SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

The Communicator

2023 VOL. 14—June, 2023

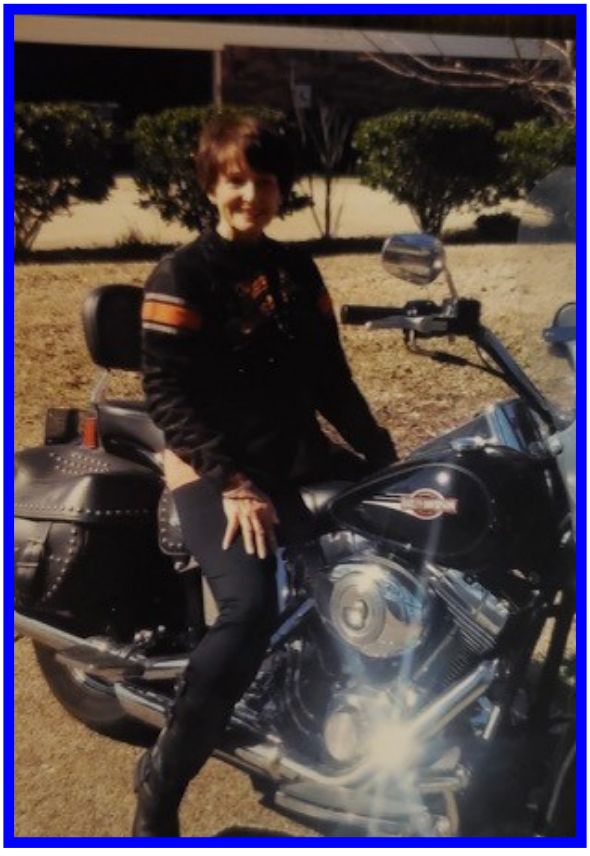
Rose Knight, Director 2021-2023
Sarah McReynolds, Director 2023-2025













Rose is ridding off into the great unknown ….

THANK YOU for Being a FABULOUS Region Director!

Message from the Outgoing SCR Director...

"Plant America – Embrace the Future"



I find it hard to believe that I am writing my final greetings to you all as SCR Director! What an adventure it has been. As I said at the SCR Convention, you all have a very special place in my Garden of Friends and in my heart! Thank you is inadequate to express how grateful I am for all you have done to support SCR during my term.

We had two wonderful conventions in Galveston and Oklahoma City! I express our thanks to Nancy Giffhorn and April Pratt for their leadership in chairing the conventions. I am grateful to our four state presidents, Gwen, Terri, April and Christine for their support and friendship.

The response to the SCR Gardening Hero for SCR Scholarships was heartwarming! How wonderful that we were able to award two scholarships to deserving students. What a wonderful way to Embrace the Future. We honored six new Heroes at Convention 23! Funds raised for scholarships totaled $3100. Thank you all!

SCR Penny Pines contest was a blast and we planted so many trees! Thank you Chairman Heather White for all the work you did and for your sponsorship of our contest awards.

We are continuing plans for the SCR Convention in Little Rock April 23-25, 2024. Please mark your calendars and arrive on April 23 so that you are here for our "Denim and Pearls" barbeque event in the evening on April 23. You won't want to miss the April 24th tour to Edgemont for lunch. We will plan transportation in the afternoon of April 24 to the Clinton Museum for those not involved in board meetings. You may decide to sightsee in Little Rock on your own! President Clinton Avenue is hopping with excitement! We will have the registration form on the website early and welcome all to come for "Spring Fling"!

I look forward to seeing all of you in Little Rock on April 24! For now, and the future let's all continue to "Plant America," play outside, and embrace the future!

Rose

SCR Convention FUN!!


































































APRIL PRATT























National Garden Clubs Convention at the Historic Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, WV





















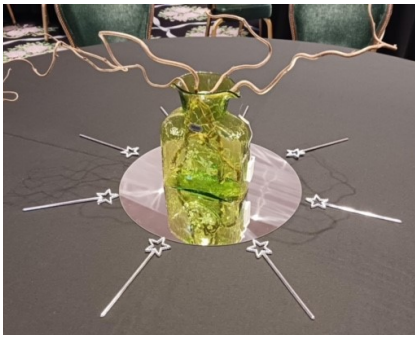

NATIONAL
GARDEN CLUBS INC






In Honor of
National Garden Club Members
Designer: Gwen Kohut



























South Central Region GARDENING HERO

A FUND-RAISING EFFORT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR

SCR SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2021-23 TERM

<u>Scholarships,</u> Nancy Voyles, Chairman

The SCR Gardening Hero Project was a huge success. We recognized thirty-one SCR Gardening Heroes, raising $3100. 00 for SCR Scholarships. Thank you to all that recognized your own "Special" hero. We have so many wonderful garden club members in SCR and it was wonderful to recognize them at our conventions. It was a delight to see the faces of those being recognized as a SCR Gardening Hero.

Because of this successful fund raising project, we were able to give two scholarships to honor our SCR Director, Rose Knight. A $2000 scholarship was awarded to Taylor Marie Hoover of Arkansas and a $1000 scholarship to Bryce Waugh of Oklahoma.

Nancy Voyles

SCR Gardening Hero Chairman & SCR Scholarship Chairman





NEW MEXICO STATE PRESIDENT, Christine Longthorp

"Growing in Harmony in the Land of Enchantment"

Greetings from the Land of Enchantment, New Mexico,

New Mexico Garden Clubs held their Annual Convention on April 12th here in Albuquerque. Following the lead of the Petite Flower Show at NGC Convention in Orlando last year, we incorporated a Petite Flower Show on our one day Convention which was judged by Mary Warshauer, NGC President and Rose Knight SCR Director. It was charming and after such changeable weather here in NM the designs and horticulture entries were stunning and proof that we can grow wonderful things in our high desert.

The Convention's theme was "Diamonds in the Desert" where a local garden club member gave a talk about the formation of gems in our desert. The awards banquet was culminated by the installation of Debra Sorrell as our in-coming NMGC President for 2023-2025.

This convention was quickly followed with SCR Convention in Oklahoma City where four NMGC members attended and enjoyed it tremendously. April Pratt did a splendid job as Convention Chairman and we were treated to good food, good programs and renewed friendships.

The first week of May took five of our members to WV to the NGC Convention at the Greenbrier Hotel which was a grand affair in a spectacular part of the country.

Back home here in New Mexico three clubs have dissolved due to aging out and the remaining members have joined active clubs. We have one youth club in formation and another being revived. The change to reduce the cost, time and workload of our Fall Board meeting and a one day annual Convention held in the spring has proven to be adequate and efficient. We are now considering combining Districts so that we have three instead of five which would help in the search for Directors and expenses. Times they are a-changing and we are doing what we can to keep our State Garden Clubs healthy and prosperous.

This brings me to the end of my four year term as NM State President. I have been honored to serve the membership at a challenging time and I hand the reigns to Debra Sorrell New Mexico's newly elected President. I have made lifelong friends and this time has enriched my life as I hope it has for all I have met in the course of my term. My motto has been "there is more manure than mink" as ride off into the sunset with my pruners and crocs! Love to you all.

Christine Longthorp

NMGC President 2019-2023



OKLAHOMA STATE PRESIDENT, April Pratt

"The FUTURE Starts with Us!"

Greetings from Oklahoma,

Wow! What a busy time we've had around here!

We've hosted OGC and SCR conventions in April (both in the same week) in Oklahoma City. If you missed either of these conventions, you missed a real treat (even if I say so myself). The speakers were great, the food was even better, the hotel was so gracious to us all, the tour was informative, and they both "went off" with very few hitches. What more can you ask for? We loved having you here and are already looking forward to seeing even more of you next year in Little Rock.

And, after a few days' rest, I headed out to the National Garden Clubs' 92nd Annual Convention in West Virginia. We had such fun, the place was amazing, and we all enjoyed meeting up there, spending time together, while getting filled with information and receiving awards.

Oklahoma City Council held their 33rd Annual Garden Festival in the Park last weekend. The weather couldn't have been any better and that brought out the biggest crowd ever. We had about 50 vendors, and all the clubs and societies had plant sales. My club had our biggest year in sales ever – we've participated all 33 years.

Tulsa Garden Club held a wonderful garden tour, "Passport to Paradise," on the same weekend. It was their 72nd annual tour. With the great weather, I know the gardens were in their glory.

Several flower shows were held all over the state in the past couple of months. Many pictures were shared on our Facebook page. They were all equally successful and, although I was unable to attend them, I did get feedback and I heard a great time was had by all! We had many novice designers, who were very talented, and had a great showing in the youth classes.

Well, we've reached the end of our terms in most of the state, and we are excited about the folks that are going to take the reins from us. We have an experienced team that will be continuing our work and I'm delighted with their goals. I wish everyone great success. I'm here to help in any way I can.

Thank you to everyone that has helped lighten my load, especially during the past 3 months. There are too many of you to name, but just know I've recognized each of you and I am so grateful for you and to you!

With much affection,

April Pratt GC President 2019-2023





TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT,

Gwen DeWitt

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

My term as TGC Inc. President is rapidly coming to a close. 2022 ended with a whirlwind of activities. It was a season of family gatherings, parties, and the last few garden club events for 2022.

