

KEY NOTES



South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

October 2012
Volume 9, Issue 2

“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

Happy Fall! What a beautiful time of the year. Brilliant color, brisk mornings, and renewed energy for our clubs that start up again and plan for another year of work.

I just returned from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Fall Board Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas and feel renewed myself after seeing all of the work that is going into our organization. Bless the Calendar Committee as they work from sunup to after sunset each day during the meeting working on the Vision of Beauty Calendar for each year. Have you purchased your 2013 Vision of Beauty Calendar yet? It is beautiful and helps support your clubs, state and NGC organization.

I also appreciate the work that all of the committees do for us. There is so much thought and organization that goes into every detail of our work. Hopefully the changes that you will see in the future will make things better and more easily understood. Please read The National Gardener and share it with your members as the work of your organization is updated there. Also, I encourage clubs to appoint at least one member of your club to become familiar with the NGC Website. There are answers to many questions you may have, forms are there for your use, changes to awards information as well as lots of other information you could use. Everyone that uses the computer is encouraged to use the website but if you have a member with that job then they can alert others about new information. Communication is such an important part of Garden Club and I hope to see lots of applications for the South Atlantic Region (SAR2) award this year.

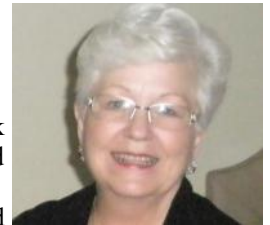
We are working to have a wonderful celebration at the South Atlantic Region 2013 Convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky, March 25-27, 2013. The Registration form is on line and in this issue of Key Notes. Register early! This Director is offering an award of \$100.00 to the State with the highest number of Package Plan Registrations made by February 25, 2013. The chairman has planned many informative workshops and programs. Lexington is a beautiful city so plan to give yourself time to drive around and see the beautiful landscape of the area.

I have had the editor include in this issue the information about “Sage and Roses” so that members can use this way of sending Holiday Greetings to friends and family and also support the Blue Star Memorial Program in your state. Virginia won \$1400.00 award last year from the drawing for participation. What a great way to add to the Blue Star funds available for new markers.

State Presidents have been asked to report the dollar amount that has been given in each state for college scholarships. I have asked them to also share this information with me. If you know of a club that gives college scholarships please let your president know so it can be counted in with the numbers. We are making an effort to make our organization’s value to its members known. Sometimes numbers make an impact and we know the number will surprise many.

As you know another issue I addressed with my theme for this administration was Membership. Please be aware that membership certificates are available on the NGC Web Site for clubs that get new members and also certificates for NET gains in membership.

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(Continued from page 1)

Reach out to neighbors or even out of your neighborhood to invite guests to your club meetings. After they come send a card letting them know how delighted you were that they came and hope they will come back. Be sure they are made aware when and where you are meeting next and encourage them to bring a guest. This may just be the idea that works for your club. If you have ideas that have worked for you let me know so I can share it with other members of our Region.

I attended a meeting held by NGC President Elect, Linda Nelson with the other State Presidents and Regional Directors where ideas and concerns from their states were shared. One really good idea I received from this meeting was Leadership Workshops that have been held in some of the states. This brings chairmen and officers together to learn more about the organization and duties of their positions. This can also be given within clubs, councils and districts. Time is coming for nominating committees to come up with volunteers to fill the positions for another administration. When members are educated about expectations and opportunities for service within the organization they will be more willing to step up and serve in leadership positions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your director. It has been rewarding for me and I am learning along with you as well. I look forward to seeing you all in Lexington, Kentucky in March 2013 and remember "Members Are The Link To The Future" and we are all "Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities".

Love and Hugs,

Mary

Mary H. Dixon, Director

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State Presidents' Themes and Reports



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

What a different summer season Kentucky has just experienced! Our clubs quickly entered into new phases of "how to", "what to do", and where to find club activities and new information including searching for resources that pertained to alternate means of water conservation, landscaping and gardening ideas. Clubs were encouraged to use local libraries for not only printed information, but to step out of the box and experience the use of computers for resources and information.

Early in the season, clubs hosted tours of historic homes and member's gardens. A club searched sites for possible visits to old, log cabins across the state. Other clubs offered simple new activity ideas including drying small flowers and crafted bookmarks, notepaper and pictures; gourd projects including cleaning, painting, weaving, creating birdhouses from previously dried gourds; creating grapevine, succulent wreaths, by using small, recycled flower pots, planting with succulents, and wiring the pots to the wreath, and adding raffia ribbon. Still others went back into their childhood and created Fairy and Dish Gardens. Their searches included looking for old wood, bent branches on an old shrub, pieces of old dishes and flower pots, buckets and wooden boxes and a lot of imagination.

A most exciting, collaborative project in late summer has been the installation of a Demonstration, Ornamental Rain Garden at our State Headquarters and Arboretum in Paris, Kentucky.

Using grant funds obtained from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, University of Kentucky Horticulture Staff and the local Horticulture Agent conducted a one day hands-on workshop on the garden development and actual installation. Interested community members, garden club members and the volunteers worked to complete the garden. Local garden clubs and businesses provided the sedges, rushes and native plants for the garden bed. An informational sign was placed on a wall near the garden. Programs are now being offered on this project.

In addition a recent college graduate is developing a GPS project that identifies location and information on each trees and shrub at the Arboretum site. This GPS project will provide quick, educational information for the school children and visitors who continually visit the Arboretum.

