

Key Notes

South Atlantic Region

Winter 2010
Vol. 6, Issue 2



THE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“Color Our World--Passing On Our Gardening Heritage”

MEET YOU AT THE CONVENTION!

With the theme **Color Our World - Exciting**, board members of the South Atlantic Region, led by convention chairman Pat Abercrombie and her assistant Pat Troutman, are busy preparing for the 2010 Regional Convention at Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort near Pawleys Island, SC on March 14-16. The location is on the beach just south of Myrtle Beach, and the spring flowers should be in their full glory by then. Convention attendees will have the opportunity to visit historic Brookgreen Gardens with their world-renowned sculptures collected by Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington and take a boat tour of an old rice plantation where they can observe the vegetation of the South Carolina Lowcountry.

- Dr. Paul T. Gayes, Director of the Center for Marine and Wetland Studies and Palmetto Professor of Marine Science and Geology at Coastal Carolina University will present a Good Soil workshop and beach walk.
- James Cothran, Landscape Design expert, author and professor will speak on Pass On Our Gardening Heritage.
- NGC President Renee Blaschke will be with us to enjoy the design program, tours and wonderful Lowcountry cuisine.

Registration forms are on the SAR website at southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org.

Plan to join us for this first glimpse of spring!

MEET YOUR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Golden Patterson is the oldest of six children and grew up on a small farm in West Virginia. She milked cows, grew strawberries and black raspberries, raised chickens, and helped her father scythe the filth and hay on the farm. She was her father's "right hand man"! Graduating at the top of her class, she was awarded a scholarship to West Virginia University

where she majored in biology and minored in chemistry. Due to the Vietnam War, she and her husband accepted teaching jobs in Poquoson, VA and taught there and in Williamsburg before moving back to her hometown of Buckhannon, WV in 1969. The years that followed included teaching biology and substituting at the local high school interspersed with raising four children.

It was during this time in the mid-70's that she became involved with a local landscaper in landscaping the new high school and in developing a nature trail there. The landscaper introduced her to the local garden club, but she did not get really involved until she became president in 1988 and drove alone to the state convention in Charleston. Since she did not know anyone there, she began talking to everyone and had a wonderful time.

That fall the incoming WVGCI President, Ann Sampson, asked her to serve as state Garden Therapy Chairman. She then served as WVGCI Scholarship Chairman, Corresponding Secretary, Second Vice President (Awards Chairman), First Vice President (District Directors Coordinator) and became WVGCI President in 2001. She has also served as SAR Garden Therapy Chairman, Recording Secretary and as a member of the NGC Nominating Committee and NGC Pesticide Chairman. She is both a Landscape Design and Environmental Studies Consultant and has served as Flower Show School Chairman and Flower Show Chairman. One of her favorite aspects of "garden clubbing" is educating children and thus "Passing On Our Gardening Heritage." She currently works as a part-time church secretary/administrative assistant and helps her children and six grandchildren.

Carolyn Patterson



REPORTS OF STATE PRESIDENTS

Garden Club of South Carolina

Betsy Steele, President

Theme: *"Accept the Challenge..."*

The Garden Club of South Carolina is excited to host the South Atlantic Region Convention, March 14-16, 2010. It will be our pleasure to be reacquainted with SAR friends and share southern hospitality at its finest! Our Convention Committee will ensure that our Convention visitors to South Carolina are offered extremely enjoyable experiences, educational opportunities and entertaining events. Please plan to join us at the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort.

In addition to making plans for the SAR Convention, our members relish the upcoming activities planned for GCSC Chairmen and Club members:

- March brings GCSC Spring District Meetings. The presentation of District Awards is the highlight of these seven meetings.
- Our Youth Symposium is held at Beidler Forest in April. GCSC Poetry and Poster contest participants, and their families, are treated to a fun filled day of activities culminating in the presentation of award money and certificates.

- April begins the official celebration of the Eightieth Anniversary of GCSC. Two special events are planned this month; one at the home of Founding Mother, Claudia Phelps, in Aiken, SC and the other at Trinity Cathedral in Columbia, SC, site of the first official meeting.
- The Eightieth State Meeting will be a one-day meeting setting historic precedent in lieu of a Convention.

GCSC promotes growth in our clubs. We are finding ways to decrease business meeting time. Using the valuable tool of the computer to share business information among members saves time at meetings and leaves time for fellowship and interesting programs.

We expect to move forward with innovative ideas and will "Accept the Challenge"...of a New Vision, of Leadership in our Communities, of Changing Communication.

