

KEY NOTES



South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

January 2015
Volume 11, Issue 3

“A World of Opportunity—Be Involved”

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Key Notes issues

Key Notes will be published in early July, October, January, and April.

The deadlines for the respective issues are:

June 20

September 20

December 20

March 26

Please submit your articles by email, if at all possible, to mfloyd3570@aol.com
Subject: SAR Key Notes

THE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"A World of Opportunity—Be Involved"

The beginning of a New Year is always a time of reflection on things past, and a look forward to the future. For gardeners, it is also a time to remember the successes or failures of our flower, vegetable and container gardens in the past season and plan for the upcoming plantings, using past experience as a guide. We are by nature eternal optimists, and the incoming catalogs and gardening magazines give us new ideas that we are sure will make our gardens in 2015 even better. As you spend some winter afternoons with your gardening books and magazines, remember to select plants that will grow in your soil or climate conditions, realize that if a particular plant didn't do well in your border or bed and you really like the variety, try it somewhere else. This hint has helped me, as I kept planting Shasta daisies in the same spot with poor results and when I changed sides of the border, they were happy and I was happy! I hope you will also continue to plant flowers and shrubs that are helpful to our pollinators, especially the bees and butterflies. They count on us.

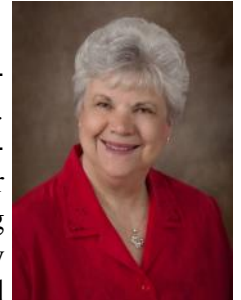
We are looking forward to traveling to the beautiful Hilton Head Island March 22-24 for our South Atlantic Regional Convention, "SAR: Palmettos in Paradise". South Carolina President Judith Dill, Convention Chair Norma Miller and the Committees, along with all the South Carolina Garden Club members have been planning for our visit for months. We will welcome our National Garden Clubs President Linda Nelson with our usual Southern Hospitality. It will be so good to see you all again. Registration forms are due by March 1.

The excitement continues in our Region as the National Garden Clubs Annual Convention, "Endless Possibilities" meets in Louisville, Kentucky on May 15-17. Chairman Ann Fiel and Co-Chairman Joan Wipperman have planned a fun-filled and educational meeting, which includes the opportunity to take a Tri-Refresher. This is an Installation Convention, with SAR's own Sandra Robinson being installed as President.

We have been so appreciative of the SAR members who have volunteered to help in any way before and during the meeting. Detailed information on both Conventions were in the October issue of Key Notes and again in this issue.

Remember—Be Involved, it's good for you.

Martha



State Presidents' Themes and Reports



The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. Joanna D. Kirby, President "Kentucky, Let's Grow" Helping Hands Across Kentucky

It is hard to believe that my term is nearly finished and so much has been accomplished across the state. I have had the time of my life and have been blessed to have met and worked with so many club members and new friends as we have been the 'Helping Hands Across Kentucky'.

We have seen an increase in Monarch Waystations from 36 in the Spring of 2013 to over 180 to date. Our partnership with WildOnes has proven to be very beneficial to both of our groups and we have reached many 'non-club' members this way. We continue to work with the Kentucky State Parks and now have more parks working towards certification of their Waystations. We designed a Monarch Butterfly Children's Menu that is being used in all 50 parks that has our name and website (gardenclubky.org) printed on it. We are in hopes that

this will be seen by many that stop and travel throughout our state.

Sales have continued to be 'brisk' for our tea 'Kentucky Morning' from Elmwood Inn Fine Tea. We have sold over 500 canisters as part of a fundraiser for the NGC Convention in May 2015. This tea will also be sold at the convention as well as many other Kentucky products.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Louisville May 15-17 as we come together for fun, tours, education and friendship. Mark your calendars, load up your cars with friends and visit the beautiful, Bluegrass state.

May God bless you and your family in 2015.

Joanna D. Kirby

The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., Jenene Smith, President Theme: "Volunteering to Make a Beautiful Difference"



By the time you are reading this, Christmas and New Year's Day will be a thing of the past and the year will be 2015. December has been a quiet month for the Garden Club of North Carolina since most every one has been preparing for the holidays. All of the awards for 2014 were due on December 1st and now the category chairmen are busy judging the entries. We are looking forward to our Flower Show School, Course 3 in Raleigh at the J. C. Raulston Arboretum on January 21-23, 2015. The registration form is posted on the GCNC website. Go to www.gardenclubofnc.org and opt for Educational Opportunities, FSJCNC brochure for Course 3. Deadline for registration is **January 5**. Gina Jogan will be discussing American Creative Design with an emphasis on moderate and major abstraction. Tina Tuttle will instruct on orchids and succulents, container growing and combination plantings. Flower Show Procedure and information about Top National Awards will be the other topics. Any one interested is cordially invited to attend and we hope to see a lot of you there.

The Elizabethan Gardens had a "Winter Lights" event from December, 2014 through January 3, 2015.. Over a million lights were on display! This is an annual event and perhaps you might want to make plans to attend in 2015. Information will be on our website.

March 18, 2015, the Museum of Art in Raleigh will host their first Art in Bloom. They have invited the Flower Show Judges to participate in creating designs to compliment the pieces of art work that will be featured. It should be fun and educational to attend.

