SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

The Communicator

2023 VOL. 14—October, 2023

Sarah McReynolds, Director 2023-2025

The Great Adventures of our South Central Region Director

Message from Our SCR Director...

Plant America – Pollinate South Central"

South Central Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc, consists of the states of Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. We are a unified group of members that are dedicated to the region. At the National Conventions you will find us all seated together for a few of the meals. They are helpful and supportive of each state.

Arkansas is hosted the first ever NGC School in the state that is not a Flower Show School. It was a cooperative effort between the Arkansas Master Gardeners and the AFGC. Course 1 of Garden Study School was held on September 22 and 23. They maxed out at 50 registered students two weeks before the class. Also, in August, they started another series of Flower Show Schools and will be having Course 2 in March. So, they are learning in Arkansas. They had a summer midterm two day convention including a Flower Show, an old fashion tea, margarita night, auctions and great programs. As Director I was able to attend this memorable event. Save the date of April 24-25 for the SCR Spring Convention, hosted by Arkansas in Little Rock. Their President is Pamela Harris.

New Mexico has just turned in all the paperwork for our very first Gold Star Marker which will go in Angel Fire sometime in 2024. The NM Judges Council is hosted a design program, dinner and hands on workshop featuring National instructor and designer David Robson, October 13-14, in Albuquerque. They just completed Flower Show School II in July and all 7 students passed. FSS IV will be held in January 2024.Their President is Debra Sorrell.

Oklahoma is hitting on all cylinders this year with gardening at the forefront.

The theme and Presidents Project, "Green Grows the Garden – Plant OK", includes an opportunity to purchase a commemorative throw of Oklahoma, which I purchased.

The annual Wildflower Workshop "Wild About Wildflowers" was held in Broken Arrow, OK on October 18, 2023. It proved to be spectacular.

Gardening School Series Z-001, Courses 1-4, will be held starting November 4, 2023, and there are numerous flower shows scheduled throughout the remainder of the garden club year.

As icing on the cake, the Lakeside Garden Club in the northeastern district in Afton, OK hosted a LUAU to celebrate their 71st Anniversary. I as Director, went to this glorious event. Congratulations Lakeside! Their President is Carolyn McCabe.

Continued on Next Page .....

Directors Message Continued from Page 2.

Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. offers all four NGC Schools. They have Flower Show Schools offered in Dallas and Houston, Landscape Design School offered in College Station, and Environmental School offered in the Groesbeck/Mexia area near Fort Parker State Park, and Gardening School in San Antonio.

Their TGC Spring Convention carried a delightful Hawaiian theme. The tropical flowers were extraordinary, and a new representative appeared...Hondo, the hummingbird, as the super pollinator, symbolizing beauty, resilience, strength and joy for Texas Garden Clubs during the next two years. Their President is Lee Taylor.

So we are busy and excited about the next two years of supporting our theme for the region, Plant America-Pollinate South Central Region. We have three awards for planting pollinators.

Fondly, Sarah McReynolds

US Native Wildflower Seed Bombs for Pollinators Regional Wildflower Mix Seed Balls for Gardening (Southwest)… available from Heather White Chairman

"Pollinating South-Central Region Project for Scholarships" Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas Specific Seedballs.

- ATTRACTIVE US NATIVE PERENNIALS & ANNUALS: Vibrant flowers selected for beauty, durability, and pollinator value.
- POLLINATOR FRIENDLY: Great for attracting bees, butterflies (includes regionally native milkweed), and hummingbirds; Non-GMO, pesticide and herbicide free
- SCIENTIFICALLY DEVELOPED SOIL: Blend of sustainably sourced compost and iron rich clay
- EFFORTLESS & ENJOYABLE GARDENING: Perfect for new gardeners, kids, and seniors; use for native wildflower gardens, backyard habitats, and pollinator support
- SATISFACTION GUARANTEED: Contains multiple seeds per ball and the essential nutrients and microbes for optimal germination and growth.

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**

South Central Region

"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

Message from Arkansas 2023-2025 President, Pam Ellis

I think October is my favorite month of the year with the leaves changing and the temperatures aren't sweltering. My gardens are having one last blast and looking beautiful with the cooler temps and extra rain. It's also a very busy time of the year for the AFGC because of the District Meetings. I have already had the pleasure of attending the Northwest District meeting hosted by Petit Jean Garden Club in Petit Jean State Park. If you've never been to Petit Jean, it's not to be missed. It is the first of fifty-two state parks in Arkansas and the start of the Arkansas State Park Systems. The park and lodge were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and their original buildings and trails are still standing. The views were stunning; the food amazing and the speaker inspiring with his history of Petit Jean. Michael Ghidotti gave an excellent talk on how to care for your tools as he was sharpening our tools. That alone was worth the price of the registration.