Visit our website:

www.gardenclubofsouthcarolina.org

Betsy

The Garden Club of South Carolina will be selling aprons (\$15) and tote bags (\$15) with SAR 2010 printed on them at the SAR Convention



**Garden Club of Kentucky
Kay Fisher, President
Theme: "Catch the Rain"**

"Invasive Plant Awareness Month" was held in September throughout the commonwealth of Kentucky to bring awareness to this important issue. It was kicked off with a presentation of the proclamation signed by the governor at the Capitol Rotunda. A variety of removal projects and educational activities were held around the state during the following weeks. To help our clubs prepare, an article titled "Why Invasive Plant Awareness Month?" along with club activity ideas to promote the month was printed in the summer issue of our state publication, the "Bulletin". Our appreciation goes to Ann Fiel, Sandy Robinson, and the Kentucky Chapter of the Exotic Pest Plant Council for their time and efforts in making this project such a great success.

October is the month our five districts hold their annual meetings. As always, it's a time for fabulous programs, reports, food, and friends.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our very own Sandy Robinson, NGC 3rd Vice-President, GCKY will soon be offering an NGC Environmental Studies School; hopefully with Course 1 being presented in conjunction with our 2010 annual convention at beautiful Lake Barkley State Resort Park in Cadiz, April 12-15.

For those who may not be aware, we have a gardening book authoress here in Kentucky who has been very busy. Hot off the press after "Secrets of a Kentucky Gardener" and "Secrets of a Tennessee Gardener", is Karen Angelucci's latest book, "Grimy, Grubby Gardening". It is a delightful book about gardening for kids and adults might learn something, too! You can order a copy or two from our Carriage House Catalog (see our web-site). Karen serves as chairman of two GCKY committees, Arboriculture and Government Action; she's the SAR Arboriculture/ Trees/Shrubs Chairman; and is a member of Soil Mates Garden Club in Lexington.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and Gardening Dreams,

Kay

**Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
Elene Combs, President
Theme: "Gardening Unlimited"**



In Virginia, "Gardening (is) Unlimited". Even though actual gardening outside is limited, our clubs are cultivating new members. We will be 6,000 strong with just 23 new members—hopefully, by the SAR convention.

Clubs are germinating seeds for spring flower shows, workshops, and garden tours.

The spring sunshine will bring "a host of golden daffodils" (Wordsworth) to our commonwealth. Clubs have embraced the "Golden Days" project with unbridled enthusiasm. Pink plantings for "Plant it Pink" will also adorn our landscapes. We have plans to dedicate and refurbish Blue Star Memorials. We continue to "Keep Virginia Green" by reducing, reusing and recycling.

Plan to come to Richmond for Flower Show III (March 23-25) or to Norfolk for Symposium (May 25-27). Check our website: www.viriniagardenclubs.org.

We continue to review our convention guidelines and strive to develop a policy for our website. With the receipt of our club presidents reports (Feb.15) chairmen and officers reports (March 1), the VFGC will be able to see how our clubs and committees have bloomed.

"Gardening Unlimited" is waiting anxiously for Spring.

Elene

Garden Club of North Carolina Mary Lou Goodman, President Theme: "Come and See"

Snow and cold weather arrived in North Carolina even before the first day of Winter. What a beautiful place this world is with a blanket of snow and what a wonderful time to read all those seed catalogs and plan additions and changes to the landscape. We invite everyone to "COME AND SEE" the many events planned by GCNC for this year, including:

- Carolinas Garden Club Day on Wednesday, March 3, at the Southern Spring Home & Garden Show at The Park in Charlotte. [formerly the Merchandise Mart]
- The 85th Annual Convention of The Garden Club of North Carolina will be held at the Hilton North Raleigh, on April 25-27. "Come and See" Spring in the Capitol.
- There will be a Standard Flower Show; Excuses, Excuses, Excuses- "Come and See" our excuses!
- Our National President, Renee Blaschke, will be at the Convention to meet and greet you. There will be a fantastic Youth Awards Night and an outstanding Awards Banquet.
- Tony Avant will present a program and Workshops are planned for your enjoyment and education.
- A Flower Show Symposium is planned for June 6 - 8 to be held in Greensboro.

GCNC Members look forward to a time of fellowship, fun and education by attending the March 14-16 SAR Meeting at Pawleys Island, South Carolina, and the National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia in May.

