half (1/2) of the Life Member's fee shall be placed in the Scholarship Fund and one-half (1/2) in the Federation General (operating) Fund. 2. Article IX. Funds/Investments Trustee Committee. Section 4.A. Scholarship Fund A. One-half (1/2) of the Life Member's fee shall be placed in the Scholarship Fund. 3. Article X – Dues. Section 1. -Dues A. Annual dues for club members shall be six dollars (\$6.00); this includes state dues of five dollars (\$5.00) and one dollar (\$1.00) for National Garden Club dues. State dues shall include a subscription to the official magazine, <i>The Arkansas Gardener</i>. (Ratified April 18, 2017) C. Persons holding membership in more than one club shall pay six dollars (\$6.00) for state and national dues into each club. (Ratified April 18, 2017)	1. Article VIII. Finances. Section 4. All monies received from Arkansas Life Members be placed in the Scholarship Fund. 2. Article IX. Funds/Investments Trustee Committee. Section 4.A. Scholarship Fund A. All monies received from Arkansas Life Members be placed in the Scholarship Fund. 3. Article X – Dues. Section 1. -Dues A. Annual Dues for club members be eight dollars (\$8.00); this includes state dues of seven dollars (\$7.00) and one dollar (\$1.00) for National Garden Club dues. (Ratified August 2022) Section 1. Line C: Persons holding membership in more than one club shall pay eight dollars (\$8.00) for state and national dues into each club. C. Persons holding membership in more than one club shall pay eight dollars (\$8.00) for state and national dues into each club.	1. To simplify bookkeeping and donations, as well as prioritize Scholarship funding as an organizational priority. 2. Updated to match re-wording in Article VIII. 3. A. Updated to reflect current dues as changed in August 2022. Delete subscription to <i>Arkansas Gardener</i> as it is digital only and publicly available on AFGC Website. C. Match changes in Section 1. A.

STANDING RULES ADOPTED AT APRIL 30th STATE CONVENTION. Standing Rules below were changed and adopted by approval of the Executive Committee

1. Pg 25. Book of Remembrance This book may be used as a way of remembering the deceased or to honor friends and members of our clubs. With a contribution of at least twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), a person's name is placed in the Book of Remembrance. 2. Pg 25. Circle of Roses. A thirty-dollar (\$30.00) donation should be sent to the Circle of Roses Chairman by an individual or club. Submit a short biography stating when person became a garden club member along with a photo to be published in <i>The Arkansas Gardener</i>. 3. Pg. 26. Finances. Currently: A sum of \$300 is allowed for the Office Manager to be used to attend the State and District meetings. <u>Adopted to read:</u> The AFGC Office Manager will be compensated for full registration and transportation to the annual convention and mid-year board meeting. 4. Pg. 29. Life Memberships- Arkansas. Currently: The fee for a State Life Member is \$50 and serves a two-fold purpose. One-half of each membership fee goes into the Scholarship Fund helping to further the education of deserving students who are interested in horticulture, conservation, or allied subjects. The	1. Donation increased due to increased administrative and mailing costs. 2. Donation increased due to increased administrative and mailing costs. 3. As part of her duties the AFGC Office Manager is required to attend both State-level meetings, and should be compensated. 4. To simplify bookkeeping and donations, as well as prioritize Scholarship funding as an organizational priority. (continued next page)
--	--

other half goes into the general fund supporting the Federation projects.

Adopted to Read: The fee for a State Life Member is fifty dollars (\$50.00) with all fund to be applied to the Scholarship Fund in helping to further the education of deserving students who are interested in horticulture, conservation, or allied subjects.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR OUR AUGUST 6-7 AFGC MID-YEAR MEETING AT LAKE DEGRAY STATE RESORT
(REGISTRATION FORM IN BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER)

ALL CLUB PRESIDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND OUR TWO STATE MEETINGS – OUR STATE CONVENTION IN APRIL AND OUR MID-YEAR MEETING IN AUGUST. IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND YOU MUST SEND A CLUB REPRESENTATIVE AUTHORIZED TO VOTE FOR YOUR CLUB – ONE VOTE PER CLUB. THESE MEETINGS ARE HOW WE DO FEDERATION BUSINESS AND WE NEED A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF CLUB ATTENDANCE IN ORDER TO GET OUR WORK DONE. PLEASE ENCOURAGE ALL YOUR MEMBERS TO ATTEND – WE TRY TO MAKE THE MEETINGS AS FUN AND EDUCATIONAL AS POSSIBLE.