Kentucky's Landscape Consultants offered Course I, Landscape School in collaboration with Western Kentucky University and the Baker Arboretum in Bowling Green recently. Forty individuals attended the Course. Plans are being made to offer Course II in the Spring. A detailed presentation on the new Ornamental Rain Garden was presented at the school.

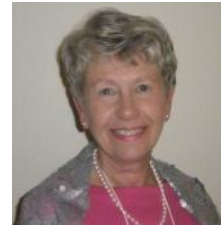
Our District Meetings will be held in October. Information from the Fall Board Meeting and future happenings will be presented. Ideas, activities and information will be gathered to share with our members on our newly revised Garden Club of Kentucky web-site. (thegardenclubofKentucky.org).

Dianne Caines, President, Garden Club of Kentucky
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Key Notes

October 2012

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org



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

The garden club year is beginning and everyone is in a tizzy to get last minute details into place. The clubs that have opted to come under the umbrella of GCNC's 501 c 3 status have their information in (we hope) and now our treasurer will put everything together for the IRS. Clubs will have another opportunity to join next year but it is a once a year deal. We have found that some clubs mistakenly think they are already tax exempt but are not. Some clubs think that they can use their council's tax exempt number but that is also incorrect. The council runs the risk of losing its status in that event. We are letting our council and clubs know about the ins and outs of a tax exempt status. Nothing involving the IRS is easy!!

GCNC is excited to be a part of a traveling exhibition of "Still Life Masterpieces: A Visual Feast from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston", that will be at the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh from mid-October to mid-January. The North Carolina Judges will be providing floral designs interpreting specific works of art of their choice. The dates for the floral designs will be Oct.

17-20, Nov 6-9, Dec. 4-6, Jan. 8-11. The exhibition features works by Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse, O'Keeffe, Gris, Copley, Manet, Sisley, and many more. An exhibition overview can be seen at www.ncartmuseum.org/still-life.

GCNC's District Meetings begin in October and the President and 3 of the Vice Presidents will be traipsing all over a VERY wide state to visit our 10 Districts. It is always a joy to see so many of our garden club friends that make such a difference in North Carolina.

If any of you will be visiting North Carolina this fall be sure to check out our great gardens, the Daniel Boone Native Gardens in Boone and the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo. Fall is a great time to be in the mountains and check out the Native Gardens. The Elizabethan Gardens will be presenting a month long "Winter Lights" festival during December. You can get information about either garden at the GCNC website

www.gardenclubofnc.org
Judy Barnes, President, Garden Club of North Carolina
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Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.
Maida Owen Dantzler, President
Theme: "Initiate, Collaborate, Celebrate"

Can you feel the change in the air? There is a new crispness in the atmosphere...and, as the temperatures relax into fall, garden club activities begin to heat up again! Club and council yearbooks have arrived, filled with the promise of projects and programs to inspire and motivate.

You are invited to join GCSC members as they travel to the historic region near Eutawville and embark on a tour of antebellum plantations seldom offered on tour; these homes were among the few fortunate enough to survive the inundation of river bottom land to provide rural electrification in the 1940's. The tour, from 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM on November 3, will include Numertia, Loch Dhu and Lawson's Pond plantations, the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, a Revolutionary War battle site and the Parish House. On November 2, a reception will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 PM for ticket holders at Clark's Inn in Santee. For information, visit the GCSC website,

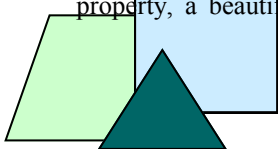
www.gardenclubofsc.org or contact Tour Chairman Susan Shuler at ssshuler@yahoo.com. Tickets for the reception are \$15, for the Tour alone \$30 and for the box lunch provided by the Parish House, \$15; a package rate for all three can be purchased for \$55. Hope to see you there!

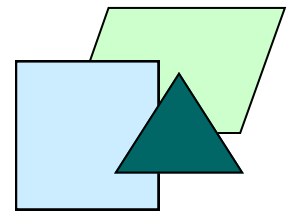
The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. owns a single piece of property, a beautiful Loutrel Briggs-designed Memorial Gar-

den, created in 1945 to honor South Carolinians who had served in World War II. Throughout the history of this garden, it has been a site for meetings, weddings, teas, annual Memorial Day programs and Easter services. Noted Landscape Architect James R. Cothran, the first recipient of GCSC's HESSIE MORRAH SCHOLARSHIP, redesigned the garden in 2007, using his familiarity with the work of Briggs to maintain the integrity of the original design. On October 18, 2012, The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. will host an afternoon celebration at the Memorial Garden to commemorate the listing of the garden on the National Register of Historic Places and to honor the memory and lasting contributions to GCSC by James Cothran.

Here on the farm we are immersed in the season of harvest: corn is now safely in bins or transported, and we have begun digging peanuts. Peanuts will be followed by cotton, then soybeans...then wheat will be planted, and the cycle will begin anew. We are grateful that we are privileged to earn a living directly from the land we love, and we continue to feel God's blessings in our life. May you be equally blessed.