Mary Lou

2009 NGC CONVENTION, Houston, Texas
(Left to right) June Ashworth, Carolyn Patterson, Kay Fisher, Elene Combs, Mary Lou Goodman, Betsy Steele

Garden Club of West Virginia June Ashworth, President Theme: *Gardening in Today's World*

The two year theme for West Virginia Garden Club is "Gardening in Today's World". We are learning how to change to meet today's challenges.

One big emphasis is to build our membership by starting new clubs. We have mailed several "How to Start a Club" kits to several interested parties. We are pleased that at our 2010 Convention we will be chartering one new club with 13 members. Another club will be reinstated with about 20 members.

And we were pleased at the fall district meeting that many clubs report an increase in membership. We are moving in right direction.

In May, 2009 a flash flood sweep through the town of Gilbert, Mingo Co., WV leaving behind mud. Churches from far away sent people to help dig them out. Basements had 7 feet of mud. A garden club members lost her business. The local school lost all landscaping. WV Garden Club donated \$500 to Honeysuckle Garden Club to help with this landscaping. The District donated 600 daffodil bulbs and clubs across the state donated an additional \$500. We hope next spring some green will be showing in Gilbert.

Our clubs are planting daffodils, learning about good soil and trying to help America become 'greener'.

June



REPORTS OF CHAIRMEN

BOTANICAL GARDENS/ARBORETUM **Donna Donnelly, Chairman**

Listed below are some upcoming events in your state, if you need any information or help locating events, please contact me.

EVENTS

VIRGINIA

JAN. 23. Design and Execution of Planting Design Class. Green Spring Gardens. Alexandria, VA (703) 642-5173. www.greenspring.org.

APR. 3-5. Inspiring Ideas for the Home Gardener. Symposium. Colonial Williamsburg. Williamsburg, VA. (800)603-0948 www.colonialwilliamsburg.org

APR. 9 & 10. Virginia Daffodil Society Show. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, Virginia. (804) 262-9887 www.lewisginter.org

APR. 16 - MAY 8. Annual Gardening Days at Mount Vernon. Plant sale. Mount Vernon. Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 780-2000. www.mountvernon.org.

APR. 16-24. Historic Garden Week. Garden tours in numerous Virginia locations. The Garden Club of Virginia. Richmond, VA (804) 644-7776. www.VAGardenweek.org.

MAY 14. Spring Garden Day. Rare and unusual plant sale. Green Spring Gardens Park. Alexandria, VA (703) 642-5173. www.greenspring.org.

WEST VIRGINIA

Cranberry Mountain Nature Center at (304) 653-4826

NORTH CAROLINA

JAN. 15-MAR. 14. Orchid Spectacular. Showcase, sale, lectures, and classes. North Carolina Piedmont Orchid Society. Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. Belmont, NC (704) 829-1256. www.dsborg.org.

MAR. 31-APR. 6. Annual Plant Sale. New Hanover County Master Gardener Association, Wilmington, NC (970) 452-6393

APR. 16. Growin' Crazy. Plant sale, nursery

exhibits. North Carolina Cooperative Extension Pittsboro, NC (919) 542-8202. www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham

APR. 22-24. Arbor Day Celebration. Family activities, exhibits. The North Carolina Arboretum. Asheville, NC (828) 665-2492. www.ncarboretum.org

APR. 23. Glorious Hydrangeas. Symposium. Sarah P. Duke Gardens. Durham, NC. (919) 684-3698. www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens

SOUTH CAROLINA

For a Calendar view of events, visit Clemson's Master Calendar. To view the Campbell Geology Museum events, visit the Museum event calendar. To register for any event, or for more information, email scbg@clemson.edu, call 864-656-3405, or print out and mail in the registration form.

KENTUCKY

JAN. 12 & 13. Mid-States Horticultural Expo. Kentucky Exposition Center. Louisville, KY (931) 473-3951. www.mshe.org.

The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky- *Calendar of Events-Pre-registration required for most classes; call 859-257-6955 dmbast0@uky.edu . Programs meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise noted.*

NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP **Mary Dixon, Chairman**

Attention! There is a way to honor special people in your life. Give them a National Garden Clubs, Inc. Life Membership. For the sum of \$200.00 their name will be in the book of honor at the NGC headquarters, and the gift in their name will be used to fund scholarships for worthy college students. They will be honored at the National Life Membership Banquet held before the convention in Atlanta, Georgia in May 2010.

Contact your state National Life Membership Chairman for the information and form to make this a reality for a special person.