We are looking forward to networking with garden club members from our five states at the SAR convention on March 22-24, 2015 in beautiful Hilton Head, South Carolina. I am sure that the South Carolina convention committee has been busy making plans for an enjoyable and informative meeting.

I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Jenene Smith

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
Judith Johnson Dill, President
Theme: "Inherit the Past: Create the Future"



With the excitement and joy of the holiday season, members of The Garden Club of South Carolina celebrated both with club members and the general public, in a wide variety of activities. Across the state, clubs celebrated Arbor Day on December 5, holding public tree plantings, sponsoring youth groups in historic tree trails and planting species of historic trees. Combining efforts with community organizations was central to these celebrations. For example, The Columbia Garden Club combined efforts with the *Treasured Trees* organization, working with local school students in hands-on identification and conservation of various historic trees, culminating with an Arbor Day celebration.

Partnering with The Columbia Garden Club, The Garden Club of South Carolina funded the gift of the State Christmas Tree. Because of the work of The Columbia Garden Club, we were able to combine efforts with Bruce Vollnogle at Timber Tech to transport the massive tree on its hundreds-of-miles trip, Southway Crane and Rigging, to erect the massive tree and the men of SCE&G to work with Columbia Garden Club members, placing the thousands of lights and ornaments. On December 1, 2014, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley celebrated this combined effort in the statewide televised 49th Annual Governor's Carolighting, and turned on the lights!

When notified that the state planned to renovate the welcome center site on I-77, GCSC East Piedmont District Director worked with Tega Cay Garden Club members to save plants from the well-established Carolina Fence Garden. Currently they are working on plans for re-establishing the popular Carolina Fence Garden, following reconstruction completion.

Since 1981, The Columbia Garden Club has decorated the Governor's Mansion for Christmas. Each of the public rooms illustrates the creativity talents of the club's members, providing a magnificent setting for their annual tea. This year's decorations once again proved the generosity and skills of the club. Following shortly thereafter, the annual Governor's Open House provided the opportunity for hundreds of statewide visitors to meet the Governor and view the beautiful decorations.

We certainly look forward to seeing many of you at Hilton Head Island, March 22-24. It will be our particular pleasure to welcome NGC President Linda Nelson and NGC/SAR Director Martha Morgan. Please see the registration materials in this periodical, on the SAR Website and on the GCSC Website.

Palmettos in Paradise! Want to leave winter's blustery winds and icy weather? Make your reservation for the South Atlantic Region Convention at Hilton Head Island, March 22-24.

Come early and stay late! Take advantage of our extended stay package, March 20-26, the 20% discount at Spa Soleil, fabulous shopping and wonderful weather. Grab a golf package and play golf at the island's stellar courses, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Tom Fazio and Arthur Hills.

Want a harbor tour? Fishing tour? Want to play golf on a championship course or three? Like tennis? Want to wiggle your toes in the Atlantic? We have it all, and just for you! We're looking forward to seeing you all in March, at Hilton Head Island!

With my best regards,

Judith Dill



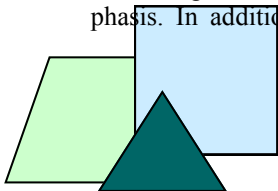
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Marilyn J. Mason, President
**Theme: "Working Together To Preserve Our Legacy
-Conserve, Preserve, Restore, Educate"**

A good way to begin a New Year is to reflect upon the past one. How blessed we have been to continue VFGC's more than 80 years of service to its members, youth, and communities. Over this past year, I have attended many, many club anniversary milestones, Blue Star memorials and dedications. My theme "Working Together to Preserve Our Legacy – Conserve, Preserve, Restore, and Educate" was depicted by each of VFGC's six districts in descriptive, excellent exhibits which also brought to life the work being done in support of this emphasis. In addition, three monetary, VFGC grant and Presi-

dent's Project award offerings enabled several clubs to make an even larger difference than otherwise may have been possible. To recap:

- ◆ Nine clubs received Keys to the Future Grants for Youth for projects ranging from working with youth to grow flowers or vegetables, to creating a butterfly garden, to labeling native Virginia trees, and even learning the art of floral arranging at their schools.
- ◆ Seven clubs received Beautify and Restore Grants for com-

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State Presidents' Themes and Reports (continued)

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munity beautification and restoration. Projects ranged from re-landscaping of an American Revolution site after a flood; to installation of an education and interactive garden space known as Peter Rabbit's garden; to 1st graders learning to plant and care for 5500 daffodil bulbs; to adding shrubs and several large plantings to beautify an older elementary school, with similar landscaping done at the Ginter Park Women's Club; to restoring a community "pocket park" with raised flower beds.

- ◆ Seven clubs received President's Project special awards for Planting Trees Native to Virginia at historical, public, or youth gardens.

Out of the frosty, remaining winter days we look to 2015 with great anticipation.

March 9-12 Flower Show School I will be held in

Richmond; Landscape Design School will be held in April with the date yet to be determined. These are Course I opportunities. Resolve to join others to learn the art of floral and landscape design in 2015!

The VFGC Convention 2015 "Enhancing Nature's Bounty" will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton in Williamsburg, VA on April 26-28. Honored guests and featured speakers will be Linda Nelson, NGC President, Martha Morgan, SAR Director, and nationally famous designer, Tony Tedesco will present a very special design program. Make your reservations early.