I visited Spring Lake Garden Club in San Marcos in September to celebrate their 50th anniversary and give a program on fall gardening. Then it was on to St Louis for the Fall Board Meeting. As part of the meeting, we visited the NGC Inc. Headquarters, which is a beautiful building filled with art, sitting on six acres of garden. Our headquarters is located next to the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Sarah McReynolds and I hiked across the gardens to view the Chihuly glass exhibit.

October was crazy with SAJC Symposium in San Antonio, my first experience with the judging side of Flower Show. I must admit, it gave me insight into why my designs haven't received the score I thought they deserved!

I journeyed to the Fort Worth/Dallas area three weeks in a row in October. Once to Headquarters for the TGC Fall Board Meeting. Then to Grapevine Garden Club's 90th anniversary. I was privileged to be a part of their celebration, presenting them with a certificate for 90 years. Followed by the DFSJFG Mary Musick Program and Luncheon with Gay Estes presenting a program on botanical art – the exhibits were amazing!

October ended with a Blue Star Memorial Dedication in Aransas Pass. Hibiscus Garden Club hosted a ceremony with the Corpus Christi Veteran's Band, Pat Simon Col. US Army retired, Master of Ceremonies and Vanessa F. Hicks-Callaway Lt. Col. US Army retired gave an inspiring military tribute. I was privileged to be in the august company of these amazing veterans to give the history of the Blue Star Memorial Program.

November was busy with a trip to Gonzales to give a program on Fall Gardening for Spade and Trowel Garden Club. Followed by Master of Ceremonies duty for the 65th annual Veteran's Day program in Beeville. My first job for Beeville Garden Club was to chair the annual Veteran's Day program 35 years ago!

In December I traveled to Cotulla Garden Club to give a program on bees and then on to Houston for the Federation Gala. So, ends 2022!

TEXAS STATE PRESIDENT, Gwen DeWitt (Continued)

January brought cedar fever – three weeks with no voice, cough, and asthma. Felt marginally better in time for Environmental School at Old Fort Parker. The graduation ceremony was a hoot, complete with black garbage bag gown and pizza box mortar board. Of course, I had a manly voice!

February's travels had me heading to San Antonio for my final class for Gardening School where I started a Bonsai tree as a class project.

District III asked me to join them in Jefferson to install the incoming officers and then it was on to Coleman to present certificates and do the hula for District VIII's spring convention.

We celebrated the end of my term as president in San Antonio at the Spring Convention. We were privileged to have SCR Director, Rose Knight attend a portion of our convention. She will probably always remember the stretch Hummer limo to the Japanese Sunken Gardens and pineapple ice cream on a warm South Texas spring day. We celebrated with a pink flamingo farewell cocktail party, Aloha clothes and amazing tropical flowers for a fun filled convention where we welcomed Lee Taylor and her crew for the new term!

April Pratt, President of Oklahoma Garden Clubs outdid herself to provide us with a wonderful SCR Convention experience. The floral design and state plaque workshops were fun and informative. We worked hard and celebrated with our SCR friends. A large contingent of Texans traveled to Oklahoma City to support dear friend Sarah McReynolds as she was installed as the new SCR Director. It has been a privilege to serve with current SCR Director Rose Knight. She is a gracious lady and now a treasured friend.

My adventures took me to West Virginia where the SCR gang gathered for the NGC spring convention at the Greenbrier Hotel. Mary Warshauer, our NGC President, has been a gracious leader and a joy to serve with. I look forward to Brenda Moore's term and will serve on her board as a part of the Environmental School committee.

A few days after arriving home from West Virginia and I was back on the road for the final trip of my administration. Lee Taylor, incoming president, and I headed to the Fort Worth area and the District II spring convention in Colleyville. It was a privilege to present Federation Certificates to honor the clubs that had reached significant milestones.

As I put my suitcase up for the first time in months, I am reminded of all the places I have traveled to and all the wonderful people I have met. I have enjoyed every moment and will treasure the friendships and hospitality given to me by the members of TGC, SCR, and National. I am truly blessed! *BEE Happy, Gwen*

South Central Region Convention















Message from the New SCR Director...

Hello I am just getting settled in my new position as your Director. I certainly enjoyed the SCR a convention in Oklahoma City. Thanks to April Pratt and all of her members, they put on an outstanding convention. All the members were warm and welcoming to all the other states that attended. I can't wait to go to Little Rock next year 2024 for another fun convention.

Shortly after the SCR Convention 2023, I boarded a train to West Virginia to the NGC Convention. That was an experience at the Greenbrier Hotel. All four of our states received awards, which was quite encouraging and pictures were taken of all the members of the region, thanks to Dennis Ellis.

Now we start our next two years with hope and inspiration. My theme will be following in our former Director, Rose Knight's interest in pollinators. Our theme will be "Pollinate South Central". Our NGC President, Brenda Moore's project will cover this theme as well. My project will be "Pollinating Partnerships". Former TGC President, Gwen DeWitt will be the chairman of this challenge project. More details will be forthcoming, and you can be awarded cash prizes as well as a chance to get certified with NGC's pollinating project to be announced at the NGC Fall Virtual Board Meeting. More information on the SCR " Pollinating Partnerships" project to follow in the next issue of this magazine.

My project for scholarship money will be chaired by Heather White the SCR Scholarship Ways and Means Chairman…she will be selling pollinator pins for funding the scholarships. Christine Longthorp , New Mexico former President 2019-2023 will be the Scholarship Chairman to handle all the applications. Pictures and instructions on how to buy the pollinator pins will be in the next "The Communicator". I will need all of us to work hard together because we are important to our land and to each other. A lot can be accomplished together. We are a major pollinator pathway and so we can make a huge difference in our world.

Please contact me and invite me to your meetings…I am retired from one job and now back working for my husband on the ranch, so I will have time to visit and encourage you and see what all we are doing to make a difference in our region. I will be sending all the officers & chairmen a copy of the new directory so you can help with any mistakes or changes that will need to be made.

Fondly, Sarah McReynolds

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

SCR DIRECTOR'S PROJECT

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIPS

Date of Application: _____ State Garden Club_____

Applicant (Club Name): _____

Contact (Individual Representing Club): _____

Email: _____Phone#: _____

Divisions:

Partnering with Youth_____ Partnering with Adults_____

Partnering with Businesses_____ Cities_____ Communities_____

Power Companies _____ Other _____

ATTACHE A DISCRIPTION OF THE PARTNERSHIP EXPLAINING HOW IT WORKS. (You do the work …. they provide the money etc.)

INCLUDE DETAILS OF HOW THIS WILL POLLINATE SCR.

INCLUDE THREE PHOTOS.

SCR DIRECTOR'S PROJECT

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIPS

Our theme "Plant America – Pollinating South Central" is the basis of the Director's project. Our goal is to create opportunities in the four states to increase pollinators through partnerships to promote, to educate, to plant, and through conservation.

A CERTIFICATE AND PRIZE AWARDED –

$100 – Will be presented to Club sponsoring the best Pollinator Partnership in Youth, in Adult's and in Business.

$50 – For second place

Resources include Pollinator Action Team www.pollinator. org/take action**,** Bee Smart School Garden Kit www.pollinator.org/bee-smart, and www.pollinator.org/guides.

WHO MAY APPLY: Any individual garden club that is a member of NGC Inc., and South Central Region. One project per garden club may be submitted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Chairman must receive on or before December 1, 2023, via email.

HOW TO APPLY: The application will be on the SCR website, in "The Communicator" and available through the State Presidents.

PROGRAM CRITERIA: Involving and educating the public in our communities on the critical issues about pollinators and the devastating losses that can have a major impact on our food sources. The total involvement and participation by club members and the community. A one-page project including photos must be submitted to the Chair. Report not to exceed **3 pages.**

QUESTIONS: Gwen DeWitt, Chairman of the Director's Project "Pollinator Partnerships", 178 Fairway Rdg., Beeville, Texas 78102

Phone: (361) 813-9936 **Email: dewitt462002@yahoo.com**

NGC INC.

PLANT AMERICA -PLANT POLLINATORS.

SCR DIRECTOR SPECIAL AWARD

In addition to Pollinator Partnerships and in support of the NGC Pollinator project, our SCR Director will give a special pin and award at the Convention in Little Rock for each member that gets their yard certified as a Pollinator Garden.

The NGC program has members applying to have their yard certified by National. After the member's garden is certified, they are given the opportunity to purchase their own sign.

PROGRAM CRITERIA: To support the NGC Plant America – Plant Pollinators project by increasing habitat for pollinators one garden at a time. To increase the involvement and participation of club members. A one-page project including photos must be submitted to the Chair. Each member that completes the NGC project will send a picture of their garden, certificates, and the sign to the Chair. Report not to exceed **1 page.**

AWARD: Each member that completes this process will be presented with a pin and a special award at the SCR Convention in Little Rock.

QUESTIONS: Gwen DeWitt, Chairman of the Director's Project "Pollinator Partnerships", 178 Fairway Rdg., Beeville, Texas 78102

Phone: (361) 813-9936 **Email: dewitt462002@yahoo.com**

“PLANT AMERICA-
POLLINATING SOUTH CENTRAL REGION”
SCR theme for 2023-2025



Pollinator state specific seeds will be available as well as pollinator pins of all sorts to fund the scholarships.