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

Garden clubs across Virginia celebrated National Garden Week by participating in "Plant Together," a community garden project to showcase the work that garden clubs do in their communities each year. For this first year, 30 clubs with over 400 participants planted, weeded, and mulched gardens at schools, libraries, and other locations in their communities while other clubs made and placed floral designs in public locations in public areas. All of these projects contributed to the success of "Plant Together." Garden clubs reached out to other community organizations as well, including Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Master Gardeners, school parents, students, nursing home residents, library volunteers, and more. Here are just a few of the ways that garden clubs across Virginia made a difference in their community:

The Amelia County GC partnered with a Girl Scout troop to clean and plant urns in a memorial garden.

The Woodland Pond GC, along with the Chesterfield Master

Gardeners, planted a large container garden for the courtyard at the Lucy Corr Retirement Village.

The members of the Green Thumb GC with the assistance of 3 girl scout troops and members of the Norton Lion's Club, refurbished gardens in the Veterans Memorial Park in Norton, VA.

The Monticello GC cleaned up, weeded and mulched the landscaping at the medical staff building of Camp Holiday Trails, a summer camp for children with chronic medical conditions who could not otherwise attend a camp.

The Gretna GC weeded and planted beds at the public library with help from the cub scouts and Friends of the Library.

Visit www.viriniagardenclubs.org to read more about "Plant Together" and the other projects that Virginia garden clubs are doing.

Judy B. Binns, President, Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
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West Virginia Garden Club, Inc.
Brenda J. Moore, President
Theme: "West Virginia Garden Club Members Keeping West Virginia Wild and Wonderful"



"If you want to make enemies try to change something" – Woodrow Wilson

I was at Flower Show School last spring in Staunton, VA and visited the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and the above quote was on the wall. I laughed at first but then was struck by the truth of that statement. There is also a sobering expression "if you're not changing you're probably dying". Our seasons change. We change clothes daily. We often change our minds or directions. Change is part of the natural order of life. Change happens yet change is hard. We all have our way of doing things...we are creatures of habit. But sometimes change is necessary. And change isn't easy and it doesn't happen without critics. We've tried to change WVGC for the better - Our state conventions are shorter, especially our business meetings. We're trying to use emails and the electronic media more. The West Virginia Garden News has changed to highlight more clubs and to use it as a platform for

our WVGC Chairmen to write about their interest. We've even trying some color photos in two of our three issues. We've had some club presidents change hands as have a couple of chairmanships. We've made the yearly club president's report easier to fill out. We are changing in a good way!

We can't keep looking backwards and live in the past. We can't continue to say "this is how it is supposed to be done or always has been done" when a better way is presented. As WVGC President, along with our board members, we are looking at our by-laws and have appointed a steering committee to help us look towards the future. Change for change sake doesn't make sense but we can't sit still and die. And we are starting to see positive results from these changes.

So please don't be afraid of change. It happens. Enjoy the fall and the changing colors of the leaves.

Brenda Moore, President, West Virginia Garden Club
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Chairman Reports

Arboretums and Botanical Gardens

Karen Prewitt
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Here in the Lowcountry, the summer's blistering heat and humidity are finally beginning to taper off and I eagerly welcome the change of season and look forward to cooler days and nights. By the time you receive this newsletter, the rest of our region will already be experiencing crisp, tingling air and the sights and fragrances of fall. The lack of rain in many parts of our region may have an effect on the amount of leaf color we'll be seeing this year, but fall is still the prime time to enjoy the grand display created by our native hardwood trees. In checking around our region, I've discovered a plethora of interesting programs and events to tempt you into taking a weekend jaunt. Here are just a few of many interesting offerings:

Kentucky: The Kentucky Botanical Garden will host a *Fall Plant Exchange* on October 13th at 10:00am [members free, the public \$1.00 Call: 859-257-6955]. A children's program entitled, *Trees Trails and Creatures* will also be held October 13th from 4:30-6:30 pm. Talks about natural history and ecology will accompany pumpkin painting and leaf etching classes. The October Lecture Series at the Arboretum includes two interesting offerings: October 16: *Creating a Bonsai Forest*. October 25: *Extending your Garden into the Fall*. The Arboretum's much-anticipated *Fall Color Walk* will be held on October 29th.

A Winter Tea will be held November 28th from 11:15 until noon.

West Virginia: The West Virginia Botanical Garden continues to expand and upgrade. The fall/winter season includes a number of interesting lectures and walks:

October 6: Moss, Lichen and Fern Walk. October 13: Woody Plant Walk. October 14: Fall Children's Party. October 21: Advanced Photography Workshop. November 11: Walk in the Forest. December 2: Winter Botany Walk. Contact Information: www.wvbg.org or 304-376-2717

North Carolina: The North Carolina Botanical Garden *Fall Plant Sale* was held for two days. On September 14th from 5-7

pm for members only and September 15 the public was able to purchase many of the coveted plants seen in the gardens from 9am until noon. During October, Orange County master gardeners will be on hand weekdays from 12-5 pm for plant clinic consultations. Other October offerings include a series of classes: *Introduction to Mushrooms, Field Sketching, Intermediate Watercolors, Lichens and Autumn at Mason Farm*. November classes include: *Flowering Plant Families, Dendrology* and a *Holiday Origami* workshop. Contact information: ncbg@unc.edu or 919-962-3531

Virginia: Meadowlark Botanical Garden in Vienna, Virginia includes 95 acres of ornamental displays, three distinct native plant collections, twenty varieties of cherry trees and large fern and hosta collections. Their million-dollar Korean Bell Garden includes an interesting variety of Korean trees. October programs include: Chrysanthemums, grasses, conifers and Virginia native trees. The garden is located between Routes 7 & 23 south of the Dulles access. Contact information: website or 703-255-3631

South Carolina: HGTV ranks The South Carolina Botanical Garden and Riverbanks Zoo as one of the twenty great gardens in America. You can download educational programs from the garden's website on Adobe Reader. Additional down-loadable programs are available for home-schooled children and for Scouting groups and classrooms. The 34,000 square foot walled botanical garden is the premier exhibit. October offerings include two children's programs [Backyard Buds] on October 8th entitled: *The Magic of Beans*. On October 20th Nature Explorers offers *Beyond the Bog*. The annual adult favorite *Grand Tour of the Gardens* will be held on October 28th. Admission includes free tram rides. Contact info: 803-779-8717.