Check out the VFGC website www.viriniagardenclubs.org for registration information for all of these opportunities.

I wish you a promising and fulfilling New Year as we "Work Together to Preserve Our Legacy".

Marilyn Mason



**West Virginia Garden Club, Inc.
Patricia Arndt, President
Theme: "Those Who Plant Gardens Believe in Tomorrow"**

Winter is upon us, and the holidays are still fresh in our minds. One of my favorite Christmas hymns is In The Bleak Midwinter. The first verse goes as this,

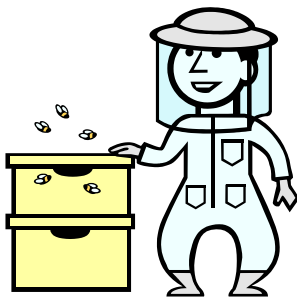
"In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen softly, snow on snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, oh so long ago."

Right now, the cold weather is here, along with frozen lakes and streams and blustery winds. But, with the cold winter comes thoughts of spring. With spring comes thoughts of our state, SAR, and National meetings. We anxiously make plans for our gardens and club projects. They are all wonderful

things to look forward to. It's a time to renew our commitment and passion for Garden Club.

In WVGC, our state meeting is scheduled for April 19-21 at Oglebay State Park in Wheeling, WV. I am looking forward to meeting up again with garden club friends from around our state. Our new WVGC officers will be installed, and a new term will begin with new leaders. Here's to a new year, fresh ideas, membership growth, and sharing our love of Garden Club in 2015!

Patty Arndt



Officer Reports

CHAPLAIN

JoJean Scott

Shortly before Christmas, 2014, my son brought to me several whimsical Santas made of small pieces of driftwood. Each was adorned with a tag on which was written,

“Trust the Lord with all your heart, never rely on what you think you know.

Remember the Lord in everything you do and He will show you the right way.”

Proverbs 3:5-7

Very special words for a New Year filled with special challenges for each of us. These words fill our hearts with gratitude for the assurance that we are not alone as we travel the winding road of life. There is One who walks with us always. He makes it possible for us to breathe with Emerson the prayer - For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter through the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness brings, Thank you, God.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Dianne Caines

My wish for each of you in 2015 is Good Health and Happiness.

Don't forget to encourage all of your Garden Clubs to make plans to attend our SAR Convention in Hilton Head and then to come to the National Convention hosted by Kentucky in May!

Chairman Reports



ARBOR DAY

Geneva Hunt

Did any of your garden clubs do anything special to celebrate Arbor Day last spring? We need to promote Arbor Day by planting trees or other plantings or by cleaning up an area or any other way to promote Arbor Day.

Try to get publicity for your club and state while celebrating in your own way.

Let this chairman know what you did or what plans you have for Arbor Day 2015. She would like to hear from clubs and states so she can highlight some of the activities.

(As you read on page 3, the Garden Clubs of South Carolina celebrated Arbor Day December 5.)

AIR/WATER QUALITY

Carolyn Augustine

Water Quality..what can **YOU** do?

What's in **YOUR** water? You would be amazed at all the toxic material that has to be filtered out of your water supply to make it useful to you.

How can you help in keeping your water supply clean? An innovative program has been established by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is called Adopt a Watershed. This program offers you the opportunity to become a part in protecting the watershed that is in your area. We all live in a watershed...it is an area that drains into a common waterway. This can be a stream, Lake, estuary, wetland or the ocean.

There are more than 2,600 watershed groups, if there is not one in your area, then you can start one.

EPA has a “Watershed Tool Kit” with eight different things you can do to make a difference.

Become a volunteer monitor

Organize or become a part of a Trash cleanup

Build a Rain Garden

Organize a stream drain marking program

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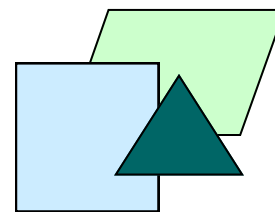
Chairman Reports (continued)

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- Greenscape your yard.
- Educate your community about water Quality Protection.
- Advocate for low impact development in your community.
- Start or join a watershed organization.

For more information go online to: EPA Adopt a watershed Program. There, you will find instructions and information on all of the above.

Have a drink.....of clear clean water.



BLUE STAR MEMORIALS

Romanza Johnson

I would like to challenge every state to make all of their clubs more aware of the Blue Star Memorial Highway Program. This program of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. began in 1945 to honor the men and women serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. So a uniform marker was designed to identify the Highways.



Materials and prices may be ordered from NGC Headquarters by calling 1-800-550-6007 or by going to the NGC website. It would be great to have at least one new marker installed in each District of each state of our Region.

AWARDS

Judy Ann Fray

The Latest on SAR Awards

A phenomenon of our Region's Awards ceremony seems to be a competition to see which of our 5 states receives the most awards. State Presidents are eager to accept and carry home the largest package of awards to distribute to their respective members / clubs.



This year YOU could very well be the determining factor for the recipient of SAR AWARD # 31: The 2015 SAR CONVENTION REGISTRATION AWARD. Donor and 2015 Convention Chairman, Norma Miller, is providing the \$25 award, which will this year be AWARDED TO THE NON-HOST STATE WITH THE MOST ACTUAL (not percentage) SAR CONVENTION REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BY MARCH 1. Norma will inform the SAR Awards Chairman of the winner based on registrations reported to her by the convention registrar.