Message from Arkansas 2023-2025 President,

Pam Ellis

April and May are always busy time for Garden Club members and there was no exception this year. My gardens were waking up and so was the "living mulch". My local botanical garden has been spreading the concept that things like henbit and chickweed are not weeds. They are living mulch that adds nutrients to the soil and offer food sources to pollinators. Unfortunately, my husband and neighbors did not agree with that philosophy. I'll keep trying. The additional garden chores and the Garden Club Convention Season leave little time for any other projects but Arkansas has a lot going on.

Our state convention was held on April 5th and 6th in Hot Springs at the Double Tree on Lake Hamilton. All the rooms have lake views and the view in the meeting room could not be beat. Ii was hard to concentrate on the speakers with that beautiful view to look at. Hot Springs is a great town for conventions with the National Park, Garvan Gardens, lots of great shops and multiple opportunities to have a spa experience.

One week later, we were off to Oklahoma City for the SCR Convention. My favorite things to do was a tour of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and a guided walk through Scissortail Park, an industrial wasteland that was turned into a beautiful 70-acre area linking downtown to the riverfront. The convention coincided with the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing and the memorial was very moving. The weather certainly was predictable. The wind was whistling down the plains!

The first week of May found us driving to West Virginia for the National Garden Club annual convention. The venue was absolutely stunning. If you have never been to the Greenbrier, you should schedule a trip immediately. This is something you don't want to miss. The interior design by Dorothy Draper is unbelievable. There is nothing that you can think of to do that is not there, from falconry, horses, golf, bowling, watch a movie, try you luck in the casino, the list goes on and on.

Continued on next page ....

After looking back, there is a lot to look forward to in Arkansas. We are excited about our Mid-year Board meeting on July 31 and August 1 at Fairfield Bay Resort on Greers Ferry Lake. Fairfield is a resort will lots of amenities, like boat rentals, golf, swimming, bowling and A PETITE FLOWER SHOW. If you would like to join us, the registration form will be on our website: www.arkansasfgc.net .

Another thing we are excited about is our first NGC Gardening School in Arkansas. It will be Course one and held in Marion, Arkansas on September 22 and 23. A joint venture between the Hughes Town and Country Garden Club and the Crittenden County Master Gardeners, it is the first initiative between the two groups in the United States, so we think this is really exciting. Master Gardeners can get credit for advanced training and Garden Club members can get credit toward their Garden Consultant status. Registration should be available by July 1st and will be on the website.

Of course, we can't wait to host the SCR Convention in conjunction with our convention April 22 to25, 2023. The committee has been working really hard to make this a fun event that would be a disappointment to miss.

Happy Gardening, Pam











Message from New Mexico 2023-2025 President, *Debra Sorrell*

"Grow Through What You Go Through"

I am delighted to be the New Mexico Garden Club President for 2023-2025! I chose "Grow Through What You Go Through" as a theme because it applies to many parts of our garden club world. Of course, we "grew" our way through the pandemic and all our gardens got some extra attention for those many months everyone was at home. We lost a little momentum and some leadership mentoring opportunities during that time. So, we are going to put some emphasis on growing (training) new leadership in our individual clubs and across our state. Finally, our beautiful Land of Enchantment went through some devastating fires in 2022. One of those fires burned over 340,000 acres (534 sq miles) and was the largest wildfire for 2022 in the contiguous United States. The environmental and economic impacts from that and other fires in the state that year have been devastating. NMGC is going to jump into an ambitious Penny Pines challenge to help with the reforestation of the Santa Fe National Forest and to draw attention to the issues of recovery in the area. I am looking forward to watching the membership, leadership and visibility of New Mexico Garden Clubs GROW as we go through the next 2 years.

I had the pleasure of meeting our new SCR Director and the incoming Presidents from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas at the SCR Convention in Oklahoma City in April. It is a lovely group of women that will make a great team! I am very excited to work with Sarah to help promote her vision for the South Central Region 2023-2025 term.

Debra Sorrell

NMGC President



Message from Oklahoma 2023-2025 President,

Carolyn McCabe

"Green Grows the Garden—Plant OK"

First, I want to thank all of you for your vote of confidence in agreeing to have me as your State President for the 2023-2025 term. My theme will be Green Grows the Garden – Plant OK and the President's Project is titled: Learn to grow your own food: Plant a Garden you will Love to Eat.

Spring is off to a good start in Oklahoma this year in spite of tornado season being a bit harsh. There have already been several flower shows with more on the horizon, an annual garden tour, and an annual Festival in the Park among other gardening events.

The 2023 conventions, State, Region, and National are now behind us and we are looking forward to a plethora of gardening activities throughout the remainder of 2023 and beyond.

It is my greatest wish that you will all have a great growing season and enjoyable summer.

Carolyn McCabe, OGC, Inc. State President

Pictures at the May 20th Festival in the Park





Carolyn McCabe

OGC President



Message from Texas 2023-2025 President, Lee Taylor

"Choose your path and make a difference "

I am delighted to be the New Mexico Garden Club President for 2023-2025! I chose "Grow Through What You Go Through" as a theme because it applies to many parts of our garden club world. Of course, we "grew" our way through the pandemic and all our gardens got some extra attention for those many months everyone was at home. We lost a little momentum and some leadership mentoring opportunities during that time. So, we are going to put some emphasis on growing (training) new leadership in our individual clubs and across our state. Finally, our beautiful Land of Enchantment went through some devastating fires in 2022. One of those fires burned over 340,000 acres (534 sq miles) and was the largest wildfire for 2022 in the contiguous United States. The environmental and economic impacts from that and other fires in the state that year have been devastating. NMGC is going to jump into an ambitious Penny Pines challenge to help with the reforestation of the Santa Fe National Forest and to draw attention to the issues of recovery in the area. I am looking forward to watching the membership, leadership and visibility of New Mexico Garden Clubs GROW as we go through the next 2 years.

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Lee Taylor

Texas Garden Clubs President

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT PROMOTION LEE!!



Softball playoffs begin: D'Hanis vs. San Perlita, Friday, 3:30 at D'Hanis

Baseball playoffs begin:
Hondo at Karnes City, doubleheader, Friday, 5:00
Sabinal vs. Ganado, Friday, 7:00, at Clemens HS
Medina Valley vs. Burbank, Thursday, 7:00, at MV

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HONDO ANVIL HERALD
Medina County's Newspaper – Our 137th Year, Published in Hondo, Texas
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National Day of Prayer
Thurs., May 4, 7 am - 7 pm
St. Paul Lutheran Church
1303 Ave. M, Hondo
See ad pg. 14

Cinco de Mayo Celebration
hosted by
Restore Reproductive Health
Fri., May 5, 5 - 9 pm
at former Deep Creek Depot
See ad pg. 24

Beer & Wine Fest
Fri., May 5,
6 pm, Paradise Canyon,
2120 CR 2615, Rio Medina
Castroville Chamber of Commerce

Cactus Jack Bull Riding
Thurs.-Sat., May 4-6,
Uvalde County Fairplex Arena
See ad pg. 24

HEADED TO STATE... Hondo discus throwers Ashlyn Evans and Everett Adams (above), with throwing coach David Tryon, and distance runner Anthony Sandoval (right) all earned spots in the UIL State Track Meet with silver medals at Regionals last weekend. Below, D'Hanis track is also sending seven athletes to state. Hondo will compete on May 11, D'Hanis on May 13.

PHOTOS - JEFF MCNEILL

COURTESY PHOTO

Saturday is election day across Medina County

Early voting in Medina County has now been completed for an assortment of May 6 city and school elections.

Voters in the Medina Valley Independent School District continued to vote in large numbers in the past week, with a total of 1,809 going to the polls before early voting concluded on Tuesday.

The MVISD has two contested board races and a $376 million bond on the ballot.

The figure for the MVISD includes only the voters within Medina County. A portion of the district is located within Bexar County and those numbers are not included here.

In Hondo, with one contested race for City Council, and one single-member district race for the school board, early voting numbers totaled 206.

In the Devine ISD/City of Devine, there were 456 early voters, and in the Lytle ISD, 54 voters came out early.

Election Day is Saturday, May 6, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Polling places include:

• Medina County Courthouse Annex, 1300 Ave. M, Room 110, Hondo.

• Medina Co. Precinct 2 Annex Building, 8366 FM 471 South, Castroville.

• Medina Co. Pct. 4 Annex Building, 327 Hwy 132 North, Devine.

• Medina Co. ESD No. 1, Station #55 Building, 17934 FM 1957, Rio Medina.

• Lytle ISD, 13437 Cottage Street, Lytle.

Any Medina County resident may vote at any polling location within the county.

In the Hondo ISD, three candidates are running for the

What's inside...

Hondo Weather

Hondoan elected president of Texas Garden Clubs

Hondo Garden Club member Lee H. Taylor was installed April 13 as Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. new president for 2023-2025. La Estancia del Norte, San Antonio, hosted the ceremony.

As state president, Lee will be busy the next two years, traveling across Texas to visit each of the 10 garden club districts in the state.

Trips are also planned for attendance at both regional (New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arkansas) and national meetings.

As a member of Hondo Garden Club for the past 20 years, Lee has been very active in garden club activities at the local, district and state levels.