I'm heading to Hamburg next week for the Southeast district meeting. Those ladies always provide a fun time and I am sure that this meeting will be no exception. Then October 17th will be the Southwest District at DeGray State Park with a speaker from Garvin Gardens. I am so excited to get to visit these Arkansas state parks for the first time. Arkansas really has earned its nickname, "The Natural State". The beauty around us is overwhelming. That is followed by Northeast District with their meeting in Forrest City. The program will be on birds and their speakers are always fascinating. And last but not least is Pulaski District. They always finish the state tour with a big bang. It will be November 7th at Thompson Library with Speaker Margie Raimondo, owner of Urban Farmstead, Chef, Author, and Documentary Filmmaker, speaking on "Nourishing Body and Soul". So, as you can see, that there is plenty of time to register for these meetings and you won't want to miss the fun. We can't offer these wonderful programs without your support so I look forward to seeing all of you there.

My President's Project was to encourage NGC Schools, Flower Show, Environmental and Landscape Design, in Arkansas. I am happy to report that we had a very successful Course 1 Flower Show School chaired by Rose Knight in August. This is the second round is as many years and there will be a Course 2 March 4-7 if there is enough

Continued from Previous Page.

participation to justify it. If you would like to know more about making flower designs or you're just nosy about what those judges are talking about when they are in there all by themselves, then this is the class for you. You can take it for credit or, if you would just want to learn without becoming a judge, you can audit. The brochure is on the website.

September 22 and 23, there was the very first NGC Gardening School in Arkansas. It was also the first collaboration between the NGC and the Master Gardeners in the United States. We had a total of 58 people registered with 35 taking it both days and 23 for one day. The registration was filled in two weeks with 9 NGC members and 54 Master Gardeners. Some of the registrars were both Garden Clubbers and Master Gardeners. We had 1 person from Georgia and 4 from Tennessee. We are hoping to follow up with Course 2 next September so if you are interested, get your registration in early.

Please save the date for the South-Central Region – Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs Convention April 22-25 to be held at the Four Points by Sheraton in Little Rock. This is a party not to be missed with programs by Janice Hamlin, Heather Runyon, Chris Olsen, Sarah McReynolds, and Chris Norwood. Hope to see you there.

Pam Ellis, Arkansas President

"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 New Mexico 2023-2025 President, *Debra Sorrell*

"Grow Through What You Go Through"

New Mexico garden clubs around the state are extremely busy at the end of summer and early fall. In addition to caring for and harvesting their own gardens, members have put on some wonderful county fair shows! Entries have really dropped off since Covid stopped everything in 2020. It's been slow and difficult to rebuild but garden clubbers are determined people! With a "never say die" attitude, flower shows happened all over the state. September always brings the NM State Fair, held in Albuquerque. Members and many other volunteers do four adult flower shows and two youth flower shows during the 12 day fair! It's an amazing feat!! It takes great leadership and a lot of folks to pull it off. The "Red or Green? New Mexico True" theme gave the schedule writers and participants a wonderful opportunity to showcase our beautiful state. I attended almost all of those fairs this year and I am very proud of our members for working so hard to keep these traditions alive.

Because of the enormous fires that ravaged New Mexico forests in 2022, I chose the sale of 500 Penny Pines plantations as my term's Presidents project. One fire (Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon) burned over 340,000 acres or the equivalent of 535 square miles. It was started as a prescribed burn which joined another fire and was the largest fire it the history of the state. It was also the largest fire in the United States (lower 48) for 2022. Another fire in the southern part of the state that burned 320,000 would have been the largest fire on record for New Mexico……except for the one burning, at the same time, in the northern part of the state. A total of 905,000 acres burned across the state in 2022 alone! 500 plantations is a large number for a membership of less than 500 people but there is a lot of enthusiasm to make it happen. One club is collecting enough for a plantation every time they meet and pass the jar around. Another club raised enough for 7 plantations at one meeting! At one of our District meeting they collected enough for 4 plantations. I am very excited to see what will happen over the next few months!

Planning has begun for the Spring convention that will be held in Santa Fe, April 10-11, 2024. It's a beautiful, historic, artistic city and we are looking forward to sharing it with Sarah McReynolds, SCR Director. If anyone is interested in experiencing a different part of your Region, please come as well. We would be most happy to share our history, hospitality and the best green chili you will ever eat!

Debra Sorrell, NMGC President

Message from Oklahoma 2023-2025 President, Carolyn McCabe

"Green Grows the Garden—Plant OK"

Oklahoma is hitting on all cylinders this year with gardening at the forefront.

The President's Project, "Green Grows the Garden – Plant OK", includes an opportunity to support the project by purchasing a commemorative throw. (Picture below)

The annual Wildflower Workshop "Wild About Wildflowers" plans are in full swing and will be held in Broken Arrow, OK on October 18, 2023, hosted by the NED. It proves to be spectacular.