This Awards Chairman looks forward to receiving awards packages from all our state Awards Chairmen by January 26. It is always thrilling to read of projects and accomplishments that are important to our members and their activities within their communities.

Best of luck to all!

Judy Ann Fray, SAR Awards Chairman

Contact me at 540-948-4220 or ja.fray@verizon.net and send awards packages to me at PO Box 263, Madison, VA 22727

CONTAINER GARDENING

Helen Heater

“Winter” : a time to start planning your next container garden project.

The seasons seem to fly by. We had a great past growing season. The containers are all clean and stored and it is sometimes difficult to already begin thinking about the next season; but it's really not. Just start thinking about what worked well and what not so great. Survey your containers and visualize what you'd like to change or make better. Once you get started into container gardening it seems it's addictive and you can't wait to get into the next spring. I first start by going back to basics each year, I think of some issues I encountered. One thing that always comes to mind with container gardening is watering. Keeping your container plants happy is the answer for a beautiful and rewarding summer or growing season.

Watering, especially think about the heat, it can be an uphill battle. To get the plants well started we need to water once a day for at least 7 to 10 days after planting, but if you encounter a rainy spell that's a nice break. Remember if it's extremely hot or your containers are in full sun, it is not unusual that it may be required or necessary to water twice in one day during that time. It is a lot of work. One other idea is to mix in some water absorbing crystals in the soil when planting. They can be found in any garden center and they help with storing moisture during these hot periods. One problem can be drainage. To start planting first double-check or obtain a better mix or draining medium. If in doubt you can always add perlite to your mix or put a small layer of styrofoam peanuts in the bottom of your containers. Just remember most plants don't like wet feet for very long.

Fertilizing and feeding is also an important on-going factor. Most potting mixes do not contain a lot of nutrients. When planting be sure to use at least a slow released fertilizer, then later start using a quick release fertilizer every two or three

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CALENDARS/VISION OF BEAUTY

Elaine Thornton

2015 may already be here but it is never too late to purchase your Vision of Beauty calendars to help you get and stay organized. Promote these lovely calendars to your club and district as a way to keep the vision of National Garden Club, Inc. foremost in our daily lives. Happy New Year!

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Chairman Reports (continued)

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weeks. Remember - make sure to follow directions on the fertilizer packet.

Finally, as the plants grow you may have to replace some fading or weak plants just to keep the container looking great, especially if your season is a little longer than some. Container gardening like gardening also requires some adjustments along the way.

Now that we have addressed some of the most common issues for better care, it's time to think about more fun things.

Designing bigger and better knock out type of containers is the fun part of container gardening. Think about what you'd like to change or try new. Make sure the plants you choose have similar requirements, i.e. water, sun, shade, fertilizer, etc. That way we start each step with the basics. Keeping traditional with high centers, fillers and trailing plants for the edges are always interesting.

Shape and size of plants are important to containers. It is the secret to making a visually pleasing container garden. Color options are endless and also a lot of fun and exciting.

One last thing to think about is change.. If all you've ever planted are the annuals in your container, try planting perennials or tubers separately or mixed in for different types and textured plants. These however require a little more work at the end of the growing season. You will want to save these types over winter. Example before the first major frost comes you may want to save and/or replant the perennials in one of your perennial garden beds or store the tubers over winter in a cool dry place. They also can be replanted in the spring. These types of plants are a little more expensive than annuals, and a little more cost effective to re-use. Most annuals just get tossed at the end of the season and typically don't get reused or saved.

There is so much to learn and know about new plants and new ways of growing. There is no end to ideas and the possibilities are endless to making stunning and winning containers.

If you haven't included container gardening in your gardening hobby, start this new hobby, or just incorporate it into your traditional flower gardening. It will be rewarding.



ENERGY CONSERVATION

Gail Hill

COAL ASH SPILL PUTS DUKE ENERGY ON THE HOT PLATE

A disastrous spill on Feb. 2 in Eden turns a lowly waste product into a statewide political crisis. The spill unfolded at the retired Dan River Steam Station on Eden's outskirts. A pipe had ruptured under a pond that stored huge amounts of submerged coal ash, spewing up to 39,000 tons of ash and 27 million gallons of wastewater into the river.

Duke Energy has 108 million tons of accumulated coal ash, now stored in 32 ponds at 14 sites across the state. Less than 1 percent of coal ash is actually trace metals that are potentially harmful. Coal ash contains arsenic, lead, selenium and other cancer causing agents. It increases the risk of cancer, learning disabilities, neurological disorders, birth defects, asthma and other illnesses. The threat stems from the large amounts of coal ash that Duke has stored up over the years, not the inherently toxic nature of the material in manageable amounts. Scientists and other experts "are trying to teach the public that toxicity is a function of dose. Anything in too high a dose, including pure water, can be toxic."

"But, again, ash doesn't belong in the river."

Environmentalists had warned for several years before the spill that the utility's coal ash storage practices were on a collision course with disaster, especially after the much larger Tennessee Valley Authority coal ash spill near Kingston, Tenn., six years ago.

Governor Pat McCrory of NC, a former Duke Power employee, has legislatively cut spending for helping to fund investigation of the coal ash situation.