She has chosen the theme "Choose Your Path and Make a Difference." Each garden club member has unique talents to make a difference.

To promote harmony, Lee will utilize the hummingbird, a symbol for joy. These little pollinators help our gardens grow. She also plans to continue support for education through Garden Club Schools and through scholarships awarded to outstanding applicants at local, state and national levels.

Publishing a Texas Garden Clubs Devotional booklet, as a personal reference for every occasion, is another project Lee has planned.

Texas Garden Clubs consists of 193 clubs, 27 affiliates, seven judges councils, seven councils and two youth clubs for a total of 7,812 members.

Lee H. Taylor

D'HANIS LIONS CLUB ANNUAL BBQ COOKOFF... drew a capacity crowd to the D'Hanis Community Center on April 29. The People's Choice Award went to the "Barnyard BBQ" team of Ryan Page, Kirk, Spencer, Eric and David Barlow. More photos on page 12.

HAPPY CINCO DE M

GRAB YOUR AMIGOS AND CELEBRATE

PROUD TO BE LOCAL
PROUD TO BE YOUR PLAN.
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Commercial • Individual
COMMUNITY FIRST HEALTH PLANS
Learn more at: CommunityFirstHealthPlans.com

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Publishing a Texas Garden Clubs Devotional booklet, as a personal reference for every occasion, is another project Lee has planned.

Texas Garden Clubs consists of 193 clubs, 27 affiliates, seven judges councils, seven councils and two youth clubs for a total of 7,812 members.

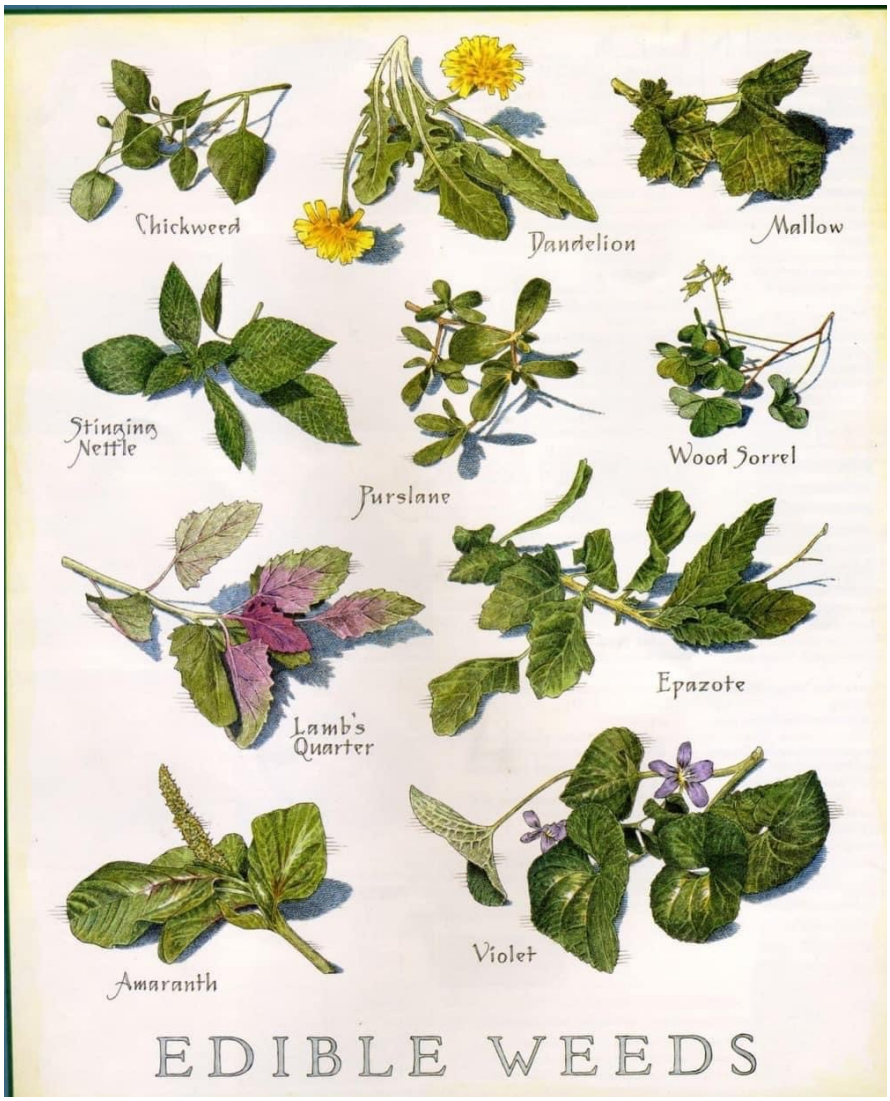


Lee H. Taylor



Meet the new SCR Historian, Shirley Tetreault – Albuquerque, New Mexico

As your Historian I will be the custodian of the official history of SCR, keeping the information of the next two years. My reports will be sent to the NGC Historian and our SCR Director Sarah McReynolds. I have been with Garden Club since 1997 and some duties have been: NM State President (4 years), National Secretary, National Design Instructor, Blue Star/Gold Star Chair (State & Region), Region and National Nominating Committee as well as many other duties throughout the years. I look forward to servicing as Historian for SCR.







TREES—*Lucy Clinton, Chairman*

In this article I will expound on two much maligned trees that should be considered for a favored status in South Central Garden Clubs members.

The first is the Osage Orange aka Bois d 'arc, Horse Apple, and Hedge Apple. The huge fruits that mature and fall in September are the worst thing about this tree. In our area there are still many shelter belts that were planted in the thirties with help from the government to break the winds and conserve the soil after the dust bowl. They are disease free and can flourish planted closely together. Spectacular shade and self pruning is another plus. They grow quickly and the wood is quite strong. The only ones I've seen that died were hit by lightning. One thing I do every year is collect the fruit to put in the garage and sheds. Their sticky property repels spiders and especially crickets. The trees do not get taller than 40 feet.

The hackberry is a tree that also grows quickly and provides great shade. The slender leaves develop berries in May and these berries are very small and change color from light green to black before frost. I enjoy watching the color change each summer. The berries drop at frost. Mature height is about 25 feet.

SCR Bird Poster Co-Chairs, *Margaret West and Maryann Schigur*

We received some fantastic works of art for the 2022-2023 Bird Poster Contest. This opportunity for children to "spread their wings" as artists also taught them, as well as the adults involved, about one of our country's great wetland birds, the Great Blue Heron, *Ardea Herodias.*

If you live between the Caribbean tropics and southern Alaska you've likely seen this graceful, solitary hunter standing patiently at the calm water's edge or soaring majestically with slow, graceful wing beats over boggy areas looking for its next meal. Lanky legs, a long neck, blue-gray plumage, an orangey-yellow bill, and a black crown will help you identify the Great Blue Heron. And speaking of "spreading wings," its wingspan can reach up to 80 inches. That's over six feet!

This contest couldn't take place without the state and local committee chairmen who encouraged club and school participation, distributed the information and reminders, gathered and judged the posters, submitted the winners to SCR, returned the others to the local clubs, then forwarded the awards, certificates, and winning posters to the local clubs and the young artists. And without the contest sponsor, the 6 Mile Garden Club of Hemphill, Texas, there would be no prize money for the winners. So, many thanks to all who made this year's contest possible.

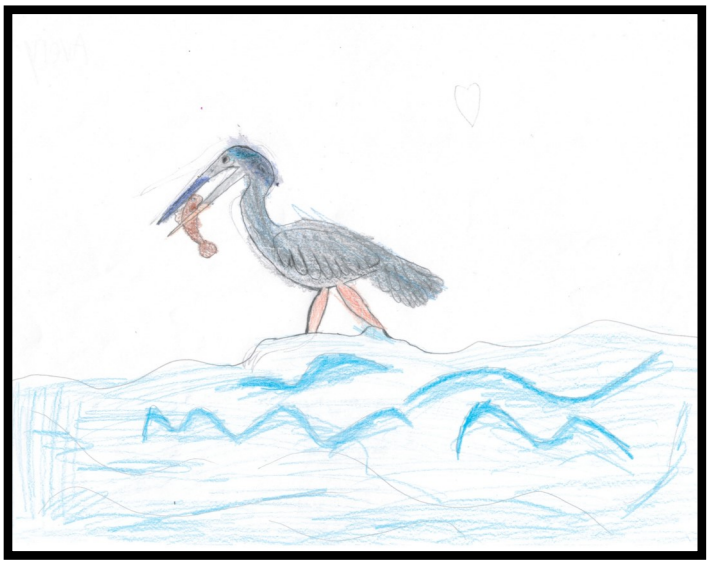
The winners were announced and the awards and certificates were given at the South Central Region meeting on April 19-20 in Oklahoma City. The first place winners are:

Fourth grade, Avery Frazier of Southside School in Bee Branch, Arkansas
Fifth grade, Oliviah Lilley of Leggett Elementary School in Leggett, Texas
Sixth grade, Azlynn Baldwin of Leggett Elementary School in Leggett, Texas
Seventh grade, Catherine Perkins of Utley Middle School in Rockwall, Texas
Eighth grade, Chloe Kim, Wellborn Middle School in College Station, Texas

Congratulations to all of the winners!