Gardening School Series Z-001, Courses 1-4, will be held on November 4, 2023 and there are numerous flower shows scheduled throughout the remainder of the year.

As icing on the cake, the Lakeside Garden Club in the NED in Afton, OK hosted a LUAU to celebrate their 71st Anniversary. Fun for everyone. Congratulations Lakeside!

The Dahlia Garden Club of Walters, OK held their annual luncheon. A presentation on "The Wonderful Honey Bee" was given by me.

The Annual OGC State convention will be held in Guymon, OK in 2024 on Thursday and Friday, April 12th and 13th.

Carolyn McCabe—OGC President

Message from Texas 2023-2025 President, Lee Taylor

"Choose your path and make a difference "

What an honor and a privilege it is to serve as the new President for the great State of Texas for the next two years (2023-2025).

My theme will be *Choose your Path and Make a Difference* promoting harmony, utilizing the hummingbird which is the symbol for joy as well as being one of the best pollinators.

One of my goals is supporting the four National Garden Clubs schools. In Texas, we have Flower Show Schools in both Dallas and Houston…Gardening School in San Antonio…Landscape Design School held at the George Bush Library located on the Texas A&M Campus in College station…and Environmental School held at Fort Parker State Park in Mexia, Texas. Our most recent symposium was held in San Antonio sponsored by the San Antonio Judges' Council.

The State of Texas was divided by Texas A&M University into nine soil districts which are the basis of our organization. The Panhandle – The High Plaines, the Blacklands – Red River Valley, East Texas – the Tall Pines, the Coastal Prairie – the Golden Triangle, Central Texas, the Hill Country, the Magic Valley (located at the Delta of the Rio Grande), the Coastal Bend – South Texas – the Upper Valley – Winter Garden, the Plateau Region – the Pecos Country, and El Paso – the Mountain Region. We have 7,812 members, 27 affiliates, 193 clubs, 7 Judges' Councils, 7 Councils and 2 youth clubs.

Each District elects a District Director to oversee their daily business and a Trustee who oversees the operation and maintenance of our Headquarters building, which is located in Fort Worth, nestled in an area located on the campus of the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens.

We have a Fall Board Meeting and a Spring Convention each year and the Trustees also meet once during the summer months to check out the conditions of Headquarters. October 18 will be my first Fall Board Meeting with members. I am really looking forward to this.

Lee Taylor, Texas Garden Clubs President

BREAKING NEWS from National Garden Clubs
Award Chairman—Diane Harbin

Dear Region Directors, State Presidents, and State Awards Chairmen,

To be current, environmentally responsible, and fiscally prudent, and to comply with President Brenda Moore's theme, Go Green-Plant America, all NGC Award applications will be submitted electronically through Dropbox (with the links provided below) to you. You do not need to have a personal Dropbox to submit awards.

The link below will take you directly to the upload page for awards. Please upload each award application as a separate file and you don't have to upload them all at one time (just make sure they are uploaded by the due date). The link will not work after the deadline.

To put the application in the Dropbox, name each file like this:
NGC Award #, size
State
For example, CE-2-1-small Georgia. This means CE-2 Permanent Community Improvements 1-Garden Club. small-club size, from-Georgia.

This will allow the applications to be sorted properly.

As a reminder, your completed file must include:
NGC cover sheet (may be found in the forms library on the NGC website)
supporting documents

Submit all awards (except Flower Show Achievement) applications via this link:
https://www.dropbox.com/request/vivVL4r7QfTRjkKvl3TX

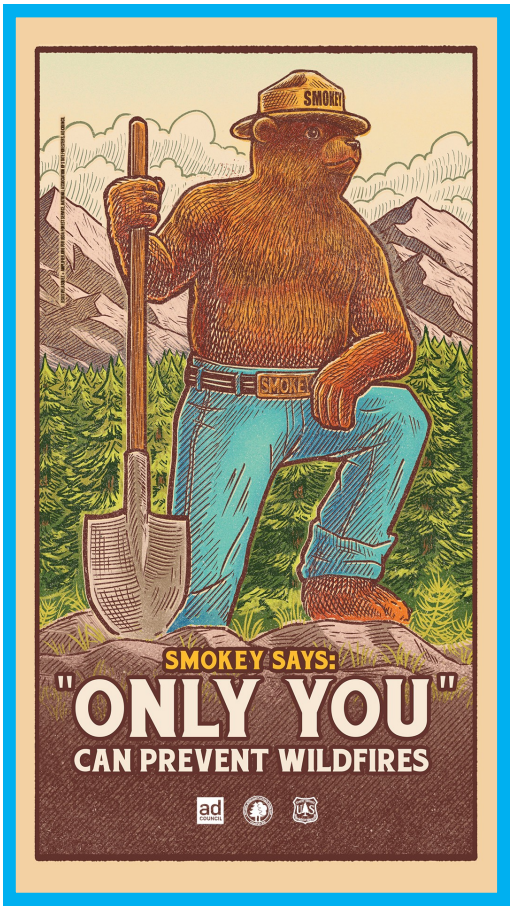
Submit Flower Show Achievement applications via this link:
https://www.dropbox.com/request/FFsOqruvF6vNsOBdnd1y

These links are for the State Awards Chairmen's use only. Do NOT share these links with members.