Duke Energy proposes to cap off these coal ash ponds verses to line the ponds first and then cap them off. I think from an environmental standpoint that if the ponds are not lined, they will continue to seep into the land and into the water.

Duke Energy owns the power plants. They want to fix the coal ash problem as cheaply as possible while putting more emphasis on solar and other renewable sources of energy. We want cleaner, renewable energy, but we want them to take care of this coal ash problem in the safest, environmental way as possible.

The opinions offered above are my own and no one else's.



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ~ LITTER ~ RECYCLING

Grassroots Green

A Novel Recycling Idea:

I recently read a fascinating article in my local newspaper about Free Libraries. Since I am always looking for new ideas about recycling to share with you, I thought that a portion of this free library idea might qualify as a novel re-cycling project [no pun intended] and would be worth passing along.

Reporter Brian Hicks wrote about a local woman who had opened a 'free library' in the front yard of her suburban home. Her 'library' consists of a small roofed doll-house-sized box mounted on a post at curbside. The concept welcomes people to walk by and choose a book to read. There are no due dates, or late fees for unreturned books, in fact there is no requirement that you even return the book/s you borrowed.

The local lady who started this free library recently moved to Charleston from Seattle where there were three free libraries within walking distance of her home. Missing this convenience in her new neighborhood, she decided to start her own little library and it has proved to be a perfect way to meet the new neighbors and start interesting conversations on a variety of subjects. Even the neighborhood children love the new library and everyone especially loves its convenience.

The concept of Free Libraries is of course not a new one, but the idea of a 'curbside library' not supported by local taxes, apparently is the brainchild of a Wisconsin man named Todd Bol, who built a small replica of a one room schoolhouse on the front of his property to honor his mother who was a retired educator. The small schoolhouse room was stocked with free books and suddenly it became a magic place in the neighborhood. From this loving tribute sprang up a cottage industry. Bol, who had "a lot of extra books and some free time," was soon crafting more small libraries for friends who loved the idea. Bol's idea has

inspired others and it is now estimated that and there are about 22,000 of these little libraries in existence.

One of the thrilling things about these 'Little Free Libraries' is that they are springing up in *rural* areas and remote neighborhoods, which is the perfect place for them!

The little library idea has also crept into cozy corners of neighborhood coffee shops and small mom and pop restaurants and businesses. Those who adopted the idea originally feared that when all the books were gone the project would die a natural death - but amazingly this hasn't happened and just when the shelves seem to be down to their last two books, a carton appears from nowhere with replenishments.

This mini-library concept is interesting to those of us who have too many books. As the only daughter of a father who worked for forty-two years for America's largest book printer, my house has always been filled with cherished books. My husband is also a voracious reader and our bookcases are now overflowing and every flat surface in the house seems to be stacked with oversized books. One of these days the sheer weight of all these tomes will sink my old house inches deep into Charleston's pluff-mud.

Since I live in a historic district that is four blocks from my large county library, this idea won't work on my front curb, but I envision that this could be a worthwhile recycling project for garden clubs in many of our rural communities. I've discovered that people who love books also love to share them with others and this idea impresses me as a beautiful way to continue the season of giving, as well as encouraging the next generation to discover the joys of reading.

Check out: littlefreelibrary.org for a curbside library near you.

HISTORIC GARDEN RESTORATION

Linda Craiger

If anyone has worked on or consulted on a historical garden restoration project in the past two years, please let me know at lindacraiger@hotmail.com.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

JUNE 7-13, 2015

Judy Bond, Chairman

The first full week in June has been designated National Garden Week. Encourage all the clubs in your area to include this as they plan their activities/programs for the spring of 2015. Posters and proclamations can be downloaded from the NGC website, gardenclub.org. Just click on "Projects", "Ongoing" and "National Garden Week". Possibilities are endless! Arrange for a display of gardening books and/or an information table at your local library. Display floral designs with posters and membership brochures in prominent locations in your community. Have a plant sale, workshop or member garden tour.

Both SAR and NGC, as well as many states, offer awards for the best overall promotion of National Garden Week showing community awareness throughout the entire week including local and/or state proclamations. These awards (SAR 13 and NGC 53) are available at different club size levels and compositions. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to celebrate our passion!

Chairman Reports (continued)

NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Patsy Stephens

Everyone in the SAR has an opportunity to purchase a National Life Membership to honor your members. This chairman invites your state to add new National Life Members during the period before the SAR Convention in March, 2015. Don't let the time slip by, if you are thinking of presenting someone with this wonderful recognition. "BEE" the state that has the largest number of National Life Memberships purchased in this fiscal year.

An application can be downloaded from the NGC Website. A completed application and check for \$200 made out to NGC can be mailed to me, the SAR National Life Membership Chairman. The NGC Life Member pin is sold separately from NGC Member Services.

Looking forward to hearing from you. If you have questions or need more information, please contact me at 276-328-8290 or email: pat-sy.stephens@verizon.net. My address: P.O. Box 1157, Wise, VA 24293



SCHOLARSHIP

Marsha Alexander

Now is the time to encourage any student who may qualify to apply for the Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship offered by the South Atlantic Region. The requirements and judging scale can be found in the SAR Directory on page 24.