SCR
Bird of
the Year


SCh Bird of the Year!

SCR LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, *Mary Ann Holman*

Will you honor that special someone in your club? You can remember someone special with a SCR life membership! A very nice way to acknowledge those special Garden Club members. I will mail it or deliver it at the next SCR Convention!!! In Little Rock next spring…..see you there!!!

ONLY $50 + PIN $ 5 = $ 55

(available with a magnet back or standard pin back)

All proceeds from the SCR Life Membership sales now go to the $1000 SCR Scholarship given in the second year of a term (Which will be 2023).

Order from:

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













2023-25SCR Youth Activities Coordinator, *Linda Jean Brown*

It has been a privilege to work with our youth on the South Central Region Level. Meeting new people who have common goals are always a big plus. Making new friends just adds to beauty of garden clubbing. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your SCR Youth Activities Coordinator for the past two years. It has been great meeting people from other states with the same goals educating our youth the importance of gardening and teaching them how to care for our earth.

As we move forward to the 2023-25 term I hope the excitement working with our youth continues to grow in your garden clubs. We need to embrace these kids and give them a reason to love our land and take care of it.

South Central Region has a vibrant garden club history which will continue for many, many years to come as long as we stay connected to our youth garden clubs. As Garden club members in our region we need to continue with the drive and determination to educate our youth on the importance of keeping our environment safe and clean.

Some of the ways we can stay connected are by understanding our National, SCR, State, District and Local Level Contests, guidelines and rules. Then we can teach students about the importance of taking care of our environment through Youth Contests.

If you know ahead of time what South Central Region has to offer our youth perhaps this will help you also to plan ahead and sponsor a Junior Garden Club in your areas.

Listed below are the current contests we offer for you to consider.

#19 SCR Bird Contest Eligible 4th - 8th grades

2023 Bird Whooping Crane Grus americana

2024 Bird Killdeer Charidrius vociferius

2023-25SCR Youth Activities Coordinator, *(continued)*

#20 Poetry Contest Eligible Kindergarten – 9th grades
2023 Theme "I Spy with Little Eyes, Something Green"

#21 Recycle/Sculpture Contest Eligible 4th – 8th grades
The purpose of this contest is to encourage our youth to keep our planet green and it get involved with saving the environment using recycled, reused, and reduced materials.

#22 Smokey Bear Poster Contest Eligible 1st – 5th grades
"Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"
Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Eligible 1st -5th grades
"Lend a Hand Care for the Land!"

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 techniques is such a rewarding time to spend with this group of eager minds.
We as garden club members are encouraged to continue to educate the next generation.
"Our youth…Our future"

2023 – 24 SCR Youth Award Contests & Guidelines

Our purpose: To each our youth gardeners to use their eyes to see Horticulture and then grow it; to see Conservation and then practice it; to see our Resources and then conserve them; to see Color and then use it; to see Civic Projects and then adopt one so they may act wisely, ever mindful of the fact that horticulture is the strongest argument for our existence. Lead our youth to carry out our NGC Theme "Plant America."

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

#19 Bird Contest:
2023 Whooping Crane Grus americana
2024 Killdeer Charidrius vociferius
All poster entries are to be submitted to
SCR Bird Chairman,
Linda Lawson 409 NW 41st St Ok City OK 73118-8425 LindaLawson@cox.net

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

Scale of Points:

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

Copy winning entries as they will not be returned unless a club member attends the SCR Spring Convention.

Posters may include artwork pasted upon a 2nd piece of paper. No 3D allowed.

2023 – 24 SCR Youth Award Contests & Guidelines—page 2

#20 Poetry Contest:

2023 "I See with My Little Eyes Something Green"

All poetry entries are submitted to

SCR Poetry Chairman,

Sheila Thorne, PO Box 2543 League City, TX 77574 gardenkidske-mah@yahoo.com

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

Scale of Points:

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

2023 – 24 SCR Youth Award Contests & Guidelines—page 2

#21 Recycle/Sculpture Contest:
ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO KEEP OUR PLANET GTREEN
All entries are submitted to
SCR Recycle/Sculpture Chairman,
Linda Jean Brown 30 Waco Dr., Elkhart TX 75839
ljbrown3264@windstream.net

The purpose of this contest is to encourage our youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment.

- All children in 4th – 8th grades are eligible to enter, with a local garden club sponsor.
- Sculptures must consist of recycled, reused, and reduced materials.
- The sculpture is limited to a size that will fit sitting on an 8 ½" x11" sheet of paper; height should be proportionate.
- A list of materials used, and a brief description of the sculpture should be included on the entry form.
- Entry form may be found on NGC website at www.gardenclub.org
- Entries will include (2) 4"x6" photographs printed on the back of the entry form.
- Chairman should make photos of entries to provide as requested from the NGC web-site.
- Club entries must be sent to your State Chairman by your state's deadline.
- SCR winners will be sent to NGC by March 1.
- If your state does not participate in this contest, your entry may be sent directly to the SCR Youth Sculpture Chairman.

Scale of Points

Creative use of materials and self-expression	60%
Description of sculpture and materials used	30%
Craftsmanship and Technique	10%
Total	100%

#22 Smokey Bear /Woodsy Owl
"Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"
Woodsy Owl—"Lend a Hand Care for the Land"
Rules are the same for either contest – only enter one per year.
SCR Chairman: Jennifer Moreno, 305 Fairmont Park Ave NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87123 - Moreno_jen@aps.edu

1. Students in grades 1st – 5th may enter and must be sponsored by a garden club.
2. Posters must feature **either** Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl.
3. **Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!**
4. **Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy Owl's message: "Lend a Hand Care for the Land!"**

2023 – 24 SCR Youth Award Contests & Guidelines—page 2

#22 Smokey Bear /Woodsy Owl
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1. Students in grades 1st – 5th may enter and must be sponsored by a garden club.
2. Posters must feature **either** Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl.
3. **Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!**
4. **Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy Owl's message: "Lend a Hand Care for the Land!"**
5. Posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires.
6. Each entry should be 11"x17" in size.
7. Materials that can be used include: crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors, etc. The child may choose the paper, but it should be 11"x17" in size.
8. No three-dimensional poster, computer scanned, or electronically generated images will be accepted.
9. Print Students name, school and garden club name, City and State on the back to the bottom left corner.
10. Smokey Bear is an official icon: the color of his clothing needs to be accurate. Check the colors on the website www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids.
11. Students should be reminded to check spelling. **Posters with spelling errors will be disqualified.**
12. Any group of children can participate: Scout troops, after school programs, etc. are perfectly appropriate. The child's grade must be included on the back of the poster so that the participant can compete in the correct age group category.

Scale of Points

Originality	20%
Design	20%
Slogan	20%
Artwork	20%
Overall effectiveness of message	20%
Total	100%

SCR Youth Recycle/Sculpture 2022 Contest

Sponsored by: Dogwood G.C. – Palestine TX $100.00

1st place

4th Grade
Alana Fiocchi
Abilene G.C. – Abilene TX
5th Grade
Isabella Rivera
Polk Co G.C. – Livingston TX
7th Grade
Kiersan Weinmann
Dogwood G.C. – Palestine TX
8th Grade
Isabel Carter
A&M G.C. - College Station TX

2nd place (Certificate only)

4th Grade
Addy Rieper – Utty
Dogwood G.C. – Palestine TX
7th Grade
Leylani Gil-tobon Dew isd
Dogwood G.C. – Palestine TX
8th Grade
Miley Sanchez – Dew isd
Dogwood G.C. – Palestine TX

3rd place (Certificate only)

Erin Eudy
San Saba G.C. – San Saba TX

SCR Youth Poetry 2022 Contest

"Seeds, Trees and Bees, Oh My – Celebrating the diversity of Nature"
Sponsored by: TGC, Inc. District III $200.00

1st place

1st grade
Ameer Farraj
A&M G.C. – College Station TX
3rd grade
Karlee-Dean Shanks
San Saba G.C. – San Saba TX
4th grade
Alana Fiocchi
Abilene G.C. – Abilene TX
5th grade
Fiza Dhosani
A&M G.C. – College Station TX

6th grade
Salam Noor Farraj
A&M G.C. – College Station TX
7th grade
Gracie Nichols
Arp G. C. – Arp TX
8th grade
Callie Brown
Arp G.C. – Arp TX
9th grade
Laila Farraj
A&M G.C. – College Station TX

SCR Youth Bird Adult Great Blue Heron 2022 Contest

Sponsored by: 6 Mile G.C. - Hemphill TX
$100.00

1st place

4th Grade
Avery Frazier
Iris G.C. – Clinton AR
5th Grade
Oliviah Lilley
Polk Co G.C. – Livingston TX
6th Grade
Azlynn Baldwin
Polk Co. G.C. – Livingston TX
7th Grade
Catherine Perkins
Mesquite G.C. – Mesquite TX
8th Grade
Chloe Kim
A&M G.C. – College Station TX

2nd place (certificate only)

4th grade
Aiden Barbour
Polk Co. G.C. – Livingston TX
6th grade
Cooper Maulden
Iris G.C. – Clinton AR
7th grade
Sawyer Wilson
Iris G.C. – Clinton AR
8th grade
Jenna Clutter
Marlow Patio G.C. – Marlow OK

SCR Youth Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl 2022 Contest

1st place winners

1st grade
Bo Rhoda
Iris G. C. - Fayetteville AR
2nd grade
Ian Castillo
McGregor G.C. – McGregor TX
3rd grade
Mirella Lizet Martinez
Mesquite G. C. – Mesquite TX
4th grade
Alana Fiocchi
Abilene G. C. – Abilene TX
5th grade
Destiny Willis
McGregor G.C. – McGregor TX

2nd place (Certificate only)

1st grade
Kaylee Farrell
Iris Garden Club – Fayetteville AR
2nd grade
Emileigh Story
Iris Garden Club – Fayetteville AR
3rd grade
Laken Gonzales
Tulsa Garden Club – Tulsa OK
4th grade
Sophia Waits
Iris Garden Club – Fayetteville AR
5th grade
Macy Lock
Tulsa Garden Club – Tulsa OK
Easton Latham
Grapeland Garden Club – Grapeland TX

3rd place (Certificate only)

3rd grade
Evolette Cash-Flowers
Iris Garden Club – Fayetteville AR
5th grade
Mikah Poteete
Iris Garden Club – Fayetteville AR

The Ten Commandments For A Quality Environment

THOU SHALT REMEMBER THAT IT IS NATURES WORLD, NOT MANS

Man is a part of nature, not in command of nature. Nature is above man, not man above nature. Nature supports and sustains man. Man must work with nature, not against it.

