

KEY NOTES



South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

April 2012
Volume 8, Issue 4

“Members Are The Link To the Future”
Invite — Communicate — Educate

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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 10

September 10

December 10

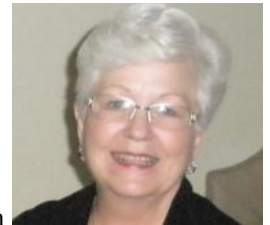
March 10

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

THE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"Members Are The Link To The Future"

Invite New Members - Communicate Rewards of Membership -
Educate Members about Opportunities for Them
Mary H. Dixon



Hello and Happy Spring!

Your Director has been preparing for the South Atlantic Region Convention with great anticipation. I look forward to seeing to many members as the registration for the meeting is wonderful. What a fabulous place to go to for a convention!

In January I attended the Winter Board Meeting of NGC in Albuquerque, New Mexico with the Executive Committee. It was wonderful spending special time with the other Regional Directors and Officers of NGC. The New Mexico President, members, and garden clubs really made us welcome and showered us with gifts. Many thanks to them for such hospitality.

In the far Eastern part of our South Atlantic Region it is almost like summer. The daffodils have bloomed and need to be deadheaded in my yard. The trees have bloomed and are showing their new leaves as a sign of renewed life from their previous winter appearance. The weather is so beautiful and it hardly feels like we have had a winter.

I am hoping that our garden clubs are also bursting forth from the winter lull and gaining new members and new life. Have you invited a new member to join your club since our last issue of Key Notes? I hope so. Have you used many forms of communication to let others know about all you are doing and about the interesting programs you are having? I again hope so. Are you planning meetings that give your members an education about gardening, garden club opportunities like the schools your states are having?

As I review the web sites from the states and the publications which I receive or copy from the web, I see that many are having Blue Star dedications and are planning to have special planting projects during the June 3 – 9, 2012 National Garden Week. Many are having Flower Shows, Flower Show Schools, and Landscape Design Schools. These are such terrific chances to let your community know that the Garden Clubs are at work. Be sure to plan activities that members can do and have fun doing and publicize them so everyone knows what you are doing. You are our Communicators and at this time we need your help to keep the force growing. Invite someone to join your club for at least one special event and hopefully they will become that next new member.

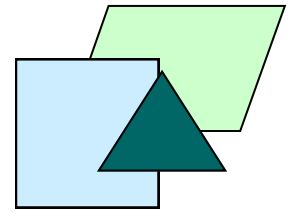
The registration form is on line to register for the National Garden Clubs, Inc. convention in Buffalo, New York, May 16 – 20, 2012. It is in the National Gardener that your club president receives. There will be a Flower Show titled “An Empire of Wonders” on Thursday, May 17 along with many workshops and tours available for those attending this annual event.

Thank you all for your commitment to your Club, District, State, SAR and NGC by being our friends and members. Members Are The Link To The Future and we all are important.

Mary

Mary H. Dixon
Director
Mdixon2643@aol.com

State Presidents' Themes and Reports



The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc.
Dianne Caines, President
“Unleash Your Power”

Members of the Kentucky Garden Clubs have been busy expanding their creative thoughts to incorporate the Kentucky theme "Unleash Your Power" into their existing programs and activities. They have continually expressed appreciation in having the choice to continue and/or expand existing projects and activities into the SAR Director's theme as well as the National President's theme. With the re-building of our state web-site by a team of garden club technology gurus, plans are to build on what has been done and continue to create a very user-friendly web-site. We anticipate club members continually providing gardening information. Hopefully, this will add excitement to our garden clubs and increase membership inquiries!

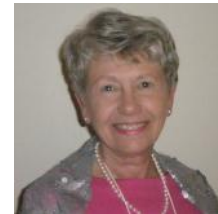
We have had design and horticulture workshops, flower show judging workshops, artistic craft workshops including one on designing an Advent Wreath. A fun event occurred a few weeks ago when a garden club invited three accredited judges to critique and lead a discussion on judging techniques, presentation of horticulture specimens and designs based on the theme "Unleash Your Power" featured a pair of gold tennis shoes, power tools, bursts of flowers that created energy and other fun things.

Many garden tours and plant sales are planned for the early summer. In addition several flower shows are planned by garden clubs as well as county fair shows and the state fair show. The development of community gardens in an Eastern Kentucky area utilizing organic planting information and resources, providing participants (both youth and adults) with personal health information, tips on meal planning and diet-related information including an exercise program sounds promising and exciting. Hopefully we will be able to replicate this project across the state as resources, sites, and leaders are identified.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

Dianne Caines, President, Garden Club of Kentucky

The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.
Judy Barnes, President
Theme: “Make a Difference”



Spring is “springing up” in North Carolina even though the calendar says NO! It is “springing up” for garden club work too.

GCNC is preparing for its 45th Symposium to be held in Charlotte August 5-6 at the Airport Sheraton Hotel. Sunday afternoon will be the Allied Topics. One will be on new introductions of Daylilies and the other on Photographing your gardens and designs. Monday will be Horticulture featuring Succulents and Tuesday Table Designs. All are welcome for all or part of the event. Our website, gardenclubofnc.org has information.

GCNC's three public gardens are sprucing up to welcome visitors from all areas. The Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo (outer banks area), the Daniel Boone Native Gardens in Boone (mountains), and the Martha Franck Fragrance Gardens for the Blind at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh (middle of the state). So no matter where you are headed in NC you will be near one of our treasures. We are also proud of Tryon Garden Club for its ownership and protection of Pearson's Falls Glen, a NC National Heritage Site. It is located near Saluda (south of Asheville near the SC line).

On the other side of the state the Cape Fear Garden Club is gearing up for its work with the Azalea Festival in Wilmington in April. They are also spearheading an effort to have the Eastern Swallowtail Butterfly declared the North Carolina State Butterfly.

In the middle of our state the Heritage Garden Club is working to put plants in the VA Hospital. The plants can then be put in the garden there by the patients. Heritage also puts poinsettias in the hospital at Christmas.

I usually hate to single out just a few of our clubs, but they represent all the work the other clubs do that help to make our state outstanding.

GCNC is continuing its efforts to bring our member clubs under our non-profit umbrella. It is a slow process but no project with the IRS runs at a fast pace.