Many of our region's Botanical Gardens, Arboreta and Educational Centers are in the vicinity of our State Universities, so while you are attending those fall football games plan a side trip to your favorite garden.

Awards

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Hopefully everyone is working on their awards applications by now. Encourage all your clubs to submit. They do the work, so why not submit?

Check out your various deadlines and get them done on time. Let's keep this chairman busy!!



Blue Star Memorials

Judy Ann Fray
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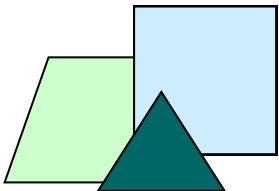
The dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker provides an opportunity to add another day of patriotic activity / ceremony for the community. Markers that have been refurbished are deserving of a re-dedication ceremony.

On September 8, 2012, the South Boston (VA) Garden Club dedicated a tall Blue Star Marker fronting an impressive semi-circle of flags representing each branch of the US Military alongside the US Flag. How appropriate, as we are now more

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than 50 years from the beginning of Blue Star Markers. The purpose of the Blue Star needs to be re-told so that current and future generations will understand just “what is a Blue Star”. These stars hung in the windows of families whose husbands and sons had gone to war. No one ever wanted the BLUE stars changed to GOLD, as that indicated that the soldiers had paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation and the freedoms that we enjoy today.

The dedication ceremony in South Boston was no quiet little event! The town park across the street from the Flag / Blue Star Marker was abuzz with people of all ages. A middle school chorus, their band and others provided patriotic music;

the town’s political leaders spoke appreciatively of the work of the Garden Club to provide the Blue Star Marker and the meaning of it; Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and Blue Star Chairmen provided information and support to the occasion. The park gazebo was brightly decorated with patriotic banners which added to the festive occasion.

This is shared so that those who have never attended a Blue Star Memorial Dedication might have an idea of possibilities when planning your own ceremony. A key to getting people to attend such ceremonies is INVOLVEMENT OF AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT as in South Boston really brings out the people! Having such a ceremony on a day that is NOT a National Holiday is also an important key to remember, as the people you want to include are more likely to be available and the public more likely to attend.

Best wishes for a successful Blue Star Dedication Ceremony! And let this chairman know of any other dedications.

Container Gardening

Helen Heater, Chairman
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Enjoy A Succulent/Cacti Container Garden For Winter

It’s only a few months until winter and we are already thinking of putting all of our containers away until spring. Don’t put them all away. I’m sure many of you may have cacti or succulents container gardens now.

Many succulents and cacti will last through the winter months with very little care and depending on your hardiness zones. If you don’t want to take a chance and don’t know if they are winter hardy, dig them up and make a container garden to bring indoors. When you bring them inside, select a sunny spot or where it can get some sun during the day. After winter is over and in the spring you may plant them back outside or leave them in the container. They make a great accent piece for your patio.

Another great thought if you don’t any of these plants and want to extend your growing season now is a great time to pick up some at your local garden center before they put them away; and make a small succulent garden to enjoy during the winter months. Again if you decide you don’t want them in the house or on the patio you can always transplant them in your flower gardens in the spring.

Succulent container gardens are a great conversation piece because they are such unusual plants. Kids love the texture of succulents. This could be their responsibility and a learning experience with your supervision during the winter. However don’t include cacti or other plants with thorns until the kids are bigger.

Succulents are easy to grow and once established take very little care. You will need to water right after transplanting or planting. They do need a little more water at this time. Check the soil weekly, if it feels damp wait a few more days. Please note: while indoors don’t over water, they don’t like wet feet for a long period. Once established your plants can go almost two weeks without watering. This also depends on where they are located, the sun, heat or even wind conditions if they are in a protected area outside.

It is hard to make major mistakes with succulents, they are very forgiving. Also note it may be a couple of years before you have to transplant to a bigger container. Most of all have enjoy and have fun with them.



Edible Gardens

Janice Doyle
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Harvest time is here for your edible garden items. Hopefully you have had an abundant one. With drenching rains followed by record temperatures followed by dry weather to boot, it has been a challenging summer for most home and professional gardeners. I usually make lots of cucumber pickles but this year I got exactly 5 cucumbers before the plants withered and dried.

If you have experienced blossom end rot on your tomatoes, it may be due to something other than dry followed by very wet weather. Sprinkling some lime around your plants can help with that cultivation problem. Proof of this is a volunteer tomato plant (I often just toss tomatoes out the door when they are past prime) in my yard that has grown in a limestone rock area. Being in the rock area the deer have ignored that plant totally! It has crept up my porch steps and has produced an amazing number of pear tomatoes! Don't forget to gather all tomatoes even green ones before the first freeze. Place between layers of newspaper to ripen. Your green tomatoes will make you smile at your Thanksgiving dinner. The tomatoes may be small but it is fun to have your harvest that late. The rock area also provided continued moisture. Peppers do like a little bit of lime as well to grow properly too.