THOU SHALT NOT FORGET THAT IT IS A FINITE WORLD, NOT INFINITE

The universe may be infinite but the Earth is definitely finite. It has a limited oxygen supply, limited soil and food potentials, limited water. Consequently, the concept of an ever increasing Gross National Product and population is simply impossible.

THOU SHALT REMEMBER THAT NATURE WORKS IN CYCLES, OFTEN VERY SLOWLY.

By contrast, man tends to think in straight lines and for short terms. Nature has the carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle, the various geological cycles, the food chain cycles and the birth, maturity, and death for each species. Man must learn to recycle every possible product he produces; paper, cans, cars, glass, and all the rest.

THOU SHALT NEVER FORGET THAT THERE ARE RENEWABLE AND NONRENEWABLE RESOURCES.

Nonrenewable resources such as coal, oil and gas when used are gone forever as far as man is concerned. Renewable resources such as water, soil, crops and may recyclable industrial products can be used again and again, indefinitely, if there is carful conservation planning.

THOU SHALT REMEMBER THE REAL DANGERS OF TECHNOLOGY

There are the waste of nonrenewable resources, the failure to recycle and the production of deadly poisons that tend to accumulate in the environment to levels dangerous to man, animals and plants.

THOU SHALT THINK NATURES THOUGHTS NOT MANS

Nature's time spans are long. Man tends to think in relation to his own short life. He usually thinks selfishly. We must learn to think for our children and their children, for the animals and plant, and for many years to come, using nature's time clock, out ours.

The Ten Commandments For A Quality Environment (continued)

IF THOU WILT PROTECT NATURE FAITHFULLY, NATURE WILL IN TURN PROTECT THEE.

Soil needs to be covered with a rich mantle of grass and trees. Cover helps absorb, hold and purify water; hold nutrients for production of man sustaining plants and animals and prevent erosion.

THOU WILT BE JUDGED BY WHAT YE ADD TO THE WORLD NOT BY WHAT YE TAKE FROM IT

The "fast buck" attitude is an abomination to nature. Ecologically sound management not only produces MORE in the long run, it also provides beauty in the form aesthetically pleasing landscapes. If we endeavor to take too much from the land at once, we render it useless and ugly.

THOU SHALT REMEMBER THAT ANIMALS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS MAN AND PLANTS EVEN MORE SO.

Plants were here long before most animals and all animals were probably here before man. Man is completely dependent upon plants and animals for food, his oxygen, and much of his inspiration. It is therefore necessary to protect and preserve wild animals and make sure that they get the necessary food, permanent cover and water. All animals, like man, are ultimately dependent on plant for sustenance.

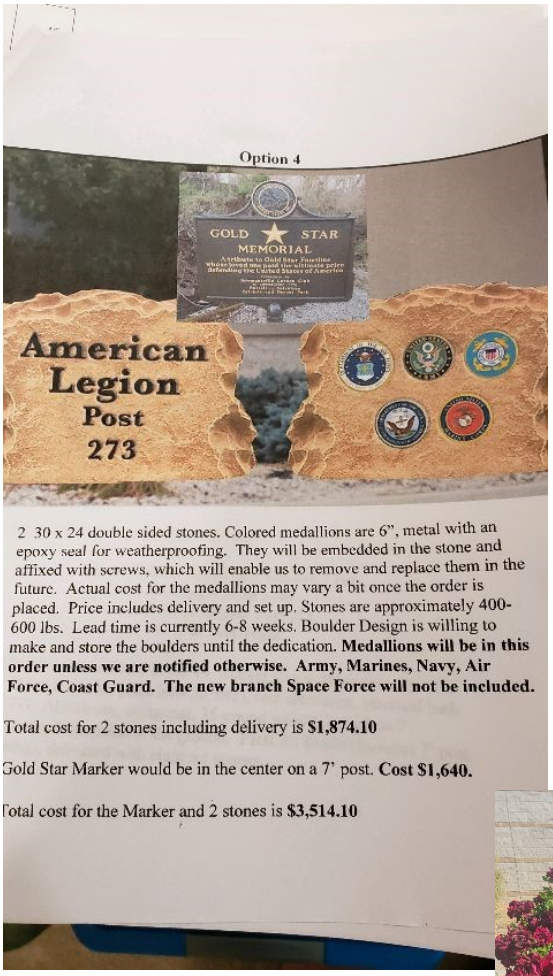
THOU SHALT REMEMBER THAT A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT IS ESSENTIALLY SPIRITUAL.

A quality environment is built around the love of nature and nature's God; the love of beauty; love of animals and plants; the love of peace and quiet. These beliefs are closely akin to religious conviction and they will create and keep a quality environment. Consequently, the achievement of a quality environment is essentially a spiritual achievement not just material achievement.

Alabama State Department of Education
Community Education Section
Source: Bulletin Board, Vogel State Park, Blairsville, Georgia
Distributed by: National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
Environmental Studies School "The Living Earth"

Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman, *Shirley Tetreault*

As we come to the end of the month of May and all our conventions are behind us, we begin to think of the many lives that were lost protecting us. Yes, I am talking about Memorial Day which is a special day of observance for our fallen soldiers. This might make you think of our Blue Star/Gold Star program that is so wonderful around the country. I will start a new segment for the communicator which will include your stories and locations of the markers. Below you will see pictures of the 5th Gold Star marker placed by McGregor Garden Club, American Legion Post 273 and the City of McGregor. This is a small agricultural community of 5,00 near Waco. In addition, you will see pictures of the Blue Star dedicated by New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. and Uptown Garden Club, District I in 2011. As we prepare for Memorial Day the beautiful roses are cared for on a weekly basis. Honoring our veterans should always be a special event.



2 30 x 24 double sided stones. Colored medallions are 6", metal with an epoxy seal for weatherproofing. They will be embedded in the stone and affixed with screws, which will enable us to remove and replace them in the future. Actual cost for the medallions may vary a bit once the order is placed. Price includes delivery and set up. Stones are approximately 400-600 lbs. Lead time is currently 6-8 weeks. Boulder Design is willing to make and store the boulders until the dedication. **Medallions will be in this order unless we are notified otherwise. Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard. The new branch Space Force will not be included.**

Total cost for 2 stones including delivery is **$1,874.10**

Gold Star Marker would be in the center on a 7' post. **Cost $1,640.**

Total cost for the Marker and 2 stones is **$3,514.10**





Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman, *Shirley Tetreault*

For your convenience and fun while traveling the state, I will post locations and dates of dedication. This issue will have locations of Blue Star Markers in the state of Arkansas. Please take the time to visit these markers, take pictures and send them to me when possible. Include a story if you have one.