Our Annual Meeting will be in April in Asheville and that is going to be a beautiful time of year to enjoy the beauty of the city and the beauty of our fellowship.

Judy Barnes, President, Garden Club of North Carolina



Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
Maida Owen Dantzler, President
Theme: "Initiate, Collaborate, Celebrate"

Well, Mother Nature has awakened from what seems to have been a short winter's nap, at least here in South Carolina. Dogwoods and azaleas, flowering cherries and redbuds are bursting at the seams with the colors and blooms that define Spring! And a timely awakening it is, for The Garden Club of South Carolina's Follow The Blooms Garden Tour is underway, featuring gardens across the state, from Holly Hill to Allendale, Hilton Head Island to Conway, Bishopville to Lake City. The tour will feature a grand finale luncheon on April 20, with Patricia Moore-Pastides, First Lady of The University of South Carolina, who will offer a cooking demonstration highlighting recipes from her cookbook *Greek Revival: Cooking for Life*. Tour and Luncheon Tickets are still available at www.gardenclubofsc.org.

District Meetings across the Palmetto State have offered opportunities to recognize and applaud the accomplishments of our member clubs as well as to gain insight as to their individual personalities and interests. Our state ranges from the mountains to the sea, and the diversity of club projects and programs reflects that. The warm welcome from each District has certainly kept intact the legacy and legend of Southern Hospitality.

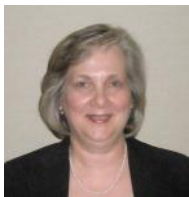
We are so proud of our very own Jerry Weise, GCSC Horticulture Chairman. For many years, Jerry has shared her horticulture expertise with our membership via her essays printed quarterly in *The SC Gardener* and shared on the GCSC website. She has graciously agreed to let her musings and original poetry be published in a new book entitled *Along the Garden Path*; we are excited to be able to offer it for sale and know you will find it a perfect gift for yourself or others! The cost is a very reasonable \$15 plus shipping and handling; see the above website for details.

The State Meeting of The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. is fast approaching; club members from all corners of South Carolina will convene at the new State Farmers Market near Columbia on Friday, April 27. Following the business meeting and workshop on unique container gardening, the long-anticipated Awards Luncheon will be held. GCSC and SAR awards will be presented to deserving clubs; winners of the High School Essay Contest and recipients of the Hessie Morrah and Babs Barnette Scholarships will also be presented.

The GCSC Youth Symposium will be held at Riverbanks Zoo this year on Saturday, April 14; winners of Poetry and Sculpture Contests will be celebrated at this event, which promises to be as wild as the local inhabitants!

During this season of rebirth and renewal, as we rejoice in the beauty that surrounds us every day, our joy is tempered as we remember our neighbors who have suffered losses dealt by the wrath of Mother Nature, who can be a Lady at times and a Demon at others. We are, indeed, so very fortunate.

Maida Dantzler



Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Judy B. Binns, President
Theme: Grow Now...Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

Grow Now . . . Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

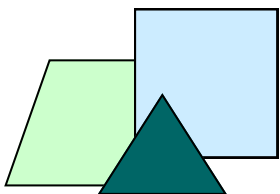
The focus has been on two words in this theme—**GROW** and **PLANT**.

These 2 words denote **ACTION**—and so far, VFGC has had an active and productive year.

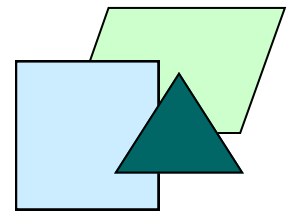
VFGC members have supported the **Blue Gloves for Blue Stars** program. The "Blue Gloves for Blue Stars" project was established to fund the refurbishing of those Blue Star Memorial Markers placed before 1960 as well as any others in need of repair. Members donated \$10 or more to the Blue Star Memorial Fund and received a pair of blue gardening gloves. Three of the markers have already been refurbished and look like new, and 2 more markers are scheduled for this spring. This program is making the Blue Stars in Virginia shine brightly again!

Another new program focusing on Community Gardens, "**Plant Together**," will debut this Spring. This new program encourages garden clubs as well as civic groups and youth groups to schedule a workday during National Garden Week to plant or spruce up gardens in their community. Clubs are asked to do what they do best—**PLANT**. With this project, VFGC wants to spread the word that garden clubs and their members make a difference in their communities all across Virginia. The more clubs that are involved, the better the possibility of some positive publicity for the work of VFGC.

(Continued on page 4)



State Presidents' Themes and Reports (continued)



(Continued from page 3)

Virginia is **PLANTING** seeds for tomorrow.

The “*Keys to the Future*” grants for youth-centered gardening programs awarded \$6000 this fall in grants to projects reaching 4294 youth—bringing the 5 year total to over \$33,000 in grants that have reached over 13,700 youth.

VFGC is working to fund another grant program, “*Grants to Beautify and Restore*,” for club community beautification projects to support the work that our clubs do in their communities and to help restore areas affected by natural disasters. The first of these grants will be awarded in 2013.

This spring, Virginia garden club members will get out their shovels, put on their gardening gloves and remember TWO words—**GROW** and **PLANT**—as they **GROW** with VFGC and plan work days to **PLANT TOGETHER** with other garden clubs all across Virginia.

Judy B. Binns, President, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

West Virginia Garden Club, Inc.
Brenda J. Moore, President
Theme: “West Virginia Garden Club
Members Keeping West Virginia Wild and
Wonderful”



Hoe while it is spring, and enjoy the best anticipations. It does not much matter if things do not turn out well. ~Charles Dudley Warner
Spring is a season of hoeing to prepare the soil and the first year of my presidency was all about hoeing. I’ve hoed in the sense that I have visited and communicated with many clubs. I’ve hoed in that I continue to ask what West Virginia Garden Club can give and can do for its members. We’ve sewn seeds of relationships and seeds of involvement. We’ve even had to hoe out some weeds. But I anticipate positive results.