Thank you for your participation. We know this is a new process, and we are available for support.

Sincerely,
Diane Harbin, NGC Awards Chairman, 706-346-6510
Vera Bowen, Flower Show Achievement Chairman, 401-225-9680

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



Dear SCR Members,
This year's contest is dedicated to Smokey Bear's 80th birthday!! As in the past, children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2024 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles. All poster entrees must be sponsored by a local NGC-affiliated Garden Club. Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires! Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy' s environmental message: Lend a Hand, Care for the Land! Posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires and protecting the environment. Each entry should be 11 x 17 inches in size. The following information should be written on the back of the poster in the lower-right corner: the artist's name, address, home phone number, grade level, school, teacher's name, city, and state. Should school policy preclude giving students' address and phone number, please include the school address and phone number. Each poster must also show the name of the sponsoring local Garden Club as well as an address, phone number, and email for the local Garden Club. (Do not use a dark marker for this information as it may show through.) If you have a grandchild or know of young children that would qualify to enter, please sponsor them! 1st place winners in each grade level are due to me by February 24, 2024 (Note: please do not judge Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl posters separately!). My address is: 305 Fairmount Park Avenue NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123. For complete rules, ideas, etc….go to the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org and then go to Youth Contests. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions! I'm here to help! Thank you!

Jennifer Moreno,
NM State and SCR Regional Chairman
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
Email: Moreno_jen@aps.edu
Phone: 505-217-4307

Daffodils

After this very hot summer, I am sure that daffodils are not the first plant that comes to your mind. However, this is the time of year to order your daffodil bulbs for planting in late October and November.

Daffodils are one of the easiest plants to add to a garden. They have some simple requirements: a) well drained soil, b) lots of sunshine in the winter and early spring (May) and then a lot of neglect which is like growing wildflowers. A master gardener told me the rule of thumb is if you can grow tomatoes in a space, you can grow daffodils there.

You can grow some daffodils in North Texas but not every daffodil can deal with our summer heat. Also, I would avoid buying daffodils in a Big Box store since they usually get there daffodil shipments in August, and they can't be planted until the soil temperature drops to about 65 degrees which is usually early November.

If you are unsure about a daffodil, your best source for identification is daff-seek.org. This handy website usually has a photo of the daffodil, the date it was introduced, the height of the plant, and when it usually blooms. Blooming dates are described as early, middle, and late. Early in North Texas is late Dec. and January. Middle is more Feb. and March. Late is April and sometimes May. Those dates assume a normal winter of rain, sleet, snow, and cold weather.

However, recent winters have been anything but normal so daffodils may bloom earlier or later than during a normal winter.

When planting daffodils, you should plant 3 times the length of the bulb. After you plant the bulb, it is ok to add an inch or two of mulch over the bulb to give it a little extra protection against warm weather.

Here are a few photos of daffodils from my garden (see attached photos).

Stan Aten, President -Rainbow Garden Club North Texas

"Strike A Pose" - Wedging Your Cut Specimens *By Pam Grotts*

Every year we get that wonderful thing called a Flower Show Schedule. First thing we do is always go see if we are growing anything we can enter. Is there a design we can make? Then we sit down and read the thing from front to back and start making our plans to enter.

When the time comes, we go out extra early to pull our specimens, making sure to only take our best. WE travel them to the show listening to the water and praying we have them stable and none will turnover on the trip. When we arrive, we look everything over, smile that nothing is out of place. Carry everything in, grabbing our entry cards and hoping we didn't forget anything.

Once inside, our focus is on putting our cut specimens into the clear containers and we realize our specimen isn't standing tall and is definitely not standing straight.

What are you going to do now?
First grab that schedule of yours, you know the one that still has a stain where you used a muddy thumb to turn a page, and look at the class your slouching bloom is in, does it say, "NO WEDGING ALLOWED?" If it doesn't say this, and let me repeat this statement – If the schedule does <u>not</u> tell you that you cannot use wedging, then you are golden, you are getting ready to have a stand-up bloom for the show!
Wedging is defined in our Flower Show Handbook as a technique used by horticulture exhibitors to improve the specimen's pose for all cut exhibits while remaining inconspicuous. Standing tall, standing straight and all it takes is gently putting something around the stem of that specimen that does not detract from the bloom or foliage, and does not obscure the vision of the judges as they peer into that clear container.