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT Peggy Heeter, Chairman

Every Garden Club has a civic development arm whether they have a chairman or not. Members strive to make their homes and cities a joyous, pleasant place in which to live. Garden clubs frequently take on park and vacant lot rehabilitation; community gardening; recycling and pollution-control efforts; and historic-site preservation. Many clubs actively support the "Blue Star Memorial" program. We have three new NGC projects "Beautify Blight" "Golden Days" and "Plant It Pink to focus our efforts.

NGC supports community service projects, sponsors outreach programs for youth and international affiliates, encourage civic development and legislative advocacy. Explore the NGC web site at www.gardenclub.org. Select *Special Projects* to find a complete list of recommended projects. When you consider doing one or more of these projects, keep in mind:

1. Community needs - litter cleanup, street plantings of trees or flowers, landscaping of public areas as schools, civic buildings, cemeteries, historic sites, nursing homes, hospitals and housing complexes for the elderly or physically challenged.
2. Consider the interest and ability of your club members.
3. Who will provide maintenance of the completed project, your club, city or school
4. Use native plants if possible; their survival rate is proven. This exhibits wise use of dollars at home as well for the community.
5. Consult Chaircommittees for ideas. Other resourced for ideas include the county Extension Office and wonderful projects are featured in *The National Gardener* 1 year @ \$6.50, Telephone 314-776-7574.
6. Celebrate the NGC's annually sponsored **National Garden Week** (week beginning the first Sunday in June).

Our most recent South Atlantic Region Convention was all about **Going Green and Recycling**. Most Club Members have been **Green** for a long time and just didn't know it. If you have ever shopped at a thrift store or

donated to a thrift store, reuse furniture or stopped at a yard sale, you are "green friendly." Simply think of new ways to use old things and you will be living in a home that used less energy and resources from the environment. Try to be innovative when you need to dispose of items. Check out the NGC website again at www.gardenclub.org select Recycling for ways to look beyond curbside pickup for organizations that will take items that are discarded every day, recycle or reuse those articles.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The petroleum used to make 18 plastic bags could drive a car for 1 mile?
- The EPA estimates that it takes a plastic bag over 500 years to decay in a landfill?
- The Average person's plastic bag legacy will be 4.175 million years?
- The worldwide consumption of plastic bags is over 500 billion, over 1 million per minute?
- Supply your own cloth bags for groceries or whatever you purchase.

COMPOSTING

Every garden club member should be composting. I understand it can be as dry as dirt. Composting can reduce the quantity of materials in our waste stream while producing a valuable soil amendment. Studies show that 18% of landfills are yard waste and 8% is food waste. These are the very things that soil is made from. You can just let your leaves lay in black plastic bags, in the sun, over the winter and you will have some usable soil, from each bag in the spring. Take the usable material out and combine the bags. By fall there should be only soil in the bags. You may need to punch some holes in the bags to let in air and water. Chopping the leaves makes them decompose faster, but chopping is not required.

If every family recycled and/or composted the landfills would be greatly impacted. It really doesn't take much more effort to recycle or compost than it does to take the garbage to the curb. If you do recycle and compost you will find that there is a lot less garbage to take out every week.

One of my club sisters made the statement "The idea of community service appeals to me" when she decided to join our club.

BOOK REVIEW
Phyllis Steele, Chairman

IN THE STACKS
with Phyllis

During the cold, windy days of winter - what better way to spend your leisure time than planning your spring garden. If you can spare four and one fourth inches of space on your library shelf, these three small books will prove their worth to you.

Botanica's Pocket Gardening Encyclopedia
by h.f. ullmann, Randon House Australia Pty Ltd \$19.95

"Pocket" may be misleading in the title of this book. It includes two inches of the above total book shelf space needed. It contains over a 1,000 pages and 2,000 plants listed. It is a superbly illustrated reference book containing information to help every gardener create the garden of their dreams. It opens with designing the garden information. It covers choosing the style and structure, propagating and caring for plants in a healthy environment. It is arranged by plant groups for your ease of reference.

ask the 1000 most asked questions about gardening by Daphne Ledward, Hachette Book Group USA, 237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017 \$7.99

Once you start reading this compact book, it is difficult to not want to "read just a few more pages." There are answers to question like - "What is mean by chitting potatoes?" to "Can I grow an apple from a pip?" There are short questions with short answers for all aspects of gardening. It is a fun book.