Pulaski District:

Entrance at Little Rock Air Force Base		Jackson GC – AR

Northwest District:

I-40 West, Exit 74	(1977)	Dardanelle GC – AR
Dardanelle Court House	(1986)	Dardanelle GC – AR
I-40 West, Knoxville Exit	(1978)	Russellville GC – AR
I-40 West, Dora Exit	(1978)	Fort Smith GC Council – AR
I-40 East, Mayflower	(1978)	Conway GC Council – AR
US 64, Ozark	(1978)	Ozark Home & GC – AR
US 62, Roger	(1979)	GC of Rogers – AR
US 71, Bella Vista	(1979)	Bella Vista GC – AR
Greenwood Town Square	(2012)	Greenwood GC – AR
US 10, Veterans Park	(2014)	Booneville GC – AR
US 65, Clinton	(1986)	Iris GC – AR
US 65 Greenbrier Park	(2015)	Town & County GC – AR
1900 Tyler St. Conway	(2019)	Conway GC – AR

Northeast District:

US 67, Searcy	(1951)	Searcy GC – AR
Race St, Entrance to Harding Univ.	(2011)	Greenkeepers/Harding U – AR
US 67, Corning	(1956)	Corning GC – AR
I-40 West	(1975)	Hoe/Grow GC - W. Memphis AR
1-55 North, Blytheville	(1978)	Blytheville GC
I-40 East, Forrest City	(1980)	Forest City Council – AR
US 63, Jonesboro	(1980)	Hoe & Hope GC – Jonesboro AR
US 67, Bald Knob	(1983)	Bald Know GC – AR
US 49, Paragould	(1987)	Trellis GC – AR
Highway 77, Marion	(1987)	Marion GC – AR
Harrisburg Veterans Park	(2018)	Harrisburg GC – AR

Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman, *Shirley Tetreault*

Southwest District:

I-30 East, Texarkana	(1978)	Texarkana GC Council
US 71, Mena	(1971)	Mena GC – AR
Hwy 7 Entrance/Hot Springs Village	(1995)	Designing Women GC's Village Pines, Men's Village – AR

Southeast District:

US 65, Eudora	(1948)	Eudora GC – AR
US 65, Lake Village	(1960)	Lake & Plantation GC – AR
US 65, Redfield	(1974)	Pine Bluff GC Council
US 67, Hampton	(1976)	Hampton GC - AR
US 167, Sheridan	(1985)	Friendship GC - AR

I hope you have an opportunity to visit these very special marker locations. Make sure they are properly cared for and in good shape. Call me anytime with any questions. Next issue will feature TEXAS!

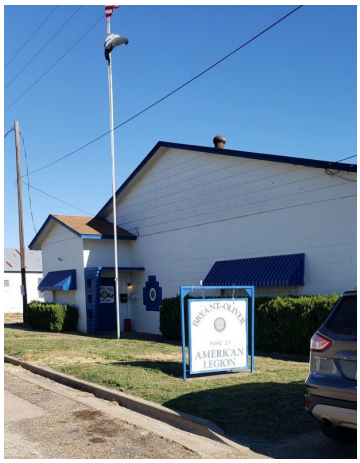
Shirley Tetreault – SCR Blue Star/Gold Star Chair
ammasangels@comcast.net
(505) 259-2263



Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman, *Shirley Tetreault*

TGC Blue Star/ Gold Star marker Landscaping

In May of 2022 the McGregor Garden Club approached the American Legion Post 273 about placing a Gold Star Memorial marker in front of the building located in the heart of down-town McGregor. The Post Commander was in support of the project so the project chairman, Della Setser, and club president, Monyene Carnes, began the process of obtaining permission to place the marker in the front yard of the Legion Hall. The Legion Hall is located on City of McGregor property so the Mayor gave permission to place the marker and had the City Public Works Department help with the project.



The Garden Club drew up plans for the Legion including removal of the grass in front of the building and replacing it with crushed rock. The old painted sign was taken down and boulders with the Legion information and medallions for each branch of the service place on the back side were placed at each end of the building. The old blue awnings were removed and the flag pole was repaired.

Once approval from the National Gold Star Chairman was obtained the marker was or-dered and paid for





by the McGregor Garden Club. The Legion agreed to pay for the boulders.

Through the Summer plans were growing to in-clude the dedication ceremony and invitations to guests. Save the date notifications were sent by email to guests . RSVP's began to come in and it was estimated that there would be approximately 100 people attending on November 5, 2022, the Saturday be for Veteran's Day.

TGC Blue Star/ Gold Star marker Landscaping (continued)

After the ceremony the Legion provided lunch and the Garden Club served cake. Attendees were free to visit with the veterans and their families. One veteran in attendance was a WWII nurse.







One of our club members prepared a Gold Star wreath to decorate the speaker's podium which was later used to help decorate for the Veteran's Breakfast on November 11 at the Legion Hall.

The Gold Star marker is a permanent reminder that we will always remember and honor American veterans.

TGC Blue Star/ Gold Star marker Landscaping (Continued)

This was the perfect time to place the Gold Star Memorial marker because 2022 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of The McGregor Garden Club. In 1947 several ladies met and organized the club and it has been meeting ever since. Through the years the club has participated in many activities and projects in the community including landscaping The Ex-change community center, planting flowers in large pots on Main Street, planting trees in the city cemetery, decorating tables for the Chamber of Commerce annual banquet and many more.

The club has decorated tables for the Veterans Day breakfast at the American Legion Post for many years so the Gold Star Memorial was a perfect extension to our support of local veterans. The Gold Star marker is a National Garden Club project that was started in 1947. The marker honors American families who have lost loved ones fighting in wars. There is only one Gold Star Memorial marker in McLennan County, Texas, and four others in the State of Texas.



The McGregor Mirror published information about the marker and invited all veterans to attend. Over 100 attended including Representative “Doc” Anderson of Texas, Senator Birdwell and Congressman Pete Sessions. Each spoke to the audience before presenting the Legion flag with a United States flag the had flown over the Capital and a Texas flag that had flown of the State Capital in Austin was presented to the McGregor Garden Club.





SCR Youth Activities Coordinator, *Linda Jean Brown*

2023 – 2025 SCR Youth Contest Sponsors

SCR Bird Environmental Poster

2023 Whooping crane

2024 Killdeer

Sponsored by: **Tyler Area Council of Garden Clubs**
(5) 1st place winners @ $20/ea. $100.00

Recycle/Sculpture

Sponsored by: **Dogwood Garden Club – Palestine TX**
(5) 1st place winners @ $20/ea. $100.00

Poetry

2023 "I See with My Little Eyes Something Green"

Sponsored by: **Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., District III**
(10) 1st place winners @ $20/ea. $200.00

Poster - Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl

Sponsored by: **Pionette Garden Club – Palestine TX**
(5) 1st place winners @ $25/ea. $125.00

Thank you to my Sister Garden Clubs for your generous donations.
You are the BEST EVER!!!
Linda Jean Brown
SCR Youth Activities Coordinator 2023-25

NGC PENNY PINES PROGRAM



Ecological Functions of the Forest

Produce O2 and regulate CO2 emissions

Regulation of climate and temperature

Reduction of Warming

Control of Water Flow/Reduction in Erosion

Improvement of Fertility of the Soil

Conservation of the Soil

Habitat for Wildlife

Human Benefits From The Forest

Recreation

Meditation/Peace/Serenity

Ecosystem maintenance means preserving our life cycle as well.

***Plantations can be bought through NGC by filling out the form and sending money.**

Plant a Tea Garden for Summer Drinks, *by Sherie Clarkson*

Iced tea. Only lemonade rivals this drink as the favorite for summer refreshments and what better way to enjoy the summertime season than to gather your own fresh herbs and brew them in a different blend of herb tea every day. Raising herbs for tea is like being warmed twice by firewood, once by cutting and once by burning. First, you can enjoy a host of beautiful and fragrant plants in the garden, later, the same plants offer fragrance and cheer in a cup of refreshing herb tea.

Once you brew iced tea with fresh herbs, you will never go back to store-bought bags. Save those for the wintertime when you cannot harvest fresh herbs. However, in Texas, most of the tea herbs will survive our mild winters.

Following is just a short list of herbs to grow in your tea garden. Start with these and then keep the varieties you like and try some new additions. Remember, you want your tea garden to be attractive, also, so pick plants that will bloom and have some color. Even if you do not like the tea made from a certain herb, you might want to keep it in your garden for its beauty.

Mint (*Menta species) What would iced tea be without mint. Start with spearmint and peppermint, then add chocolate mint, Egyptian mint and ginger mint, which are just a few of the varieties that are available. Plant mint in a pot sunk into the ground or with a barrier as it will quickly take over other herbs.*

Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis) This hardy upright herb with heart-shaped, light green leaves has an endearing lemon fragrance and flavor that makes an equally good hot or iced tea and mixes well with cold fruit juices. It blends well with other tea herbs, adding a subdued lemon taste. Lemon balm will reseed quite easily in the garden.*

Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma)* A spicy, minty fragrant herb with strong citrus overtones, the flavor is quite intense when the herb is used fresh, but drying tames the tea nicely. Bee Balm is a hardy perennial with a spreading habit and has square stems, bearing pairs of dark, green leaves. Varieties have red, pink, lavender and purple flowers.

Cinnamon Basil (*Ocimum basilicum* 'Cinnamon') A low, growing compact annual with shiny, dark leaves, pink flowers spikes and a rich, sweet basil scent mingled with warm spicy cinnamon overtones. Brew this by itself, with black tea and lemon, or with hibiscus flowers, lemon balm and blackberry leaves. Cinnamon basil, like most annuals, will reseed easily.

Plant a Tea Garden for Summer Drinks, *(continued)*

Pineapple sage (*Salvia elegans)* A tender perennial with dark green leaves that have the heady tropical aroma of fresh pineapple. In late summer and fall, brilliant red flowers lure butterflies and hummingbirds to the garden. Mix this herb with hibiscus, rose hips, lemon balm or chamomile and it is especially good mixed with fruit juice and ginger ale.

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum)* Growing to a height of 8 feet and spreading 2 to 3 feet wide, this tender perennial has violet-blue spikes that attract bees. A delicate blend of mint and anise flavors, this tea is great mixed with the other summer favorite, lemonade. Even though it will freeze down in the winter, it will come back in the spring.

Now that you have planted your tea garden and are harvesting the bounty, why not have a summer tea party to share your good fortune. Impress your friends with your tea blends and your knowledge about the health benefits of drinking tea. You might want to print a few copies of your recipes to share with them, also. The following are some tips for making your herbals teas and a couple of recipes to try.