What can you use for wedging? Well, again go look at that schedule – does it tell you what materials are allowed? If it does, then you must utilize the material allowed or you risk being disqualified. Only one type of wedging is allowed to ensure uniformity in a flower show schedule. If it does not, then you get to choose what best suits your specimen. Remember if the flower show schedule does not address wedging, then the only thing stopping you from using it is you. Continued on Next page ……..

"Strike A Pose" - Wedging Your Cut Specimens *Continued*

Many exhibitors will carry a small ball of plastic wrap and simply cut off a little with their nippers/scissors and gently poke the wad around the stem at the throat of the container – just a little tight so that the stem is not touching the bottom of the container or leaning. Not so tight that you cause bruising to the stem which is visible to the judges. Be gentle, you don't want to break the stem as you poke the plastic wrap in and around it.

Because it is clear, the plastic wrap does not detract from the bloom, and if you trim any excess, it does not detract from the stem in the container or the foliage above, giving you a well put together exhibit that is nicely posed and neat in appearance.

What are some other wedging materials? A few examples might be clear bubble wrap, cork, green sponge, Styrofoam, or even other greens that are cut short and wedged unobtrusively.

Pose is one of the most important parts of the presentation of your horticulture exhibit that only YOU can control, get your wedging skills honed and use them! Your perfect wedge can help give those judges a great first impression of your exhibit!

So you won! And your club has decided you are the Subject Material Expert on staging cut specimens for Horticulture – and when they decide to put on their own show – you are asked to assist with drafting staging of cut specimens for the Horticulture Division. What are you going to do?

Well, it's time to pull out Chapter 4 of the Flower Show Handbook and start reviewing things like how the cut specimens should be staged, is the club or the exhibitor going to provide the containers? Are you going to allow the exhibitor to choose to provide or use the containers your club provides?

Are those exhibitors with top heavy sunflowers going to be allowed to put a few glass marbles or pebbles in the bottom to hold them up? ***Remember that pebbles and glass marbles are not allowed to be used as wedging! Continued .....***

"Strike A Pose" - Wedging Your Cut Specimens *Continued*

Look at the selection of the cut specimens chosen, what would be the best type of wedging to be allowed? Remember your exhibit? Would it have been easier if the wedging materials had been named for each class? A club can provide the wedging material for the show – is this something you want to suggest increasing the uniformity of the classes?

Wedging is often overlooked in smaller shows and is often forgotten when drafting a flower show schedule. But its importance to helping create a beautiful, uniform, and impressive flower show are undeniable. Take the time to not forget it in your next exhibition or show schedule – your cut specimens will demand attention as they strike a pose!

SCR LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN,

Mary Ann Holman

The holiday season will soon be upon us. Honor that special friend or someone in your club with a SCR Life Membership! 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 2025).

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

The 71st Lakeside Garden Club of Ketchum Anniversary Luncheon

A grand total of 67 Lakeside Garden Club Members, Associates, Honorary members, and their guests attended the 71st-anniversary luncheon decorated for a Hawaiian Luau at the Coves Club in Cleora on Thursday, September 14, 2023. Their mission is to establish a friendly and common interest in gardening and provide educational resources and opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

The newly appointed president, Kathy Moore, opened the meeting by acknowledging the special guest speaker Sarah McReynolds, director of the South Central Region, and speaker Carolyn McCabe, president of the Oklahoma Garden Clubs (OGC). She also recognized April Pratt, OGC treasurer, Judy Grotts, Treasurer of the Northeast District of Oklahoma, and Tulsa Garden Club's member, Marillyn Lay. The entertainment was luau dancers from Tulsahula.com.

Pollinators were the topic presented by Sarah McReynolds (representing the four states of New Mexico, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma). She brought awareness of how vital pollinators were and mentioned that "every three bites of food we eat wouldn't be possible without pollinators," She also encouraged members to visit their website at scrgardenclubs.org and apply for the Plant America Grant.

Some contests to enter, throws for sale, and a convention were some topics suggested by Carolyn McCabe. She informed members about her organization's website at oklahomagardenclub.com and to review information about competitions for adults and children. The funds for the contests were made possible by the sale of throws for $75. Keep checking the site for more information about the convention that will be held in Guymon, OK, on April 12 and 13, 2024.