FOR OUR 2025 MID-YEAR BOARD PLEASE PLAN TO COME FOR A ROUND OF SPECIAL WORKSHOPS THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 6TH

IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, WE HAVE ROUNDED UP SOME EXPERTS TO TALK TO CLUB OFFICERS (AND ANY MEMBER WHO IS INTERESTED) ABOUT FEDERATION PROCESSES AND LEADERSHIP PRACTICES. ATTENDEES WILL BE PUT INTO GROUPS AND ATTEND A SERIES OF SHORT ROTATING WORKSHOPS ON

- ◇ CLUB PRESIDENT/VP RESPONSIBILITIES & FUNCTIONS
- ◇ CLUB TREASURER RESPONSIBILITIES
- ◇ CLUB SECRETARY RESPONSIBILITIES, APPROPRIATE NOTETAKING, DOCUMENT RETENTION
- ◇ AFGC/SCR/NGC AWARD SUBMISSIONS
- ◇ MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING INCREASING YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE
- ◇ IF THERE IS A TOPIC YOU ARE INTERESTED IN, SEND IT TO TRACEY BONDS, AFGC OFFICE MGR.

AND SINCE YOU'RE ON SITE, BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR THE AUGUST 6TH JUDGES COUNCIL DINNER WHERE A RENOWNED LOCAL FLORIST, DAVID GOODMAN, OF MARY & MARTHA'S FLORIST IN ARKADELPHIA, WILL DEMONSTRATE USING TROPICAL PLANT MATERIAL TO SPICE UP YOUR HOME DESIGNS.



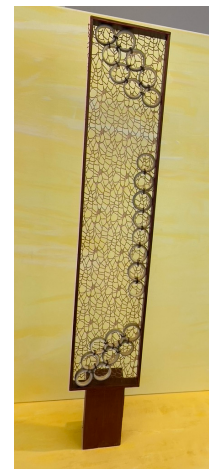
David has served as President, and is now the current treasurer, of the Arkansas Florists Association. He is also an Arkansas Master Florist. He has worked on the Rose Parade in 2020, the 2024 Arkansas Governor's Inauguration, and weddings and events across the country.



A SECTION FOR PICTURES AND TOPICS FROM OUR
DESIGN STUDY GROUPS AROUND THE STATE



DESIGNS BY VERNA GARVAN
DESIGN STUDY CLUB
MEMBERS FOR THEIR APRIL 9
MEETING SHOWCASING THE
BAMBOO LACE STRUCTURES
THEY BUILT AT A MARCH
WORKSHOP.
MAY'S WORKSHOP WILL BE
'LACED LEAVES' USING A PASTA
MACHINE.



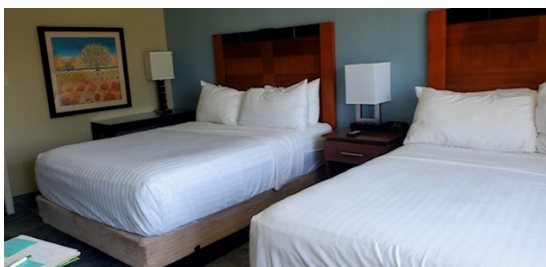
The purpose of a Design Study Club is to give NGC Flower Show Judges, and others interested in NGC Design Styles, the opportunity to study, exhibit and practice judging of floral designs. There are 3 Design Study Clubs in Arkansas. They are:

- ◇ Floralia Garden Club, Rogers
- ◇ Designer's Study Club, Little Rock (designersstudyclub@gmail.com)
- ◇ Verna Garvan Design Study Club, Hot Springs (vggardenclub@gmail.com)

COME JOIN US FOR A “LUAU AT THE LAKE”

LAKE DEGRAY STATE PARK RESORT IN BISMARCK, ARKANSAS IS THE LOCATION OF OUR AUGUST 6-7 MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING. OUR THEME OF “LUAU AT THE LAKE” ECHOES THE LOVELY WATERFRONT SETTING AND SETS THE STAGE FOR TWO DAYS OF BUSINESS, EDUCATION AND FUN.