Most herbs have been very happy this year with hot dry climate conditions. Most of the herbs we grow originally came from the Mediterranean area and prefer dry conditions. It is easy to dry herbs. Put cuttings in a plastic bag in your refrigerator pressing out the air. The conditions present in your frig will make dried herbs in a few days. Freezing is also a way to preserve herbs. An easy to use method is to use a blender or food processor adding a small amount of water to tips and leaves. Once blended, you can put the mixture in old fashioned ice cube trays. Freeze, pop out of the trays and store in a plastic bag. To use just plop a cube into what you are cooking. Japanese eggplants have done well in my garden as well as chili peppers.

If you were wise and planted some fall crops in late August you may have an abundant harvest yet. I have given cucumbers a third try in a desperate attempt to get some pickles made. Fall crops may include beets, hard squash, kale, broccoli, turnips, and collards. The greens will last in a garden patch until early winter. I have at times gathered greens until snows come.

Just a mention about apple trees.-Did you know that there is a danger in planting an apple tree near cedar trees? Blight transfers from tree to tree making the apples shrivel into hard knots. Use triple phosphate as an antidote. Just sprinkle it around the base of the apple tree.

Garden Therapy/Healing Gardens

Janice Clem
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With the approaching autumnal and holiday season, now is a good time for your club to plan ways to help the physically and mentally challenged, those confined to nursing homes or institutions as well as people who are homebound. Try planning several garden therapy projects that will help others with their recovery and rehabilitation and enjoyment of the season.

Be sure the projects are ones in which the participants are engaged in actually doing the projects. Consider the capabilities of the participants. Staff members of facilities can provide advice on how long an activity can be structured without becoming tiring for those involved. Club members should be ready to step in and offer help as needed. Be enthusiastic and encouraging. Garden Club members will be rewarded by knowing they touched and helped others in a positive way.

Perhaps your club is already involved in garden therapy projects and is looking for another project that will benefit others. Consider planning and planting a healing garden at a hospital, cancer center, clinic, nursing home, or at another type of healthcare facility. Incorporate a lot of green space, plants and places to sit in the healing garden. If space and funds allow, add a soothing water feature.

A healing garden helps restore a person's mental and emotional health. It can also provide a place of sanctuary in which one can just get away for a time of reflection and/or meditation. A healing garden has a unique way of relieving stress and improving one's overall sense of well being.

As garden therapy and healing garden projects are planned, take a few extra moments to see for which state, SAR and NGC award/s each project may be eligible. Then apply for the awards so that your club can receive recognition for the good work accomplished for the club's community and residents.

Invasive Plants

Ann Fiel
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Invasive ornamental plants, also known as escaped non-native ornamentals, are considered noxious weeds – no matter how pretty they are. Many invasive plants started out as non-native ornamentals planted in backyard gardens. But once they escaped into native plant communities, they started to take over. When invasive plants get a foothold on an area, they can cause irreparable agricultural or environmental damage pushing out the native plants that provide bird and wildlife habitat and can ultimately change an entire ecosystem.

Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) can be mistaken for taller varieties of phlox. However, dame's rocket flowers have only four petals, and its lance-shaped leaves grow alternately along the stems. It's tall stems, its showy purple flowers and the way

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

Chairman Reports (continued)

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it seeds itself so easily all seems so perfect. Reliable and beautiful, dame's rocket might be a favorite spring flower in your garden, but it is actually an invasive ornamental, considered a noxious weed in many states.

The National Wildlife Federation is asking gardeners to help reduce the threat of invasive species expansion. Some of the most harmful invasive plants to be aware of in the US are purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). And plants as innocent-looking as English ivy (*Hedera helix*) are nearly impossible to eradicate once they escape from cultivation in some regions of the country.

But there are things you can do to help the situation and prevent further spread of invasive plant species:

- Familiarize yourself with your state's invasive plants. Learn to recognize invasive ornamentals in their different stages of development.
- Take a plant inventory. Review what's growing in your garden and make sure you know what each plant is. Compare any unknown plants to your state's invasive-weed list or ask your local Extension Office to help identify it.
- Take action. Remove invasive ornamentals by hand-pulling or chemical means. Dispose of the plants by double-bagging them for trash removal. Replant the area with native ornamentals.
- Read labels. Before planting any wildflower or other seed mixes, read the label to make sure none of the plants are on the noxious-weed list. Make sure anything you order through a catalog or Website won't be a problem in your state.

Help other gardeners understand which ornamentals can cause harm to the environment and how to properly get rid of them if they have an invasive.

It's not difficult to find out what plants are considered noxious weeds in your state. Contact your state's noxious-weed board or check out the National Plant Board website, where you can search for invasive plants state by state.

Information by Jodi Torpey from Learn2Grow



National Garden Week

Marilyn Mason

marilynmason@comcast.net

Welcome Fall – Yes, by now 2012's National Garden Week is passed, but not quite the deadline for submitting Books of Evidence that highlight the projects and work your districts and clubs have accomplished. I look forward to learning about your endeavors – and who will carry home the 'gold'!