Kathy then directed members' attention to the gifts on the tropically decorated tables. Everyone received a packet of wildflower seeds to incorporate the National theme "Go Green Plant America" and Lakeside club's theme for the year is "The Flowers of All Tomorrows are the Seeds of Today." She then introduced Lizzie Watkins who sang the "Garden Song '' written by David Mallett. ***(Continued on Next Page)***

The 71st Lakeside Garden Club of Ketchum Anniversary Luncheon

Continued .....

The newly appointed officers for the two-year term were introduced: President Kathy Moore, 1st Vice President Kathi Addison, 2nd Vice President Sally Hall, Secretary Sondra Whitt, and Treasurer Theresa Monchil.

Before the catered Hawaiian lunch, provided by Klein Hospitality, was served and the entertainment from the luau dancers began, the historian committee chairman, Judy Masters, presented a scrapbook of photos and news articles to past president Anne Torres commemorating her two years as President.

For the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, October 12, members are encouraged to wear a witch's hat and the guest speaker will be Doug Anderson, who will be talking about protecting ourselves from scams. More information can be found on the club's Facebook page at Lakeside Garden Club of Ketchum, OK.

Photo from left to right: Kayla, Sondra Whitt (Secretary), Sally Hall, (2nd Vice President), Kathy Moore (President), Kathi Addison (1st Vice President), Theresa Monchil (Treasurer), Naomi.

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.

Baby Its Cold Outside, continued from page 30

Register your cell phone for emergency notifications. Go to https://www.weather.gov/alerts to register

Check your roof for leaks, especially around flashing where many leaks occur

Check your gutters and downspouts

Clear culverts and maintain proper drainage around your property

Check window glazing for leaks and re-glaze if needed

Check stressed trees by calling in an arborist if you have concerns

Prepare a family disaster plan and family disaster kit. For more information go to www.ready.gov

Assemble emergency supply kits for your home, workplace and vehicles

Maintain fuel supplies in your car in case power outages result in a fuel supply problem

Consider a small generator if your property is prone to power outages

Let's all stay safe and warm this winter!

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 website.
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.

IT IS AWARDS TIME AGAIN!

It is awards time again and we are all hoping for a lot of awards from all the clubs in every state. Please be sure to check the dates that the Applications are to be postmarked by for National Garden Clubs (NGC) Awards, The SCR Region Awards and Your State Awards. Don't miss out because you are late with your submission. The Judges have very little time to score and grade your applications before they have to send them on to the next level of judges. Almost all of the award applications need to go through the local District judging chairs before they are passed up to the State chairs and then to the State and SCR Chairman.

There is also a revised SCR Awards Guidelines on the SCR Website as of July, 2023. The change is mainly that ALL AWARDS need to come digital now. NGC will return any award applications that do not come to them digital.

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

#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!"**
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%

Did you know that South Central Region has a website with lots of information, upcoming convention information and archived copies of "The Communicator" (The Official tri-annual publication of South Central Region).

Website address: scrgardenclubs.org **Password: FUTURE**

South Central Region's Annual Convention 2024 "Spring Fling"

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs Pulaski District is honored to host the upcoming SCR Convention on April 24-25, 2024. The event will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton conveniently located at 925 S University Avenue in the midtown area of Little Rock. Shuttle service from the airport to the hotel is provided. Prior to this event is the annual AFGC Convention on April 22-23. We welcome you to attend it as well.

AFGC CONVENTION

Monday, April 22, 2024, we will begin our journey by traveling to the islands. "On Island Time" is the theme. Hostesses will greet you with a warm smile and a lei. Attendees will enjoy a delicious buffet featuring Caribbean foods. Janice Hamlin, retired NGC Design Instructor, will be the guest speaker. Immediately following her presentation of floral designs, there will be an "On Island Time" fundraiser party benefiting our flower show schools. We encourage attendees to dress to fit the theme and enjoy the adult beverages and activities!

Tuesday, April 23, 2024, will be the AFGC business meeting. An Italian buffet will be served to compliment our theme of "That's Amore!" Heather Runyan, Park Interpreter from Logoly State Park, will be speaking to us about native plants. Following the business meeting, Janice Hamlin will conduct a workshop.

The evening event is "Denim and Pearls." Members are designing the Western themed centerpieces and competing for a coveted "People's Choice Award." A BBQ buffet will be served, and members may participate in activities such as line dancing. It will be fun to see everyone dressed in their denim and pearls!

Continued on Next Page …….

South Central Region's Annual Convention 2024 "Spring Fling"

SCR CONVENTION

Wednesday, April 24, 2024, we will view the gardens and have lunch at the Edgemont House, a historic Spanish Colonial Revival style home lovingly restored by owner, Chris Olsen who will host the event. Chris is an award winning and nationally recognized home and garden guru. Following the executive board meetings, Janice Hamlin will conduct a workshop and our own SCR Director, Sarah McReynolds, will present a session on Pollinator Punch! Doesn't that sound delicious! That evening we will be transported to the French Quarter to enjoy the flavors of New Orleans cuisine at our evening event called "The Big Easy." Janice Hamlin will present part two of her exciting demonstration on floral design.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

Thursday, April 25, 2024, will be the SCR Business meeting and we will be traveling "South of the Border" featuring a Mexican buffet for lunch. The luncheon speaker will be Dr. Victor Ford, Associate Vice President - Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-

Continued on Next Page …….