There is more good news! The SAR Board voted at the 2014 Convention to accept the recommendation of the Executive Board to award two (2) \$2000 SAR Scholarships in 2015. I hope that we have worthy applicants from all five states and look forward to announcing two winners at the SAR Meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION

Carolyn Roof

carolynroof@att.net

We are fortunate to live in the most beautiful part of the country. Is it any wonder that our ancestors chose to settle here? From the Atlantic to the Mississippi, the South Atlantic presented them with a bounty of unique flora and fauna found on the plateaus, savannahs and in the rich mountains.

With the introduction of railroads, cars, and later interstates, our land was opened up to the rest of the country to enjoy its beauty. Unfortunately, with it came litter, billboards, and deforestation. It was through the work with the government and education of the general public, that the garden clubs have been able to stop the eye-clutter and destruction of the environment along the highways. But, it is an on-going project to protect and preserve our beauty and natural resources.

Roadside beautification projects not only preserve and protect our flora and fauna, they enhance the aesthetics of our countryside and towns. Studies show that roadside beautification reduces driver stress, road rage, and improves safety. Roadside beautification has proven to be financially beneficial to communities through improving the quality of life of residents and visitors.

Roadside beautification projects need not be overwhelming. It is the small things in life that make a difference. Plant a Welcome sign or median leading into town. Engage the local high school and/or college in designing and planting. Work with the highway department to landscape an interchange.

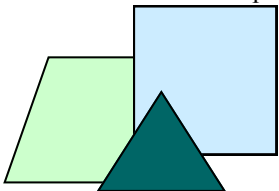
Communication and education are vital and the key to maintaining our beautiful roadside. One method is to encourage garden club(s) in each community to establish a city or county-appointed Beautification Board with all of the powers of other city boards. On the state level, as the Legislative Chair to keep the clubs aware of pending bills that will allow billboards to encroach again, or other bills that will be detrimental. It is easier to stop a bill than to have it changed after approval.

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS

Barbara S. Ohmsen

TO ALL STATE CHAIRMEN: Please urge your clubs to participate. You have the folder that was passed out at the NGC Convention in Oklahoma. Get the information out to your state clubs. The deadline to send posters and corresponding information forms to this chairman is February 21.

We look forward to hearing from all states in 2015.



SAR SPECIAL PROJECTS AWARD

Mary Dixon

“Beauty Spots for Bees and Butterflies”

Beauty Spots for Bees and Butterflies” is the Special Award sponsored by Director, Martha Morgan. There were no applications for 2013 so I feel certain there should be some for 2014. Please look at your projects as surely some would be eligible for this award. They are due to me by mail or e-mail by January 31, 2015.

The award is for a small space planted with a shrub or shrubs and plants that are attractive to pollinating insects, which are endangered in our world. It can be public or private property, but should be visible for the public to enjoy. The purpose of these spots is to nourish the valuable insects and to publicize the local garden club in the community. The plot should include a sign of your choice of materials, and should bear the name of the sponsoring garden club or council.

The awards are for Individual Clubs - Under 30 members, 30-59 members or 60 and over members; Council Awards - 8 and under clubs, 9 clubs or more; State Award is for the State with the highest number of SAR Special Project Award applications received. Each award is for \$25.00.

Please send all applications to: SAR Special Project Chairman: Mary H. Dixon, 132 Moonlight Point, Suffolk, Virginia 23434-9300 - mdixon2643@aol.com



WAYS AND MEANS

Patsy Cameron, Chairman

“Accessory Alley”

The South Atlantic Region “Ways and Means” chairman, Patsy Cameron, is planning a fund raiser during the 2015 SAR Convention at Hilton Head Island on March 22-24, 2015. “Accessory Alley” will return once more; a project featuring the sale of jewelry and accessories of almost new and gently used items, including, but not limited to, jewelry, scarves, and handbags.

Your assistance is requested to help us stock the display and to provide a variety of items for sale. Time is drawing near to check your closets and jewelry chests for items that may be gently used (or never worn because they’re just not your style or didn’t work with that outfit) and donate them to our sale. As you clean out those closets and drawers while spring cleaning, please help us to offer some great finds and bargains for smart and thrifty convention goers and at the same time recycle for the good of all.

You may send items to me or take them to convention. Please make plans to donate several items now. Look for us at convention; we need your support.

Contact Patsy Cameron with questions and suggestions at pecameron@cox.net or 757 486 3165.

Youth – High School Essay Contest

Sarah Ann Parler

2014-2015 High School Essay Contest

Theme: “Choosing to Make a Difference for a Better World”

The High School Essay Contest is open to any High School student (grades 9-12) sponsored by a federated Garden Club, group of Clubs or Council. All entries become the property of NGC, Inc.

Essay Contest Rules: The length of the essay must be between 600-700 words; any essay that does not conform to the required length will be penalized 10 points. Include a wallet-size photograph of the student, as well as a sheet listing the name, address, phone number, email address, school attending and grade level and a list of activities. Include the name of the sponsoring club(s) or council. A plastic folder is suggested.

Each SAR State has a High School Essay Chairman. Deadline for entries on State level was November 15, 2014.

SAR State winner’s Essays are forwarded to the SAR High School Essay Chairman.