I was overwhelmed with our members’ participation in making the South Atlantic Region Convention such a successful one. Each district’s members worked on centerpieces, favors and donated items for our WV General store. I was so impressed with all of our members working together. We have members and clubs with very giving spirits who responded to our requests above and beyond the call of duty. We enjoyed meeting our National President, Shirley Nicolai, again. We were taken back in time with WV Author, ‘Pearl Buck’ portrayed by the talented actress Karen Vuranch. We were educated and awed by the Greenbrier Floral Designer, John Gillespie. Finally we learned and laughed with our own NGC Accredited Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure & Symposium instructor, Darlene Newell. Three workshops were presented: Tourla Avery of Groundworks Landscaping in Hinton; Terri Johnson, owner of Honeysuckle Hills Nursery in Oak Hill and Barry Glick of Sunshine Farms in Renick. And our setting, the Greenbrier, is a resort like none other. Many enjoyed tea time and watching dancers waltz and the other perks of this grand historic hotel. Mary Dixon, our SAR Director, graciously worked with us and led this meeting.

I’m touched and overwhelmed by the great attendance for our WVGC Convention. Our numbers for this convention reflect approximately a 60% increase in attendance. We haven’t had registrations like these in a number of years. My project, ‘Membership CPR – Communication, Participation and Recruitment’, Participation means attending district meetings and state conventions. Those seeds sown are starting to blossom. Many members came up to me after the convention and said they had never been to a convention before and that they enjoyed it and will attend next year. This is more than anticipation – it is happening! We had a wonderful convention! Thank you to our host, the Greenbrier District. Our programs were exciting and unique. Our convention hosted Mary Dixon, SAR Director, who spoke at the Wednesday evening banquet just before the Greenbrier owner, Jim Justice. I believe she and Anna Meyers, the alternate SAR Director, enjoyed themselves. I felt our convention lived up to its theme ‘Experiences are timeless and Memories last forever’. We had some once in a lifetime experiences which have created lifelong memories. And because of all these efforts we see a new excitement and energy in West Virginia Garden Club. How can we not anticipate good things for our future?

I look forward to attending the 71st Wildflower Pilgrimage, May 10-13th at Blackwater Falls State Park. This is one of my most favorite activities in garden club. I love seeing the native wildflowers and more than that enjoy the leaders and ‘pilgrims’ that attend.

We anticipate good attendance at our Flower Show School, Course one, in Buckhannon, April 19-21st and our Landscape Design School May 23-25 on the WVU campus in Morgantown.

We continue to work at advertising West Virginia Garden Club by using signage and pamphlets. We continue to encourage communication between members with WVGC and between each other. And we continue to encourage participation and recruitment. We will continue hoeing the fertile soil of West Virginia Garden Club. I anticipate a reward for all of our hard work and growth within WVGC

Brenda Moore, President, West Virginia Garden Club

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www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

Chairman Reports

Arboretums and Botanical Gardens

Karen Prewitt

In an effort to keep you informed about Botanical Gardens, Arboreta and Educational Centers in our region I've selected my home state of South Carolina for this issue.

The South Carolina Botanical Garden is attached to the Riverbanks Zoo located in Columbia, South Carolina, so guests get two treats for the price of one. The South Carolina Botanical Garden has been named as one of the top twenty botanical gardens in the country and I recently learned that it is listed as *the* top tourist attraction in the state of South Carolina. It even surpasses all the amazing attractions we have here in Charleston.

The Botanical Garden was begun in 1995 and contains seventy acres, twelve of which are cultivated. The gardens are referred to as "display gardens", meaning that there is something blooming all year. Change outs, [i.e. total re-plantings] are usually done in April and October. Those who work in the gardens claim that their favorite season is really mid September, after summer growth has reached its most luscious proportion.

The garden is not only composed of plants, but contains an amazing array of artwork that has either been loaned or donated. There are numerous pieces of metal and blown glass sculpture that never seem to stay in one place. They are continually being moved around to create new vistas and unexpected surprises for the visitor.

One of the children's favorite pieces is a giant praying mantis that is about fifteen feet long. It was created out of paper mache that has been coated so that it can withstand the rigors of outdoors. There are numerous large and small interactive displays for children, there is even a giant bird nest for them to play in and miniature park benches to rest on.

The Gardens enjoy a close-knit relationship with the local Latino community and the most photographed spot in the gardens is an exhibit where visitors can become a part of a Mariachi band. A series of brightly painted Mexican arches and tiled artwork is a favorite backdrop for wedding photos.

Like most Botanical Gardens, this one is at its peak during springtime. Twelve thousand bulbs were planted last fall so that their blooming would coincide with the March Spring Festival.

The evening of April 27th is set for a wine tasting and April 28th from nine am until noon is the long awaited Annual Plant Sale. Locals eagerly anticipate scoffing up deals on rare plants. May workshops will focus on a brand new form of gardening borrowed from Germany called 'String Gardening.' Perfect spheres of clay and dirt are planted with seeds and plants then strung like oversized Christmas ornaments in the air to swing in the breeze. Don't miss out on any of the fun events, check out the quarterly newsletter called *Garden Gossip* or contact 803-779-8717.



Blue Star Memorials

Judy Ann Fray

Sewah Studios recently announced a price increase effective May 1, 2012.

New Blue Star marker pricing May 2012 thru May 2014. Effective May 1st 2012.

Memorial & Highway Markers \$1,350.00 per

Byway Plaques \$450 per

Pricing includes a 7' post and delivery. Out West delivery add \$50 for highway and memorial orders.

Refurbish goes up \$50 to \$800 per marker. Posts remain \$325.

Container Gardening

Helen Heater

Tips That May Help Your Container

Gardening To Be More Successful
Remember in an article published earlier, I stated container gardening is easy. Well, it is, but like all projects we need to make adjustments, think ahead and plan to be more successful in all of our endeavors.



If by chance you were not satisfied or successful with some of your containers last season, here are some tips that may answer your questions or that may prevent some mistakes being repeated.

It is sometimes difficult to figure out what went wrong and we don't want to waste time, money or our efforts by repeating those mistakes.

So the following are some of the most common mistakes or things that can create problems that we may need to think about in order to be more successful.

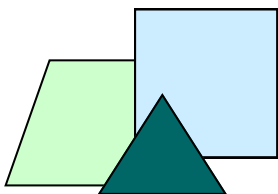
First, and foremost one of the biggest issues we face is knowing when to water. Most plants do not like wet feet, we have a tendency to over-water or not often enough. However, too much water causes root rot very quickly. That's why it is imperative to make sure your containers have proper drainage holes and your soil provides good drainage. Also, be sure to select plants with "like" needs. Plants/roots are like us humans, they need oxygen. It is good for them to take a breath of fresh air or dry out so that oxygen can pass through the soil. However, don't go to the far extreme by letting them dry out for too long a time period. Going from one extreme to the other is also very hard on the plants' growing process.