Thursday evening will be a reception honoring our director and president before we arrive at the last destination on our journey. With the theme, "Under the Eiffel Tower," members and guests will dine on Chicken Cordon Bleu. The featured speaker is Christopher Norwood, Vice President of Tipton & Hurst Florist. Chris began his career in the industry at the age of fourteen. He is an outstanding designer, and we are fortunate to have him share his talent with us. Many of you have viewed the "Happies" that he started during the covid outbreak. If you haven't, check them out at the Tipton & Hurst website.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

The most important ingredient for a successful convention, no matter how exciting the plan, is YOU! Please make plans to attend both conventions and make our "Spring Fling" in Little Rock an outrageous success! We want it to be over the top and only you can make that happen! See you in Little Rock in April 2024!

Have you ever wanted to take the National Garden Clubs Garden Studies Course??

Now is the perfect time to start!!

Cushing Gladiolas of, Oklahoma is sponsoring a ZOOM Garden Study Course 1.

For more information email Judy Grotts at grotts@cotc.net

Or …. See the brochure attached to this issue of "The Communicator".

Sarah McReynolds, NGC Garden Study Chairman

NGC Gardening Across America: Plant America-Feed America

Our NGC President, Brenda Moore is encouraging all of the members to help fight food insecurity across the country with her project "Plant America-Feed America". The need for fresh produce is critical, especially for families and seniors who don't have the much money to purchase the expensive fresh fruit and vegetables. Our food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, women's shelters etc., that help feed the less fortunate can use all the help they can get! And this is where garden club members can help. There is a form in a link on the NGC website: PLANT AMERICA, Feed America (wufoo.com), to participate in this project.

In order to keep track of the progress, anyone who:
1. Participates in donating fresh produce, fruit, herbs, etc. to local organizations who help feed the hungry, is being asked to fill out one of the electronic donation forms.
2. For those who don't grow vegetables any longer, you can also fill out a form if you volunteer in a community garden where items are donated to local organizations.
3. If a member donates a monetary donation to a local organization to help fight food insecurity, they can fill out a donation form as well! Or contact, Suzanne Bushnell smbushnell@comcast.net, Plant America, Feed America Chairman

Let's all garden for a reason. Many gardeners have surplus fall vegetables and herbs they can grow and share.
Now is the time to plant that fall garden in many areas. Plants that do well are: Cauliflower, Swiss Chard, Turnips, Brussels Sprouts, Collards, Kohlrabi, Garlic, Peas, Beans, Mustard Greens, Arugula, Rutabaga, Parsley, Beetroot, Radish, Cabbage, Kale and Cabbage to name a few. Also contemplate planting fall herbs such as Rosemary, Thyme, Sage, Chives, Parsley, Basil, Cilantro, Oregano, Dill, Tarragon, Fennel etc.

Also remember to check the NGC website out at gardenclub.org for all the Garden Study Schools. Many are Zoom as well as in person and everyone can attend.

Photos:
En.Wikipedia.org

Organic Gardening *Bobbie Mason, Chairman*

THE GARDEN NEEDS A CHANGE

By Jane Slone (A woman who wears many hats and garden gloves)

"LIFE WITHOUT CHEMICALS"

"Organic" is soil created by the decomposition of plant and animal materials to create nutrients and minerals to provide a rich mini ecosystem. This type of environment is teaming with microorganisms that feed and breathe life back into the soil. Organic soil is what we find in nature before the addition of chemicals to the soil." Before synthetic and modified ingredients depleted the soil of its natural power, this is how soil existed." https://kellogggarden.com/

This is hard to think about when we want a quick and easy garden. Soil is soil, dirt is dirt. It is important to know the difference. You can compare soil and dirt to a person who eats a healthy meal, with vitamins and minerals. And those who do no teat healthily. Another basic need is water and sunshine, to be healthy. Change can be a crucial step toward a healthy garden and healthy eating. The first thing you need to consider is what massive things need to change in your garden. Here is a check list of the items that need to be adjusted/ to make the change from non-organic to organic: The seeds or plants you purchase are an especially important choice for organic gardeners.

The dirt you use for planting.
The way you feed your plants.
The way you keep bugs off your plants.
The way you keep weeds out of your garden.
IT MAY NOT BE AN EASY TASK.