You've done the work -- apply now for a 2012 SAR Award, #12 (\$25 designated for each – small, medium and large clubs). For details, check out the website

<http://www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org/awards>

At the same time, it is not too early to lay out plans for 2013 projects. Maintaining visibility in our communities through events or projects such as: flower shows, special exhibits, plantings, garden therapy, children's fairs, programs, etc. is one of the best ways to build membership.

Penny Pines

Audrey Kelly

wmyluv@verizon.net

Penny Pines is a National Presidents Project in which a 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 your 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 award in their district to the club with the largest number of plantations (donations). This way we will have a chain reaction.

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. The deadline for the SAR awards is March 1 through February 28th.

Please keep an eye on your newsletters from your state and districts on this project since this is a new project that has only been in effect for about 6 years. I am hoping to get more info out to everyone on this by any publications that I can.

Key Notes

October 2012

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

Chairman Reports (continued)

Scholarships

Betsy Steele BetsySteele@Truvista.net

The Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship

A reminder that The Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship is open to qualifying students from each of the five states in the South Atlantic Region. To qualify a student must be a rising college junior or senior majoring in the study of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Plant Pathology, Biology, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns, City Planning, Land Management and/or allied subjects.

The Scholarship amount is determined by the SAR Board of Directors, and the winner is announced at the SAR Convention. The Scholarship amount is \$1,000 for 2013.

Applications may be obtained from the Garden Club Scholarship Chairman of each state in the region or printed from the SAR website, www.southatlanticregiongardencubs.org. Completed applications must be sent to the STATE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN by *FEBRUARY 1* and the STATE'S best application must come to the REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN by *MARCH 1*.

Begin now to share SAR Scholarship opportunities with your garden clubs. Many garden club members are unaware of this scholarship and should be urged to actively seek applicants for consideration. I look forward to hearing from you and reading the selected applications from each of the five states in our region.

SAR SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

Betsy Steele

P. O. Box 339 Richburg, SC 29729 803-789-5451

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Barbara Ohmsen

basohmsen@cox.net

A new school year has started! To each of the state chairmen for Smokey Bear - we hope you have gotten the word out to your state garden clubs - we need more entries for the poster contests! For the second year, Virginia won with the most posters entered.

Your state president picked up the packet of information for you - have you gotten it yet? Get the word out in your state about this contest. This chairman is looking forward to receiving posters and information from each of the five states in January!

Odds 'N' Ends

SAR Directory Corrections

Mary Sue Floyd mfloyd3570@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.

Directory changes

Carolyn Nichols (p. 23) email change: clnichols@centurylink.net

Margaret Healey (p. 22) new phone number: 540-204-5276

Dates From Our States

Oct. 9-11 Flower Show School, Course4, Columbia SC

Oct. 24-28 Fine Arts & Flowers, Richmond VA

Nov. 3 Plantation Tours, Orangeburg & Berkeley Counties, SC

Nov. 7-9 Landscape Design School, Charleston SC

Sadly, we have learned of the passing of Babs Barnette on July 27, 2012. Babs served as President of The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. from 1975-1977, as South Atlantic Region Director from 1987-1989 and as President of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (then National Council of State Garden Clubs) from 1997-1999.

Violet Dawson passed away September 24. She just stopped breathing. Her nurses and care givers were by her side. She was 94, and her family is so proud of her journey. She loved her garden club life. It meant so much to her. Vi served as NCSGC President from 1991-1993. Condolences can be sent to the family c/o Diane Dawson, 1120 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611.

(This is from the NGC Chairman)

June B. Ashworth, NGC School Gardens/Pollinators Chairman

Just a reminder that you might win an award if you apply for your school garden project. Remember a school garden project does not have to start out using outdoor land. The classroom is an excellent place to start teaching children about nature. After school activities can also be an excellent place to introduce students to school gardens.

One of the marvels of nature is to observe the bees and butterflies and how they work pollinating all of the fruit trees and flowers around us. But mother nature needs help these days because humans have a tendency to spoil nature by using pesticides and other methods to kill off the bees and butterflies. Remember that bats too have their place in pollination.

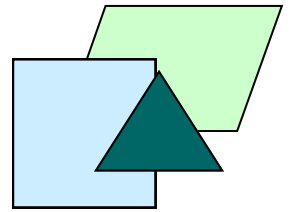
If you already have a school garden project, please apply for the NGC award. If your club does not have a school garden project, please consider starting one. The study of the pollinators is just the beginning. Soil and water conservation, native plants, environmental science projects, and to help students learn the season cycles and how they promote our environmental well being. Please let this chairman learn of your special project by applying for the award. Just check out the NGC website for more information.

Key Notes

www.southatlanticregiongardencubs.org

October 2012

SAR Convention 2013



Mark your calendar now for our 2013 SAR Convention. Yes, it's still 5 months away. But do you know how fast that time will be upon us! And, yes, when you check the calendar you will see that this will be Monday—Wednesday this time. This issue of Key Notes contains the information with details on the Convention and the registration form.

And remember the Director's Award for the state with the most full package registrants by February 25, 2013.