Here are several things that may help you find the right balance.

Use your finger or an unpainted stick to test whether the soil is wet or dry, 2 or 3 inches below the surface, if dry that's when you should water. (If the plant(s) are overwatered they may look limp or in doubt if over watering you can check the plants' roots by gently lifting the plant out with a spade.) If the roots have musty tips and black, this indicates that the plant is beginning to rot.)

Also, to help find the right balance consider buying an inexpensive moisture meter. It can take the guess work out of watering.

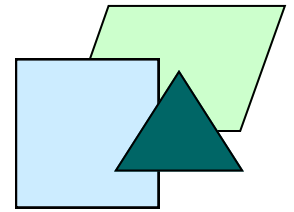
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Lastly remember to choose plants with “like” needs for your containers: i.e. same water, light (sun/shade) and fertilizer requirements.

Secondly, another likeness to human needs; plants need light and the right temperatures. We cannot do our best in doing our projects without proper light or being uncomfortable.

Plants need proper light to bloom and grow. Some plants need direct light, some need full sun, others partial sun or partial shade or shade. Just make sure to check the requirements on the plant stickers that accompany your plant. You can prevent the plants from getting sun burnt by choosing the right light requirements. One big advantage of container gardening over garden plants is that you can move the containers around to the right place. A good rule of thumb for low light plants is to put them in dappled light or a place where they will get the early morning or late afternoon sun.

Thirdly, plants also get hungry like us. Container plants need to be fed more often than plants in a garden. Because we also need to water some container plants more frequently it causes the nutrients to also dissipate faster, leaving the soil a little inadequate to nourish our plants. The solution is to feed all foliage plants about once a month during periods of growth and feed blooming plants more often, approx. twice a month. Note: (Make sure to follow directions on the fertilizer container for proper proportions.) They require more energy for flower production, about once every two weeks while in flower. Once bloom time is done treat them just like foliage plants. One more thing to remember, if you plan to overwinter your container plants, is to stop fertilizing around September, so the plants can go dormant during winter.

Finally, a few other points for choosing the right container for your plants is almost as important as the soil.

Most flowering annuals don't have very deep root systems, they do well or better in containers that are wider than they are deep. Use a container that is no more than 2 or 3 inches larger or deeper than the roots of the plant. This way there is less chance the plants won't drown in excess water or soil. If you, however, just fall in love with that tall, beautiful container and just have to use it; try the following. Fill the bottom of the pot with styrofoam chunks or packing peanuts, and/or use soilless potting mix. These mixes are available at garden centers and are especially formulated to drain well to take up space, then finish filling with good potting mix. This also helps with drainage and prevents root rot. (Just remember if we choose a very large pot we may want to consider keeping it in a stationary place, safety first.)

Remember to keep our containers and soil clean. A house plant may live in the same soil for a couple of years or so, so it is important to revitalize it every year or so. Take the root ball out of the container and carefully remove some of the old soil from the sides and bottom, then add new soil or potting mix to the container and replant and re-water.

Choose the right plants for the right place and you can avoid many ailments. Also, if you want to keep plants over the winter, check each plants' hardiness zone to make sure it will survive in your regions. Plants in containers are more vulnerable to extreme temperatures. You may be wise to buy or choose plants that are hardy to at least one hardiness zone colder than the one you live in. Extra mulch or more protection for container plants also help.

Now that spring is almost here let's make your container gardening a bigger success this growing season.

Edible Gardens

Janice Doyle

Get Going on Vegetable Gardening

It is time to begin planning your SPRING vegetable garden planting or at least begin dreaming of doing the planting!

Getting the soil ready is the first step by plowing or tilling the garden area and augmenting the soil. Mid March is generally the time for planting potatoes, onions, radishes and peas. I usually have a few potatoes that have sprouted over the winter from the bushel or so that I harvest. These make the perfect candidates for spring planting being sure that each cut segment has a sprouting eye. Sprouting sweet potatoes can also be planted in planters in substitution for the expensive sweet potato vines purchased in pots. The bonus is that you may have a few small potatoes when you dismantle the summer flowers into your compost heap. It is so tempting to buy those herbs and vegetable plants in the garden centers early in the season. In many of our areas the ground is not going to be warm enough for planting tomatoes, cucumbers eggplants and the like until mid May. Speaking of eggplant plants I have found that the smaller Japanese fruit is better for eating and they do not have the strong flavor of the large dark purple kinds. Why not try the white and lavender types of this year. I usually fry up some of these (dipped in flour and cooked in vegetable shortening) and freeze them for winter.

I find that canning tomatoes is not very hard work in comparison to the enjoyment of them once made into spaghetti sauce or just plainly canned. For plain canning just pop the raw, peeled tomatoes into a clean sterilized jar with some salt and cook in the canner for about 50 minutes. Too neatly peel tomatoes dip them in boiling water for a minute or so. The peel slides right off.

I have a tip for maintaining moisture around your plants without putting stress on your pocketbook and well. I have a rain barrel system that collects the rain water from the gutters off my roofs. There are PVC pipes that connect the barrels to one another in groups of two to four. There are two ways that work well to distribute the water. One is by using a strong pump to pump the water from the barrel via garden hose to drip hoses spread around the plants. I did need to enlarge the holes in the drip hoses to get a better water flow. I use that method for the vegetable garden. For herbs and flowers I use rectangles of PVC pipe with spaced holes on the underside that connect and outline the garden area. There are on and off valves that adjust the flow of the water. You can test to see if you need to have a pump for distributing the water or if gravity will do the work for you. Don't forget to plant some edible flowers like nasturtiums and marigolds around your vegetable plants. They'll make the tossed salad look very special along with adding a “bite” for the taste buds. These flowers also keep some of the bugs away naturally, too.

If you do not have a large space for vegetable gardening try a planting tomato plant (or other vegetables) in a bushel basket filled with nicely composed soil. If you have animals that raid these, you might tuck the bushel baskets behind boxwood bushes that are close to your house. My Mother used to do that and had enough tomatoes for the whole neighborhood! I must advise against the up-side-down planting bags. Mother Nature has plants growing upright for a reason! Raising your own vegetables allows you to control how they are grown and preserved. You regulate the amount of salt and pesticides that are used in/ on what you consume.