THE RESORT OFFERS LODGINGS, CAMPSITES, AN 18-HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE WITH DRIVING RANGE, PRACTICE GREEN AND PRO SHOP; AN 18-HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE, TWO SWIM BEACHS, TEENIS COURTS; 5 HIKING TRAILS; A PADDLECRAFT WATER TRAIL AND A FULL SERVICE MARINA WITH BAIT, TACKLE, FUEL & BOAT RENTALS.



"Luau at the Lake"

At beautiful DeGray State Park on Lake DeGray August 6 & 7, 2025

Wardrobe suggestions for AFGC Midyear Meeting add fun to the festivities!
So.....here's a list to stick on your fridge.

"What Should I wear?. "

Tuesday, August 6th

Day – Cool and comfortable are the bywords for Executive Meetings and Officer Training Sessions.

Evening – Dress for the tropics in florals or bright colors for the Judges Council Dinner, Program, and Reception. *Do you have a grass skirt?*

Wednesday, August 7th

For our business meeting, lunch and program “***garden club casual***” or not so!

We are welcome to enjoy the pool and hot tub during our stay, so pack your poolside gear!



As suggested by the hosting Committee

AFGC Midyear Registration August 6 & 7, 2025 - "Luau at the Lake"

Hosted by Southwest District at DeGray Lodge – 2027 State Park Entrance Rd, Bismarck, AR 71929

Call front desk 501-865-5850 use **code #862723** for convention rates through **July 20th**:

\$115 + tax	2 Queen Bed Resort View	\$115 + tax	1 King Bed Resort View
\$145 + tax	2 Queen Bed Lake View	\$145 + tax	1 King Bed Lake View

Registration Info: Make checks to Southwest District

Mail to Registrar: Rose Knight, 110 Maple Ct., Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Pre-registration and payment required by July 30, 2025, no exceptions.

FULL Time Early Registration:

\$125.00 _____

PART Time Registration Fee:

(Postmarked by 30, 2025) \$46.00 _____

(Postmarked after July 25, 2025). \$50.00 _____

Tuesday August 6	11:00-5:00pm	Registration, DeGray Room
	1:00-5:30pm.	Ways & Means/Vendors open, Atrium at DeGray Room
	10:30-11:00pm.	Finance Committee Meeting, Caddo-Ouachita Room
	11:30-12:30pm.	Executive Committee Meeting, Caddo-Ouachita Room
	12:30-1:00pm	District Director's Meeting, Caddo-Ouachita Room

Tuesday August 6th - 2:00 – 4:00pm Special AFGC Training Sessions - Caddo-Ouachita Room

Special training for local club officers, please check those you plan to attend:

President/VP ____ **Secretary** ____ **Treasurer** ____ **Membership** ____ **Awards** ____

4:00-6:00pm Happy Hour - Cash Bar "Let's Flamingle!"

6:00pm Judges Council Dinner, Grilled Chicken, DeGray Room \$ 37.00 _____

7:00 Program "Let's Go Tropical" presented by David Goodman
Mary & Martha's Florist, 800 Clinton St., Arkadelphia

Reception following Dinner and Program in Hospitality Room 325. "Aloha!!"

Wednesday August 7th All events in DeGray Room

8:00-9:00am Registration

9:00am Business Meeting

12:00pm **Lunch** \$ 42.00 _____

12:45pm Program "Watery Wonders" presented by Mark Gibson,
Green Thumb Water Garden Center - 28025 Nichols Loop Rd., Little Rock

Total Payment for part time registration (must include part-time reg fee) _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Garden Club: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

CHECK CLASSIFICATIONS: Exec Board Member _____ AFGC Member _____ Guest _____

Club President _____ District Director _____ AFGC Life Member _____