South Atlantic Region Convention March 25-27, 2013 Crowne Point Lexington

SAR 2012 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

West Virginia Garden Clubs, Inc. hosted the annual South Atlantic Regional Convention at The Greenbrier March 25-27, 2012. There were ___ in attendance from five states. The most popular meal as far as attendance was the Tuesday Design Breakfast with 158 attending, followed closely by the Monday Luncheon with Pearl Buck (155 attending). Our own Darlene Newell presented an entertaining and informative program on spring bulbs after the awards presentation on Monday evening. There were three workshops on "Woodland Wonders from the Wild" with Barry Glick, "Plants for Public Plantings" by Torula Chanlett-Avery, and "Engaging the Five Senses" with Terri Johnson. These presenters were allowed to sell their products without a vendor fee. There were two paying vendors. The National Garden Club President, Shirley Nicolai, and the SAR Director, Mary Dixon, and Alternate Director, Anna J. Meyers, were present for the entire convention. Monetary donations totaled \$3400 and The Country Store made \$2566.25. The Convention balance after all bills were paid was \$6,489.07 with WV receiving \$1,622.27(25%) and SAR receiving \$4,866.80 (75%). This chairman appreciates the districts, committee chairmen, Judges Council, and state board members for all their help in making this a very successful SAR Convention.

Carolyn Patterson

2012 SAR Convention Chairman

NGC Convention 2013

Plan Ahead: The NGC 2013 Convention will be in Seattle WA May 24-26, 2013. Make your plans to attend. It is an Installation Year. Theme: "Rain Shine"

The committee is busy making plans for an enjoyable and informative convention.

There will be tours, workshops, speakers, designs, entertainment, vendors, and more. And, of course, everyone attending has the opportunity to meet new garden club members and exchange ideas.

Watch for the winter issue of The National Gardener for all the details, costs and registration form.

Let's try to get as many as possible attending from the South Atlantic Region. You definitely want to be there to cheer on your state president as she reports on the activities of your state. And we hope all of our states come home with awards for their work during the past year. You really do want to be there to cheer for your state then!

And since it is also an installation year, you will meet the incoming NGC President. Do you know who she is? We have two national officers from the South Atlantic Region being installed as well as the incoming SAR Director. Do you know who these three people are? Check the bottom of this page for the answers!

The hotel can be booked at anytime beginning now.

Sheraton Hotel

1400 Sixth Ave Seattle WA 98101

206-621-9000 or 888-627-7056

The special NGC rate is \$149 per room.



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

Key Notes

October 2012

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

Incoming SAR Director Martha Morgan from Kentucky
Incoming Second Vice-President Nancy Hargroves from Virginia
Incoming First Vice-President Sandra Robinson from Kentucky
Incoming President Linda Nelson from Oregon

MEAL PROGRAM PRESENTERS:

Monday Banquet – “Lucy Bakewell Audubon: A Kentucky Love Story”

Portrayed by Kelly O’Connell Brengelman, of Kentucky Chautauqua (a division of the Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc.).

It was not easy being the wife of John James Audubon. Yet, Lucy Bakewell Audubon was incredibly devoted to her husband, the famed naturalist, artist and author of *Birds of America*. She made enormous sacrifices and suffered public scorn as she supported her husband’s talents. In the end, however, the Audubon’s were successful. The two spent many years in Kentucky — in Louisville and later Henderson — as John dabbled in the merchandising business. Though his business ventures failed and his family lost everything in the economic depression of 1819, he devoted more and more time to his talent, spending hours in the woods while Lucy became the breadwinner for their family. She remained steadfast as his confidant and the love of his life, continually defending her husband’s talents as an artist and ornithologist. Without her emotional and financial support, Audubon’s now famous book might never have been published. The story of Lucy and John is perhaps one of the best, and somewhat unknown, Kentucky love stories. In his words, “With her, was I not always rich?”

Kelly earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Morehead State University and has worked as a creative director, producer and writer for various advertising agencies. She now runs her own design service, Kelly-O Creative. Mrs. Kentucky 2003 is a professional actor with the Kentucky Humanities Council; teaches drama classes to elementary school children; is a commercial voice artist; and recently appeared in the film “Surviving Guthrie.” She lives in Midway with her husband and three children.

Tuesday Luncheon – “Life on the Farm” - Jamie Dockery is a Fayette County Extension Agent for Horticulture in Lexington. His previous experience ranges from retail horticultural sales to management of a well-established nursery. He speaks extensively on gardening to community groups and has provided gardening segments for a local television station. A self-proclaimed plant and gardening nut, personal interests include herbaceous perennials, heirlooms preservation, and sustainable agriculture. He earned Bachelor’s degrees in agriculture and biology from Berea College in Berea, Ky. Jamie lives in Lexington and also owns a farm in Central Kentucky.

Tuesday Banquet – “Designing with Things from Different Places” - Lynn Fronk, NGC Master Judge, Flower Show School Design Instructor,

Flower Show School Procedure Instructor, Symposium Instructor, and Flicker Design Chairman. National Flower Arrangers Newsletter Chairman, Central Atlantic Region Schools and Councils Chairman, 2006 winner of the Mildred Heter Buckingham Award for outstanding service to Garden Club of Ohio, Inc., Past President, Ohio Judges Council, President of Creative Arrangers Guild. Lynn has given programs and taught in 38 states, Acapulco, Mexico City, Monterrey, Guatemala City, Columbia, Ecuador and Honduras as well as a presentation at the National Instructors’ Symposium in Little Rock, Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Boca Rotan, FL, San Antonio, TX, and the National Symposium in St. Louis. Lynn lives in Worthington, Ohio.