Making Herbal Iced Tea

With sharp scissors or pruning shears, harvest herb leaves and flowers when they are at their peak. Usually, mid-morning after the dew has dried. Gently rinse them in cool water and use immediately.

To make a large glassful, warm a teapot and bring 2 cups of water to a boil. Crush 1 or 2 tablespoons of fresh herb leaves or flowers (about half the amount if dried) and place them in the warmed pot. Pour the boiling water over the herbs and steep, covered, for 5 to 10 minutes. Pour over a glassful of ice and serve. Alternatively, you may toss several handfuls of fresh herbs into a pitcher of cold water and refrigerate it for several hours. Strain it as you use it, leaving the rest to continue steeping. This tea keeps in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 days.

Double the Herb Flavor

Instead of using plain honey or sugar to sweeten your tea, try infusing warm honey or a simple syrup with herbs. Good choices include mint, lemon balm, anise hyssop, bee balm, borage and the fruit sages. To make a simple syrup, combine equal parts of sugar and water, bring to a boil, stirring, until the sugar is dissolved. For an herb-flavored syrup, combine ½ cup water and ¼ cup fresh herbs in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, remove from heat, and steep for 15 minutes. Strain out the herbs, then return the water to the saucepan. Stir in ½ cup sugar and bring to a boil, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 5 minutes or until slightly thickened.

Plant a Tea Garden for Summer Drinks, *(continued)*

Winning Iced Tea Combos

Relaxing and Refreshing Tea

2 parts lemon balm

1 part lemon verbena

1 part spearmint

Anise Tea

1 part anise hyssop

1 part sweet cicely

1 part fennel











<u>Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest</u>, *Jennifer Moreno, Chairman*



2023 SCR Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
Chairman Report

Dear SCR Members,

Thanks to all of you for helping this year's Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest by getting the word out in your communities! This year, there was an equal mix of both Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl posters that were submitted, and they were all very colorful and very beautiful! Many thanks go out to the Garden Clubs and the volunteers that helped them for their outstanding work with these young artists, and for helping to support the poster contest!

This year's SCR poster contest 1st place winners are:

1st GRADE, 1st Place–Bo Rhoda, sponsored by the Iris Garden Club, Fayetteville, AR

2nd GRADE, 1st Place--Ian Castillo, sponsored by the McGregor Garden Club, McGregor, TX

3rd GRADE, 1st Place—Mirella Lizet Martinez, sponsored by the Mesquite Garden Club, Mesquite, TX

4th GRADE 1st Place–Alana Fiocchi, sponsored by the Abilene Garden Club, Abilene, TX

5th GRADE 1st Place–Destiny Willis, sponsored by the McGregor Garden Club, McGregor, TX

All of the 1st place posters went on to compete at the National level for the contest, and the National winners will be announced in May at the NGC Convention. Congratulations to all of the SCR winners of the contest! As we look ahead to next year, please help us spread the words of Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires! And: Lend a Hand Care for the Land.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Moreno, NM State and SCR SBWO Chairman

Orca Whales Are Sinking Boats



When naval ships and other sea vessels use sonar, many whale species flee for their lives; Some even flee and land on beaches in a desperate attempt to escape. Now, scientists have discovered the most likely reason: The loud sounds trigger the same fear response as when the animals hear calls emitted by one of their most terrifying predators: killer whales.

In 2015, a federal court ruled to stop navy sonar training off the coasts of southern California and Hawaii, important habitat for whales as well as dolphins. But wind turbines map the ocean floor with sonar and a lot of whales (34) have beached themselves on the Atlantic coast.

Does wind turbine research harm or kill whales? Sonar sounds disorient, confuse and scare the whales. Irrational fear could put whales in harms way in the path of oncoming ships. Maybe this is why they are not reproducing many babies, because man made noise drowns out the sounds whales and other marine life use to communicate and navigate.

So maybe they are disoriented and mad and are acting irrationally by attacking boats.

Manmade noises drown out sounds that whales and other marine mammals rely on for life's most basic functions—from navigating to mating.

So maybe these are the answers to why there are not many whale babies and they are starting to attack boats.

Now Orca whales better known as killer whales are learning to sink boats. They think they have been taught to do this by a female Orca who was captured in a net and was injured severely. Scientists think she has taught two other whales to attack the boat rudders and ram the boats.

Three boats have been attacked and sunk by orcas off the Iberian coast, and it appears that the behavior is is being learned and copied by the population. Orcas are very smart and can work together in pods.

No one is sure why the whales are doing this, but it seems sharks in other parts of the world are doing the same.

Maybe sonar sounds from wind farming is driving them crazy.

Seed Libraries

A relatively new idea that is spreading across the US is the idea of creating seed libraries. These are usually housed in a public library. Instead of checking out books, people check out seeds. At the end of the season, folks can return dried seeds to the library for next year. It would be an opportunity for SCR garden clubs to partner with their local library. They could collect seeds (think pollinator plants) and label them with growing conditions and contact information for the local SCR club. Many clubs already work with their local library. This is just another way to market a club.

I am attaching an article about seed libraries and photos of our current labels for seed packets that we are putting out at our local library.

Stan Aten
Chairman
Social Media TGC

Litter/Recycling, *Carol Moore, Chairman*

How Can you Be Environmentally Friendly

There are small changes you can make to become more environmentally frienly. Taking these steps will enable you to build a better future for yourself and the next generations.

1. Use Reusable Bags — Plastic grocery bags that get thrown out end up in land-fills or in other part of the environment. These can suffocate animals who get stuck in them or may mistake them for food. Also, it takes a while for the bags to decompose.

2. Recycle — Recycling is such a simple thing to do, but so many people don't do it. Many garbage disposal companies offer recycling services, so check with the company you use to see if they can help you get started>. Another way to recycle is to look for recycling cans near trash cans. Instead of throwing recyclables in the trash with your non-recyclables, make a point to take an extra step to located recy-cling cans around your school campus.

3. Use a reusable beverage container — instead of buying individually-packaged drinks, consider buying a bulk container of the beverage you want as well as a re-usable water bottle. Not only will this help the environment, but it will also help you save money since you are buying bulk container.

4. Save Electricity! — Use energy-efficient light bulbs instead of regular bulbs. They last longer, which will save you a bit of money. Make sure you turn off lights, the TV, and other appliances when you are not using them. Lower the heat and raise the air conditioning — this is especially true between seasons.

5. Save Water

Water is wasted more frequently than we can see. Turn off the faucet as you are brushing your teeth. Don't turn your shower on until you are ready to get in. Limit your water usage as you wash dishes. Changing old habits will be good for both the environment and your wallet.

Herbs, By Sherie Clarkson, Chairman

SCR Special AWARD – Gardening with Herbs

This is a special award that may be awarded to a single club for the most creative landscape using herbs as the main element. Include list of herbs used and their uses. Can be a theme garden. It can be a regular garden or a container garden. This is a special award with $50 to the best garden. And $50 to the best container gardening. Sherie Clarkson, Herb Gardening Chair













Little Known Facts About Tulsa, Oklahoma Garden Club

In our yearbook every year a Brief History is near the front page. We were established on October 6, 1929 and in 1931 began a partnership with Tulsa Parks Department, which continues today, working together to better our community.

In March, 1937, Tulsa was home of the first experimental Rose Garden. We are still involved in this project.

Tulsa Garden Club is the State's longest operating and largest garden club, as a not-for-profit educational organization, with a 501 © (3) tax exemption status subordinate to Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.

All this is in the front of our yearbook, now ….

One of the Charter members of the Tulsa Garden Club was Mrs. Grover Cleveland Spillers. She served as president of Oklahoma Association of Garden Clubs in 1939-1941 and went on to serve on the National Board as Regional Director, Secretary, 2nd and 3rd Vice-President as well as Trustee of the Permanent Home. She was the 12th President of National Garden Clubs, Inc. during 1951-1953. Through her administration, three new committees were added to the Board of Directors: Garden Therapy, Landscape Design and the Anti-Litter program. Each of these committees remains today. In 1944, Lorena Spiller recommended that a scholarship fund be established. It was approved and accepted. The Garden Club of Georgia's gift of $600 began this philanthropic program which is still in effect today.

In 1953 at the annual convention in San Francisco, CA, her husband, Grover suggested that (before name changes) National Council of State Garden Clubs needed and should build a permanent home. As a result of that suggestion the National Council of State Garden Clubs Headquarters was established in St. Louis.

One of her memorable quotes: "*Let us have more garden clubs, more members, more civic beauty and more improved roadsides, as well as more knowledge of conservation and horticulture, that through better gardening we may have better citizens and better communities throughout the length and breadth of this wonderful country of ours ---THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."*

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Cleveland Spillers helped make this organization what it is today.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMNG EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

- **July 22, 2023** — **Flower Show Procedure Course II—Zoom**
  New Mexico Judges Council
  Sandrego@aol.com
- **July 29 & 30, 2023** — **Flower Show School II, ABQ, NM**
  New Mexico Judge Council
  Sandrego@aol.com
- **January** — **Flower Show School III, ABQ, NM**
  New Mexico Judge Council
  Sandrego@aol.com

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!

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