Chairman Reports (continued)

Environmental Concerns/Butterflies and Bees

Martha F. Morgan

The concern of many people in agriculture and horticulture fields is the decline of butterflies and bees as pollinators of our food supply. Both butterflies and bees need a variety of plants for their food and also need water sources and protection. Bees are experiencing a condition called Colony Collapse Disorder, where all adults in a colony die. This has



reached over 30 % in recent years. Butterflies need host plants to nourish the caterpillars after the eggs hatch. Pesticides are also a threat and lack of habitat is endangering the lifecycle of both species. As gardeners, we are urged to plant a variety of flowers and herbs for both food and shelter for these invertebrates and to provide shelter by leaving a corner or small area of our gardens to grow up, or to plant vines on trellises to give them a safe haven. We

will be rewarded by the beautiful butterflies and the buzzing bees as they visit our gardens in the future.

Heritage/Native Plants

Jo Ann Johnson

Many plants are hardy in all of the states in the South Atlantic Region and this Chairman asks that you plant any or all of the following suggested list. Also, it would be great to hear from each state if there are plantings in any areas that are public places/areas.

Heritage Plants-- Annuals & Perennials

Blackberry Lily (Belamcanda chinensis)
Chinese Ground Orchid - Bletilla striata
Cosmos - Cosmos bipinnata
Four O'Clock
Ginger Lily, common - Hedychium coronarium
Horsetail - Equisetum hyemale
Larkspur - Consolida ambigua
Lenten Rose - Helleborus orientalis
Money Plant - Lunaria annua
Perennial Hibiscus - Hibiscus moscheutos
Snake Plant - Sanseveria trifasciata
Summer Phlox
Zebra Grass
Zinnia, Common

Southern Natives

Trees:

American Holly- Ilex opaca
Eastern Red Cedar - Juniperus virginiana
Sweet Bay-Magnolia virginiana
Virginia Pine - Pinus virginiana
Willow Oak- Quercus phellos

Vines:

Climbing Hydrangea - Decumaria barbara
Maypop - Passiflora incarnata
Trumpet Honeysuckle - Lonicera sempervivens

Fruits:

American Persimmon

Mayhaw - crataegus opaca

PawPaw

Perennials/Annuals:

Galax - galax urceolata

Indian Paintbrush - castileja indivisa

Louisiana Iris - mertensia pulmonarides

Blazing Star - Liatris

Butterfly Pea - clitoria mariana

Cardinal Flower - Lobelia cardinalis

False Indigo - Baptisia

Coneflower - Echinacea

Shrubs:

American Beautyberry - callicarpa americana

Bottlebrush buckeye - aesculus parviflora

Mountain Laurel - Kalmia latifolia

Possumhaw - Ilex decidua

Summersweet - clethra alrifolia



Historic Trails

Lynn Bell

It's time to shake off the winter doldrums and enjoy the beauty of the South Atlantic Region in spring time! Touring possibilities are plentiful. Here are some that got my attention.

Kentucky – Lincoln Heritage National Scenic Byway. This is a 72 mile drive through picturesque areas and quaint Main Street communities of central Kentucky. Stops along the way feature themes important to Kentucky history: Abraham Lincoln's early life, Civil War events and religious settlements in the area. And there are lots of great dining and shopping opportunities!

North Carolina – Appalachian Medley. This 45 mile byway in western NC is said to "engage your senses and recall the past." The area is noted for its rich history of local music and beautiful mountain scenic drives. Part of the byway is closely bound by the Pisgah National Forest, which covers one million acres in NC and is the birthplace of the scientific study of American forestry.

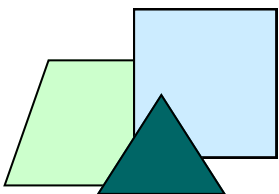
South Carolina – Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Highway. This 112 mile drive follows State Route 11 and takes you through some of the most beautiful country in South Carolina, featuring lakes, state parks, waterfalls and tremendous views. Inviting small towns, noted for their "southern charm," are filled with art galleries, antique shops, and historic sites.

(Continued on page 8)

Key Notes

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(Continued from page 7)

Virginia – Journey Through Hallowed Ground. This National Scenic Byway/National Heritage Area enters the state in Loudoun Co. in the north and winds its way south to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville. Along the way are beautiful landscapes and numerous historic towns and sites, including Civil War battlefields and antebellum estates. Also, look for farmers markets and outdoor recreation sites.

West Virginia – Washington Heritage Trail. Located in the eastern panhandle, this trail takes you to areas noted for abundant history and unspoiled beauty. The 112 mile loop is marked by more than 100 historic sites, including Revolutionary and Civil War sites, 18th century towns, transportation history, seven family homes owned by George Washington and historic spas. (Berkeley Springs Castle, built in the late 1880's, is pictured above.)

So pack your suitcases and get ready for some truly memorable sights in the South Atlantic Region.

Don't forget your cameras!

Invasive Plants

Ann Fiel

Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), also known as Nepalese browntop. Native to Asia, it was first reported in the United States in the early 1900's. It is now an invasive exotic throughout the Eastern United States and the South so let's do our part in helping to control or get rid of this grass.

This species spreads by seed. It flowers in late summer, and the small, abundant seeds can float and readily move with wildlife. It is most abundant and aggressive in moist environments but also can establish itself in the shade of forests. It can form thick mats up to 3 or 4 feet in height and can smother anything under it.

An annual, Japanese stilt grass sounds like it would have long grass-like blades but instead it resembles a bamboo, having pale green 1 to 3 inch lance-shaped leaves that alternate on a branched stalk with pale silvery hairs along the midrib. The flowers produce 1 to 3" seed heads in the fall with the seeds staying alive for up to five years in the soil.

Look-alikes include perennial white grass (Virginia cutgrass), a native species, and lady's thumb (*Polygonum persicaria*), a non-grass species.

The key to controlling this species is to stop seed production and continue to treat plants that emerge from the seeds in the surface soil. Hand pulling or mowing before seed production helps in control along with spraying with herbicide such as glyphosate. Herbicide preemergents can be used in early spring as well.

Information from Jeff Stringer & Kentucky Woodland



Litter/Reclamation/Recycling/Waste Management

Elene Combs

Ways to Go Green.....