Once a winner is chosen, the SAR Essay Contest winner is invited to attend the SAR Convention and requested to read His/Her winning Essay. A \$200.00 check is presented to the winner at this time. The winning entry is forwarded to NGC, Inc. to be chosen from the Eight (8) Regional winners. The NGC winner receives \$1,000.00 and the second place winner receives \$200.00.

Three of our SAR State submitted entries last year. We would appreciate having an entry from all five of our States this year.

SAR Convention 2015

“PALMETTOS IN PARADISE” South Atlantic Region Convention March 22-24, 2015 Marriott Resort & Spa Hilton Head Island SC



NGC/SAR 2015 CONVENTION

There is going to be a Gala Event! So pack your bags, your golf clubs, tennis rackets and or bathing suits!!!! Welcome to the Lowcountry the home to Dolphins, Whales, Crabs, Shrimp, Eagles, Woodstorks, Herons, Egrets and much much more!!

The Garden Club of South Carolina invites you to attend the NGC/South Atlantic Region Convention 2015, held March 22-24 at The Marriott Resort and Spa at Palmetto Dunes on Hilton Head Island. We encourage you to come early and stay late, with pre and post packages ages available. “Palmetto's in Paradise” await you along 12 miles of sandy beaches., sun, sea and both indoor and outdoor pools. The property features 3 Championship golf courses designed by Robert Trent Jones, Arthur Hills and Tom Fazio along with tennis courts, and the very famous Spa Soleil, with a 20% discount for convention attendees. Fun and surprises await you and your guests!

A trip back in time on Sunday evening! Travel back to 1740 and meet Eliza Lucas who married Charles Cotesworth Pinckney of historical fame. Eliza developed indigo as one of the Souths' most successful crops. Because of her accomplishments, she was the first woman inducted into The South Carolina Business Hall of Fame. Come and meet this most successful young woman.....

On Monday Evening you will be treated to a figurative tour through one of the most beautiful places in South Carolina. Dr. A. Segars of South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will take you through the ACE Basin, the convergence of the Ashley, Cooper and Edisto Rivers, which is the largest estuary on the East Coast.

Lots of creative workshops and an array of vendors for your shopping pleasure. And, if you have time to venture out of Palmetto Dunes, you will find amazing shopping including Tanger Outlet Malls One and Two, with approximately ninety-one stores available for your pleasure. Before departing the Lowcountry you will be entertained by Palmetto's of Sea Pines bringing you the latest of resort wear, shown by our own GCSC's famous and fantastic models'

Come visit us and stay awhile, with our beautiful places and smiling faces. We hope to see you all very soon.

Norma Miller, SAR Convention 2015 Chairman

Hotel Reservations Reservation deadline for group rate is February 22, 2015

Make reservations directly with the Hilton Head Marriott Resort & Spa at Palmetto Dunes

1 Hotel Circle, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928 Cal 1 888-511-5086 and ask for South Atlantic Garden Club

Room rates are:\$129.00 resort view, \$139.00 Ocean view, \$159.00Ocean front

3 days pre and post convention rates are available

Check in : 4:00pm. Check out 11:00am

Parking: Valet \$18.00 per day Self parking available in two locations

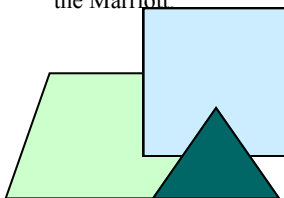
Travel information:

By Air: Savannah International Airport

Hilton Head Airport (served by US Air only)

By Automobile: Route I 95 in South Carolina, Exit 8 toward Hardeeville/Hilton Head Island

take route 278 E. toward Hilton Head, stay on route 278 through Bluffton. Cross over bridge to Hilton Head Island stay on the right, do not go on the Cross Island Expressway. Continue on route 278 E./William Hilton Parkway turn left at sign for Palmetto Dunes, stay to left, follow signs for the Marriott

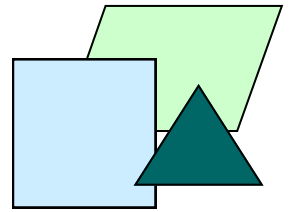


Key Notes

January 2015

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

National Garden Clubs, Inc.



2015 NGC CONVENTION

“Endless Possibilities”

May 15-17, 2015

Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel
830 Phillips Lane
Louisville KY

Rooms: \$129 per night 1-502-367-2251 or 1-888-223-9627 by April 19, 2015
Mark your calendar now as you plan to attend the 2015 NGC Convention. This will be an Installation Year, and one of our own, Sandra Robinson, will be installed as the 2015-2017 NGC President. Ann Fiel is the Convention Chairman. There are pre-convention tours available May 12, 13, 14.

We have a variety of tours planned, including:

Churchill Downs Horse Race Track with lunch at the backside where trainers and jockeys eat.

Bernheim Forest with their Canopy Tree Walk.

Makers Mark Distillery - a “green” facility where you can view the exquisite newly installed Chihuly ceiling.

Travel past scenic horse farms & rock fences to our historic State Headquarters and arboretum and visit a working horse farm.

Exciting spouses tours and more...

We have speakers who are nationally & internationally known.

Tri-Refresher credit is offered for all tours, speakers & seminars.

The Life Member Banquet will be a gala affair! You will visit Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, an outstanding American garden. It is the legacy of one of America’s finest nurserymen, Theodore Klein, who started designing and building Yew Dell in 1941. Theodore Klein developed sixty new varieties of plants, one of which is the Forest Pansy Redbud.