Good Bug, Bad Bug by Jessica Walliser, St. Lynns Press, POB 18680, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 \$16.95

Do you know the good bug from the bad bugs? This book tells you who's who, what they do and how to manage them organically. All bugs are one of the three categories - bad, benign or beneficial. According to author Walliser, fewer than 10% of insects are harmful. The remaining 90% are either benign or beneficial. The first part of the book is about pests and the second half belongs to the good guys. Be sure to save space for this book in your stacks.

GARDEN THERAPY/HEALING GARDENS
Maida Dantzler, Chairman

What is a "Healing Garden?"

Clearly, it may be oriented in many directions and can only be defined by the needs of those it serves.

An example of a true Healing Garden lies on the grounds of the South Carolina Oncology Associates' facility in Columbia, SC. Originally conceived by former GCSC President, Sarah Ann Parler, and designed by award-winning landscape architect Ben Coonrod, ASLA, this garden was brought to reality by donations from individuals and garden clubs (over \$25,000 donated), as well as the investment of the oncologists who own and operate this facility. In what may be a bleak emotional environment for patients and their families and caregivers, the Serenity Garden at SCOA offers instead a panorama of natural beauty and a chance to wrap one's self in song of bird and scent of bloom. Boardwalks, overlooks and paved patios offer wheelchair access to the garden, its lush landscape and its koi ponds. Here, one may need a quiet place to grieve or to pray or to meditate. Each person who steps into the garden defines its purpose...a true Healing Garden.

To have your Healing Garden or Garden Therapy project featured here, send information to me at maidad@hotmail.com.

2011 SAR CONVENTION
Gail Hill, Chairman

We will be "**Going Green in Greensboro**" for the 2011 SAR Convention on March 20-22. The Convention will be held at the first hotel in the country to earn LEED Platinum Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. The Proximity Hotel has been turning heads with its eco friendly building practices and creative modifications.

We look forward to hosting the 2011 SAR Convention in Greensboro and making sure that you have a good and enjoying time with us.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CONVENTION

March 14-16, 2010

The Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort, Pawley's Island, South Carolina

Registration: Please complete form, make checks payable to "2010 SAR Convention" and mail both to Margaret Graham, 1303 Golfview Dr., North Myrtle Beach, SC 29528; email: jpgmcm69@aol.com, phone: 843-280-9718.

Postmark by February 14, 2010 for On Time Registration.

Last name _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip (9 digit) _____
Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Please check ___ if we may email your acknowledgement. Please provide email address above.

Check **All** that apply:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> SAR Director | <input type="checkbox"/> SAR Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former SAR Director | <input type="checkbox"/> SAR Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> SAR Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Delegate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse | | |

All attendees must pay a registration fee. Please mark all events you plan to attend.

SC Members and Non-spouse Guests	\$ 15 _____
Out of State Members & Non-spouse Guests	\$ 30 _____
Spouse of any member	\$ 5 _____
One Day only	\$ 20 _____
Late Registration (for all persons)	\$ 40 _____

Meals

Sunday Evening	\$45 _____
Monday Evening	\$45 _____

Breakfast each day on your own

Monday, March 15

Brookgreen Gardens Tour	\$42 _____
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Fee includes: lunch, transportation, entry fee, video presentation,
guided tour of Sculptural Garden and Creek Excursion by boat

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please indicate special diet restrictions _____

(these may be for Medical Reasons Only.)

No requests for substitutions will be accommodated at the time of meal service. We will make every effort to accommodate your medical allergies but will not be able to consider individual dislikes. Thank you for your cooperation.

Hotel Reservations **Reservation deadline is February 14, 2010**

Make reservations directly with The Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort, 14276 Ocean Hwy., Drawer 320, Pawley's Island, South Carolina 29585. Call the resort directly at 800-845-1897 and ask for the South Atlantic Region Garden Clubs room block to receive the established group rate. Website:

www.litchfieldbeach.com

You must identify yourself as a member of SAR initially when making the reservation.

Room Rates:

\$94.00 One Bedroom Scenic	\$143.00 One Bedroom Oceanfront	\$143.00 Two Bedroom Scenic
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Add 15% for state and local accommodation taxes and service charges.

Litchfield Resort has van pickup at airport. The fee is \$45.00 per trip and holds up to 7 passengers with luggage. Call resort directly at 800-845-1897 for van service.

By air...

The Myrtle Beach International Airport is located 18 miles north of Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort. Most major car companies and limousine service is available from the airport.

By car...

From North: Follow Interstate 95 to Florence, SC. Travel east on Highway 501 through Conway to Highway 17 South. Follow Hwy. 17 South for approximately 20 miles to Litchfield Resort.