Challenge yourself to make a difference

In the bathroom:

- ◇ Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth
- ◇ Turn off the water when you are soaping your hands
- ◇ Avoid paper towels
- ◇ Take shorter shower—an average shower wastes 5-10 gallons of water every minute.
- ◇ Avoid baths—it takes 25 gallons of water to fill a tub only ½ way

With clothing:

- ◇ Read the labels—look for clothes made out of organic materials
- ◇ Avoid polyester—it is made with petroleum.
- ◇ Dress for the season—dressing warmer means you can keep the thermostat down
- ◇ Only do laundry with a full load of clothes.
- ◇ Wash your clothes with cold water
- ◇ Dry the clothes outside on a clothes lines

With electronics:

- ◇ Print papers double sided
- ◇ Turn off your laptop or anything that uses chargers
- ◇ Use Energy efficient light bulbs—they use 75% less energy
- ◇ Recycle old appliances—parts can be reused

In your daily living:

- ◇ Use reusable grocery bags
- ◇ Buy less packaging and more food
- ◇ Bring a mug, cup or bottle with you
- ◇ Grow a small garden
- ◇ Compost
- ◇ Ride your bike
- ◇ Ride the Bus or Carpool

Memorials/Honorariums

Joan Wipperman

The South Atlantic Region welcomes donations from individuals and clubs in the memory or in honor of members of this region.

The donation is tax deductible and will be added to the Scholarship Fund. The income generated from the Scholarship Fund is used to fund an annual scholarship for a student in one of our five states. A contribution is a way to remember an individual - especially a South Atlantic Garden Club member - who you wish to memorialize or recognize for a favor or special activity.

Donations should be sent to the South Atlantic Region Treasurer.

Thank you.

National Garden Week

Marilyn Mason

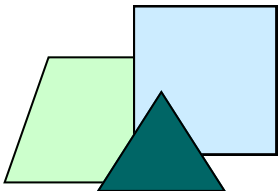
Celebrating National Garden Week the first week in June has become an annual 'event' throughout communities. Adding that special gardening touch which our members enthusiastically embrace has been unsurpassed in the planting, beautifying or other community activities to promote this all-important week.

How will your community be celebrating National Garden Week, June 3-9, 2012?

Once again, I await pictures depicting many of your activities – and, of course, award Books of Evidence.



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



Penny Pines

Audrey Kelly 757-486-1733

e mail: wmyluv@verizon.net

Penny Pines is a National Presidents Project in which an individual/Group or Garden Club can contribute by donating \$68.00 to a Penny Pine Plantation as part of the cost of replanting and/or replacement of trees that live naturally in a particular damaged area, whether by fire or by other natural misfortune (These do not have to be pine trees) You can also designate a special state you wish to benefit from this contribution.

NGC and USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed this partnership sustaining our national & urban forests through this program.

For each \$68.00 donation, you will receive a Penny Pine Certificate from National Garden Clubs, Inc. made "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" a special someone who has made a difference. The form can be found on NGC Website: www.gardenclub.org.

Please send in your form with \$68.00 check to the address that is on the form.

I am encouraging all 5 states in the South Atlantic Region to participate in this project by having a committee chairman and if possible to present an award to the District with the largest number of plantations (donations). Then the next step is to get your Districts to have a committee chairman and if possible to present an award in their district to the club with the largest number of plantations (donations). This way we will have a chain reaction.

South Atlantic Region presented the award to the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs as the state with the most donations from March 1, 2011 through February 29th 2012 at the SAR convention just held March 25-27, 2012.

In the South Atlantic Region yearbook it states to send the checks to me, Audrey Kelly, but I am finding that if you send them straight to NGC as stated on the form it will get to the NGC sooner with all the proper info for the NGC to send you your certificate. Please send me a notification that you made the donation, so I can put that in my records. The timeline for the next SAR award is March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013.



Key Notes *April 2012*
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Chairman Reports (continued)

Scholarships

Betsy Steele

The Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship

The SAR Scholarship Committee is pleased to award the 2012 Corrie Whitlock Memorial scholarship to Chelsea Nicole Gusler of Dublin, Virginia.

Chelsea is a student at Virginia Tech majoring in Horticulture and Biochemistry. She is a 19-year-old sophomore with senior status. Chelsea attended Pulaski County High School, with perfect attendance from 8th through 12th grades, and attended The Southwest Virginia Governor's School, where she was awarded the Southwest Virginia Governor's School President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence. By taking dual enrollment courses at these schools, she was able to transfer 56 college credit hours to Virginia Tech. These credits cover most of the basic classes needed for both majors, and thus, Chelsea will add a third major, Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise and still graduate in two years. Adding this third major will allow her to perform her undergraduate research with the horticulture department to test diseases on plants or determine preventative possibilities from the plants.

Chelsea has given her time and energy to various leadership roles with Future Farmers of America, Rodeo Club, Soccer team, and the Pulaski County 4-H, and has been recognized with numerous awards from each organization. Church and community involvement has given her additional opportunity for volunteer service.

At Virginia Tech, students are only charged for up to 12 credit hours. Chelsea, being a good steward of scholarship funds she is awarded, tries to take advantage of this by taking no fewer than 16 credits each semester. With her older brother in college, and her mother being primary caregiver to her 82-year-old grandmother, Chelsea has tried diligently to apply for, and use wisely, as many scholarships as she can.

Her grandmother, now cared for by her family, was the impetus for her interest in horticulture. Chelsea's "passion for the field," and the desire to learn and unlock secrets of the plants she grew, as a child, has resulted in her vigorous determination to achieve her career goals. Her rural upbringing provided the work ethic that has spawned desire into achievement.

To quote one of Chelsea's professors at Virginia Tech, "Chelsea is one of the most complete packages you will see in academics and career development involvement and a future impact player to the horticulture industry."

It is a pleasure to present the 2012 SAR Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship to

Chelsea Nicole Gusler, a most deserving applicant



Key Notes

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April 2012

Ways & Means

Patsy Cameron

"Accessory Alley"

The first fund raising project of the current SAR Ways and Means Committee was held at the SAR Convention, March 25-27, 2012 at the Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, WV. "Accessory Alley" offered new and gently used jewelry, scarves, and handbags at bargain basement sale prices. Many great buys were found to the delight of some frugal convention goers. The project earned over \$400.00 for SAR Ways and Means, while helping the environment as we recycled goods and gave them new life.