The dirt you plant into:

My personal favorite way to organically enhance my soil is with good old fashioned homemade compost. It is the easiest thing in the world guys. You can hardly mess it up. Just be mindful that what you put in is organic, and you will end up with beautiful humus perfectly made for your garden. And it is FREE!

Definition humus" the organic component of soil, formed by the decomposition of leaves and other plant material by soil and microorganisms." ("humus noun the organic component of soil, formed by the ... - Reddit")

Two phenomenal products that will supply your plants with the nutrition they need to produce lush, abundant growth. ***Continued on Next Page .....***

Organic Compost "humus" is from composted vegetables, grass clippings, and other natural materials, fully composted. NO MEAT PRODUCTS/ NO ANIMAL EXCRETMENT IF THEY ARE MEAT EATERS.

Earthworm Castings area useful source of bacteria and organic matter, nitrate nitrogen, exchangeable calcium and magnesium, available phosphorus, and potassium, no meat products or waste such as animal excrement.

NITRATE Blood Meal or Alfalfa Meal/ Most compost can provide nutrient, to the soil however to quickly add nitrogen to your garden soil use blood meal or calcium nitrate. Use certain animal manures such as poultry manure, bat guano, and worm castings.

STOP TILLING But another reIt is not a complicated process that involves adding animal manure (do not use cat or dog manure) to a bucket and then filling the bucket with water. Use plant-based products such as seaweed, corn gluten meal, and fruit vinegar.

FEEDING YOUR GARDEN **S**pread a minimum of 2 to 3 inches of compost or aged manure onto your soil (and no more than four inches).

BUG OFF cover your garden with black plastic or cardboard for 6 months. The heat that builds up underneath it will kill most garden pests and their eggs, weeds, parasites, and a host of other harmful microorganisms.
Birds are important to gardeners by eating a considerable number of insects and are natural and attractive garden residents.
Ladybugs can be invaluable in the fight against garden insect pests. The ladybugs also eat aphids, mites and the eggs and larvae of many destructive insects. There are other beneficial garden bugs including praying mantises, lacewings, and wasps. These insects can be purchased from large horticultural supply companies.

WEEDS NEED TO BE "GONE" Acetic acid is the active ingredient that makes vinegar a weed killer. White vinegar contains about 5% acetic acid. This level of acetic acid burns the tops off weeds but is less likely to kill anything with well-established roots. For a vinegar weed killer to be most effective, you will need to apply it frequently.

Boiling water Pour a pot of boiling water directly on top of the offending weeds. Within days, scalding water will make even the toughest plants start to shrivel. This makes skillful use of the leftover water from boiled pasta, so save water and dump it into out into your yard, not down the drain.

Baby It's Cold Outside! *By Karen Taylor—Environmental Chairman*

Well, maybe not yet! Many of us in the South Central Region are still experiencing temps in the 90's, but hang on to your hats (your winter hats, that is)! Per the experts, we are in for a rough winter.

The Farmers Almanac is forecasting cooler temperatures and snowy weather conditions for the contiguous United States during this 2023-2024 winter season.

Farmers Almanac map showing unseasonably cold and stormy for our region

Weather experts are warning this winter to look drastically different than recent years because of El Niño. El Niño is one of three phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation, which tracks water temperature changes in the equatorial Pacific Ocean that can have rippling effects on weather patterns around the globe. The El Niño phase occurs when these ocean temperatures are warmer than normal for an extended period.

What to expect in our region - In an El Niño winter the position of the jet stream often shifts south. This shift typically brings wetter and cooler weather to the South. Storms can move across the South with increased frequency. More storms means more precipitation. The combination of cooler weather and more frequent precipitation may also increase chances of wintry precipitation like freezing rain, sleet and snow fall in the South.

How to prepare for an El Niño winter - Here is a list of things to think about when preparing for an El Niño winter:

Continued On Page 21 …….

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.**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMNG EVENTS AROUND THE REGION:

November 4 & 10, 2023	**Gardening School I —via ZOOM** **Cushing Gladiolas Garden Club** **Judy Grotts— grotts@cotc.net**
January 13, 20-21 , 2024	**Flower Show School III, ABQ, NM** **New Mexico Judge Council** **Suzy Andrego—Sandrego@aol.com**
January 19-21, 2024	**Environmental School II** **Old Fort Parker State Park, Texas (on the lake)** **esarabeth@aol.com**
April 24-25, 2024	**SCR Convention** **Little Rock, Arkansas** **Nancy Rana - nancygmrana@gmail.com**
July 20, 27-28, 2024	**Flower Show School IV, ABQ, NM** **New Mexico Judge Council** **Suzy Andrego—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!

South Central Communicator Editor

Suzy Andrego

Communicator Email address: Sandrego@aol.com

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