Jon Carloftis is the speaker for the Opening Luncheon; Bill Harper is presenting the program for the Design Banquet. We then have the Award of Excellence Luncheon, Awards Banquet, Regional Luncheons, and Installation Banquet.

Each day there will be a choice of three seminars to attend. And as always, vendors with interesting wares.

So there is much to do, and many friends to see (or to meet new friends). Let’s have a great turnout from our region. If you haven’t attended a National Garden Clubs Convention, this would be our opportunity, since it is so close.

All the details can now be found on the NGC website and in the latest issue of The National Gardener.



NGC President 2013-2015
Linda Nelson
“Making a World of Difference—
Choices Matter”



We hope you are reading the interesting/informative articles in each issue *The National Gardener*. Don’t receive it?? Check with your SAR or state chairman or go online to NGC to subscribe. You’ll be glad you did!

Odds ‘N’ Ends

DATES FROM OUR STATES

Information on all of these is on the website of each state
Flower Show School course 3: Jan. 21-23, 2015 in Raleigh NC
Flower Show School course 1: March 9-12, 2015 in Richmond VA
Flower Show School course 1: April 9-11, 2015 in Oak Hill WV
Check each state’s website for information on these and other schools.. Each state can be accessed from the SAR website.

SYMPATHY is expressed to Claudia Cosby, SAR Wildflowers/Roadside Chairman on the recent death of her mother and her 101 year old aunt.

Key Notes

January 2015

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB/SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CONVENTION

March 22-24, 2015

“SAR: Palmetto’s in Paradise”

The Marriott Resort and Spa Palmetto Dunes, Hilton Head Island, SC

Online link:

Hilton Head Marriott Resort and Spa/ South Atlantic Region Garden Club

Reservations must be made by February 21, 2015

Registration: Please complete form, make check to “2015 NGC/SAR Convention” and mail both

to: Susan A. Baldwin, 232 Grandview Court, Hilton Island, SC 29926 e:mail suzy@cbh@aol.com phone 843.422.0700(c)

Postmark by March 1, 2015 for on time registration

Name _____ Phone _____

Ad- dress _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E:mail _____

May we confirm your registration by your e-mail? Yes _____ No _____

Check all that apply:

- _____ NGC Officer _____ SAR Director _____ SAR Officer
- _____ NGC Chairman _____ Former SAR Director _____ SAR Chairman
- _____ NGC Life Member _____ SAR Life Member _____ State President
- _____ Club President _____ Club Member _____ Delegate
- _____ Guest _____ Spouse _____ Alternate Delegate

All attendees must pay a registration fee.

Circle Amount(s) being paid

A. Full Time Convention Plan includes Registration fee, 2 Dinners, 1 Lunch, 1 breakfast. 6 programs

SC members and non spouse guests-----\$255
 Out of State Members and Non-spouse Guests-----\$265
 Spouse package full Convention-----\$255

OR

B. Monday & Tuesday package includes registration, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, 1 breakfast & 4 programs

SC Members and Non Spouse Guests-----\$195
 Out of State Members and Non-spouse Guests-----\$200
 Spouse Monday Package Plan-----\$130

REGISTRATION FEES

SC Members and Non-spouse Guests-----\$30
 Out of State Members and Non-spouse Guests-----\$40
 Spouse of any Member-----\$15
 One day only registration-----\$25
 Additional Late Registration (after March 1, 2015) for all-----\$20

MEALS

Sunday Evening-----\$60
 Monday Lunch-----\$50
 Monday Evening-----\$75
 Tuesday Breakfast-----\$45

Please indicate any special needs or dietary requirements _____ Diabetic

_____ Vegetarian _____ Vegan
 _____ Gluten Free _____ Other (medical reasons only) _____ Wheelchair Access

Speci- fy _____
 No requests for substitutions will be accommodated at the time of meal service

We will make every effort to accommodate your medical allergies

NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 14

Please check the afternoon programs you plan to attend:

- _____ Sunday 2:00-4:00 pm. Home and Garden Tour
- _____ Monday 2:00-3:00 Faux Flowers Made Fun by Maggie Engstrom of Sweet Bay Nursery (\$40.00 spaces limited)
- _____ Monday 3:00- 4:00 pm. “Living Wreath by Margie Fox The Garden Gate Nursery

Sunday evening program by Eliza Pinckney (circa 1740)

Monday luncheon program by :DIA Designs in Art

Monday evening program by Dr. A Segar with SCDNR Conservation: The Ace Basin located 45 minutes south of Charleston is one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the East Coast of United States

Tuesday morning program Designs by Palmetto’s of Sea Pines

Hotel Reservations Reservation deadline for group rate is February 22, 2015

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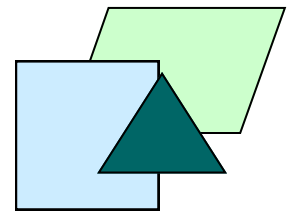
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Total Amount of check _____



The South Atlantic Region Member States



SARa Bee



Use egg cartons to store delicate Christmas Tree ornaments

Key Notes
www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

January 2015

**Pleased Share This Newsletter With Clubs In Your
State And With Members Of The State Boards
Thank You**