Special thanks are extended to all who supported the project with their donations, especially the West Virginia members who made numerous contributions

Also, sales support from Tidewater District members Audrey Kelly and Geneva Hunt contributed to the success of "Accessory Alley".

Anyone who has an idea or suggestion for a future fund raising project is encouraged to contact this chairman. Your input is needed and welcome.

pecameron@cox.net or 757 486 3165.



Audrey Kelly & Patsy Cameron
Modeling Merchandise in "Accessory Alley"

Odds 'N' Ends

NGC Convention 2012

This year's NGC Convention is May 17-20, 2012 in Buffalo NY. Check the NGC website for all information and for the registration form. We hope to see a large turnout from the South Atlantic Region. For this, more is definitely better!!

There will be a Habitat For Humanity Walk Friday May 18 at 6:15 A.M. Donations go to each state chairman and are reported to the SAR and NGC chairmen. Send your donation to the state chairman, made payable to your individual state. This donation is tax deductible. How much can be raised for this worthwhile project this year?

SAR Directory Corrections

Mary Sue Floyd mlfloyd3570@aol.com

Remember to send any Directory changes to this Chairman as well as to the SAR Director and the Corresponding Secretary. It is very important that we have the latest information so we can keep good communication with everyone.

P. 13. Chaplain Phyllis Steele: email: pbsteele406@gmail.com

P. 15 Calendar/Vision of Beauty: delete Barbara Robinson

P. 24: Arbor Day, Geneva Hunt: email: genevahunt@cox.net

Dates From Our States

Apr. 19-21 Flower Show School Course I, Buckhannon WV

Apr. 28-29 Shenandoah Potomac House & Garden Tour, Shenandoah Potomac District WV

Apr. 30 VFGC Member Meeting, Charlottesville VA

May 10-13 Wildflower Pilgrimage, Blackwater Falls WV

May 17-20 NGC Convention, Buffalo NY

May 23-25 Landscape Design School, Morgantown WV

June 9 Lewisburg House & Garden Tour, Lewisburg WV

Aug. 26-29 Flower Show School Course 4, Richmond VA

Sept. 9-11 Flower Show Judges Symposium, Staunton VA

Sept. 15-17 Flower Show School Course 2, Cedar Lakes WV

Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems

NGC Special Project 2011-2013

There is an article and award application information about this project on page 8 of the latest issue of *The National Gardener*. Please check this out and promote the project, both as state projects and as individual club projects

Sympathy to Cynthia Kozakewich, SAR Air Quality Chairman, on the loss of her husband in February.

Sympathy is extended to Eleanor Yates, for NGC President from SAR, on the death of her husband December 25.

Convention 2012

South Atlantic Region Convention

March 25-27, 2012 The Greenbrier

SAR Director Mary Dixon



The Convention At A Glance

Sunday's **banquet** featured our National Garden Club president, Shirley Nicolai, from the National Capitol Area. She and our SAR Director, Mary Dixon, were honored at the reception following the banquet.

The **official opening** of the convention was at 9:00 am in the Theatre. Karen Vuranch, who performed "Coal Camp Memories" at the 2007 SAR Convention, became Pearl Buck at the **opening luncheon** that had an oriental theme. Karen has received many awards for her performances as a master storyteller and has performed at the White House's Ellipse Theatre. Two **workshops** in the afternoon featured landscaping specialists Tarula Avery and Barry Glick. **Vendors** had pottery, wildflowers and landscape plants for sale and our special **West Virginia General Store** featured items made in West Virginia including antiques, glassware, crafts, and baskets.

Monday's Awards Banquet saw our state presidents receive awards for their clubs and a special program by NGC accredited Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure, and Symposium Instructor Darlene Newell on *The Gifts of Spring* showcasing new cultivars, old favorites, and gardening tips. Each SAR state was recognized with arcane facts and implausible fables. Darlene serves on the NGC Horticulture Committee as Plant Society Liaison Chairman and is a member of the Orchid, Daffodil, and Chrysanthemum Societies, a Master Gardener, and a Landscape Design Consultant.

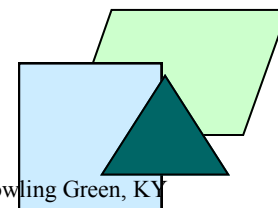
Check out our website and link to each of our states!

Key Notes

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Convention 2012 (continued)



The statistics for the Convention are:

Voting Strength 99
Elected Alternates 7
Non-voting Members 57
Spouses 6
Visitors 4
Guests 8
Regional Life Members 63
NGC Life Members 62
Total Registration 168
Total Attendance 166

AWARDS

1. BIRD PROTECTION

- i. Rapid Ann GC, Orange, VA
- ii. Fleming County GC, Flemingsburg, KY

2. BUTTERFLY

Glasgow GC, Glasgow, KY

3. CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

- i. Mooresville GC, Mooresville, NC
- ii. Saint Matthews GC, St. Matthews, SC
- iii. Cape Fear GC, Wilmington, NC

4. ENVIRONMENTAL

Greenville Council of GC, Greenville, SC

5. GARDEN THERAPY/HEALING GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION

(TIE) Skyview GC, Charleston, WV
South Windermere GC, Charleston, SC

6. HORTICULTURE THERAPY

- ii. Little Neck GC, Virginia Beach, VA
- iii. Chesapeake Bay GC, Reedville, VA

7. HISTORIC TRAIL & PRESERVATION

Hanover Towne GC, Mechanicsville, VA

9. LANDSCAPE

GC of Danville, Danville, KY

10. LITTER/RECYCLING/RECLAMATION

- i. Green Meadow Point Garden Club, Chesapeake, VA
- iii. Chesapeake Bay GC, Reedville, VA

11. THE NATIONAL GARDENER

Glasgow GC, Glasgow, KY

12. NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

- i. Louisa County GC, Louisa VA
- ii. Georgetown Garden Club, Georgetown, SC

13. BLUE STAR MEMORIAL

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

14. PROGRAM

Best Program (Without slides, video or power point)
The Avid Gardeners GC, Hilton Head Island, SC

15. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Loris Garden Club, Loris, SC

17. STANDARD FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE AWARDS SINGLE CLUB

Chesapeake Bay GC, Reedville, VA

TWO OR MORE CLUBS

The Cardinal Council of Garden Clubs, Bowling Green, KY

19. VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR SALES

Green Pine GC, Portsmouth, VA

20. VAN DEUSEN TREE PLANTING/ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES

- i. Gardening Girls Study Club, Camden, SC
- ii. Flowertown GC, Summerville, SC
- iii. Lake of the Woods GC, Locust Grove, VA

21. FLOWERING TREES LANDSCAPE

Luray GC, Luray, VA

22. BLUE STAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING

Hanover Towne GC, Mechanicsville, VA

25. NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

26. SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.

28. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Gold Dusters Junior GC, Moneta, VA

29. YOUTH EDUCATION

Linda Porter (Member of GC of Danville, Danville, KY) # # 30.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION POSTER CONTEST

Kindergarten: Elisabeth Keller, Chrysanthemum GC, Abbeville, SC

Grade 1: Briar Nathan Hiers, Magnolia GC, Varnville, SC

Grade 2: Sydney Jeanne Dawson, Chrysanthemum GC, Abbeville, SC

Grade 3: Olivia Milford, Heritage GC, Anderson, SC

Grade 4: Preston Cook, Magnolia GC, Varnville, SC

Grade 5: Morgan King, Orangeburg, SC, Rose GC, St. Matthews, SC

Grade 6: No Application

Overall Best Poster: First Grade, Briar Nathan Hiers, Magnolia GC, Varnville, SC

31. NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB ESSAY CONTEST

Winner: Lauryn Hutto, St. Matthews GC, St. Matthews, S. C.

32. NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB POETRY CONTEST

Kindergarten: Brendan Moseley, Magnolia GC, Varnville, SC

Grade 1: Lillian Grace Tolson, Lancaster GC, Lancaster, SC

Grade 2: Lana Geiger, Lancaster GC, Lancaster, SC

Grade 3: Alex Carroll, Magnolia GC, Varnville, SC

Grade 4: Easton Frank-Allan Harman, Stargazer GC, Muncy, WV,

Grade 5: Jackson Sutherland, Two Creeks GC, Alvaton, KY

Grade 6: Cassie Hasselback, Magnolia GC, Varnville, SC

Grade 7: Mary Ellen Haas, Old Fredericktown GC, Clear Brook, VA

Grade 8: Lily Hinson, King Alfred GC, Kershaw, SC

Over-all Best Poem: Seventh Grade, Mary Ellen Haas, Old Fredericktown GC, Clear Brook, VA

33. SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

Grade 1: Erika Wu, Thoroughgood GC, Virginia Beach, VA

Grade 2: Darren Woodson, Madison GC, Madison, VA

Grade 3: Fjolla Demiri, Southside GC, Blacksburg, VA

Grade 4: Taylor Perry, High Country GC, Haico, WV

Grade 5: Dylan Ralston, Merrifields GC, Portsmouth, VA

34. NGC YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

Grade 4: Seth Williams, Creative GC, Abbeville, SC

Grade 5: Nick Stone, GC of Frankfort, Frankfort, KY

Grade 6: Lexi Hinson, King Alfred GC, Kershaw, SC

Grade 7: Alexis Pluler, King Alfred GC, Kershaw, SC

Grade 8: NA

Overall Winner: Nick Stone, GC of Frankfort, Frankfort, KY

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION PUBLICITY PRESS BOOK AWARD

44 A **Small Club:** Green Meadow Point GC, Chesapeake, VA

Medium Club: Town and Country GC, Wise, VA

Large Club: Chesapeake Bay Garden Club, Reedville, VA

44 B **Council:** Portsmouth Area Council of Garden Clubs, Portsmouth, VA

District: Tidewater District, Virginia Federation of GC's

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Convention 2012 (continued)

(Continued from page 12)

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION SPECIAL PROJECT

SAR 2: Communicate Rewards of Membership

A. Individual Club Award: Green Meadow Point Garden Club,

Chesapeake, VA

NGC President's Special Projects Awards by South Atlantic Region

NGC 1 Penny Pines:

Virginia Federation of Garden Club, Inc.

YEARBOOKS

NGC 16A: Single member garden Club

i. Club under 20 members: Green Meadow Point GC,

Chesapeake, VA

ii. Club 20-29 members: Iris GC, Columbia, SC

iii. Club 30-44 members: Saint Matthews GC, St. Matthews, SC

iv. Club 45-69 members: Thomas Jefferson GC, Richmond, VA

v. Club 70-99 members: Flowertown GC, Summerville, SC

vi. Club 100-299 members: Raleigh GC, Raleigh, NC

vii. Club 300 or more members Cape Fear GC, Wilmington, NC

NGC 16B: Group of Member Clubs, Council, District, or Council: (Certificate)

Garden Club Council of Greater Columbia, Columbia, SC

MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR

Pamela B. Peltier

The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



NGC President
Shirley Nicolai



SAR Alternate Director
Anna Meyers



Mary Dixon & Pamela Peltier



Memorial Service



"Pearl Buck"

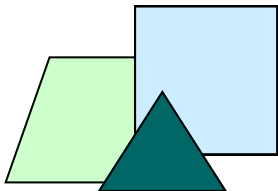


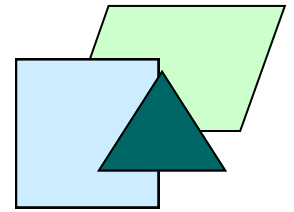
State Presidents & NGC President

Key Notes

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April 2012





The South Atlantic Region Member States



American Daffodil Society National Convention and Flower Show 2012

The Maryland Daffodil Society proudly hosts “Blooms, Bay and Beyond”

At

The Sheraton North, 903 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson, MD 21204

Flower Show: Friday April 20, 2012 from 2:00-5:00pm,
Saturday April 21, 2012 from 9:00am-5:00pm

The show includes a vast Horticultural display of typically over 2,000 flowers, Floral Arrangement interpreting Maryland Landscape scenes and a Photography Show showcasing daffodils. Open to the public, both to view and exhibit following schedule guidelines, free of charge and with free parking. This is a unique event appealing to all ages!

The American Daffodil Society website (www.daffodilusa.org) is a great resource for learning more about daffodils before you go!

Convention: Thursday April 19- Sunday April 22. Seminars, tours, lectures, boutique, Awards dinner and refresher courses for judges are included. Register online.

For more information please visit: www.marylanddaffodil.org

Email: MarylandDaffodil@gmail.com.

Key Notes

Aprikl 2012

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org