AFTERNOON LECTURERS:

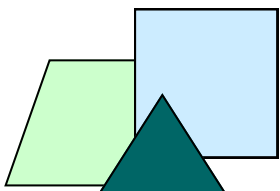
“Bees & Mysteries” – Abigail Keam graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Middle Eastern Civilization. She then went into private business and kept bees as a hobby. Retiring in 1999, Abigail became a full-time beekeeper, launching “Abigail’s”, making honey/ beeswax-based natural products. She sells her honey and products at the Lexington Farmers’ Market. Abigail has won sixteen honey awards at the Kentucky State Fair and was the first recipient of the Barbara Horn Award, given to those scoring a perfect 100 for a beekeeping-related entry at the Kentucky State Fair. In 2004 Abigail traveled to South Africa to study beekeeping in Africa. Abigail is a member of the Bluegrass Beekeepers Association, the Kentucky State Beekeepers Association, Lexington Farmers’ Market, the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, and the National Society of Arts and Letters. She is a past board member of the Lexington Farmers’ Market and Women in Agriculture boards plus a member of the UK Webb Archaeology Society. She is a past president of the Friends of the Lexington Farmers’ Market and the Lexington Art League.

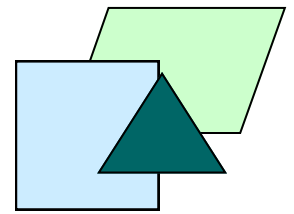
“Death By A Honeybee” is her first mystery novel and won a Gold Medal Award from Reader’s Favorite and was also on Amazon’s 100 top book list for Women’s Literature and Women Sleuths in March 2012. “Death By Drowning”, her second novel, won a Gold Medal Award for best mystery sleuth in 2011 from Reader’s Favorite. Both books were placed on USA BOOK NEWS - Best Book List of 2011 as Finalists. “Death By Bridle” – 2012, “Death By Bourbon” – Oct., 2012, “Death By Lotto” – 2013. Her books can be purchased at the end of presentation.

“The Browning of Our Eastern Forests” – Joe Collins, Senior Nursery Inspector for the Kentucky Office of the State Entomologist. This office is responsible for the licensing of nurseries and garden centers in Kentucky and conducting annual inspections of these businesses to assist with insect pest problems. They also work with a variety of federal, state and local agencies to survey for exotic pests and develop management strategies for their control.

“Sustainable Gardening from the Ground Up – Dr. Krista Jacobsen is a Lecturer in the University of Kentucky Sustainable Agriculture Program, and teaches a number of classes in the program, including Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture, Cultural Perspectives on Sustainability, and co-teaches Agroecology and Plant Production Systems. Krista is a systems-oriented agroecologist by training, and received her Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Georgia in 2008. Her research interests include no-till organic farming systems, high tunnel and year-round growing techniques, and soil quality management in organic farming systems.

“Native, Terrestrial Orchids” - Dr. Thomas G Barnes is an Extension Professor & Extension Wildlife Specialist with the University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry and book author. Education: Ph.D. Texas A&M University, M.S. South Dakota State University, B.A. Huron College. Academic Interests: Wildlife Conservation, Biodiversity, Habitat Restoration. Personal Interests: Photography and Gardening. Author: “Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky” and “Kentucky’s Last Great Places”. His books (which include many beautiful photos) can be purchased at end of presentation.





The South Atlantic Region Member States



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN SAGE AND ROSES

Send A Greeting Electronically and Recognize Our Servicemen's Every Sacrifice

Send your NGC friends an email holiday greeting- save the cost of the card and stamp.

1. Send \$1.00 for each email greeting.
2. Money collected will purchase Blue Star markers.
3. Each participant will be an entry for her or his state.
4. The drawing will take place at the NGC Convention.
5. All monies collected will be spent in the same year for the erection and landscaping of markers.

In 2010 we collected enough money to buy 2 small markers which will be erected in the National Capital Area and Nevada. The Blue Star Marker program is the premier National project that advertises NGC's name from coast to coast.

Be a 3 way winner:

*Remember your friends.

*Remind the public that NGC is a nationwide organization.

*Remember those whose sacrifices give us our many freedoms.

Send your check made out to "NGC Sage and Roses" to:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

4401 Magnolia Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CONVENTION

March 25 – 27, 2013
 People, Plants, & Places
 Crowne Plaza – The Campbell House, Lexington KY

Registration: Please complete form, make check payable to: "2013 NGC SAR Convention" and mail both to: Carolyn Westerfield, 392 Southland Dr E, London KY 40744-8181
 email: cwesterfield@kayandkay.com; phone: 606-309-6433
 Postmark by February 25, 2013 for On-time Registration

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____
 May we confirm registration by your email (above)? 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 Elected Delegate
 _____ Guest _____ Spouse

All attendees must pay a registration fee.

Package Plan includes registration fee with 2 dinners, 1 lunch, and 1 breakfast.

KY Members & Non-spouse Guests **Package Plan**.....\$170
 Out of State Members & Non-spouse Guests **Package Plan**.....\$180
OR
 Spouse **Package Plan**.....\$155

KY Members & Non-spouse Guests registration fee.....\$20
 Out of State Members & Non-spouse Guests registration fee.....\$30

Spouse of any member.....\$5
 One day only registration.....\$15
 Late Registration (after Feb 25 - for all).....\$40
 Meals:

Monday Evening.....\$50
 Tuesday Lunch.....\$40
 Tuesday Evening.....\$55
 Wednesday Breakfast.....\$30
 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please indicate special dietary requirements: _____ Diabetic _____ Vegetarian _____ Vegan
 _____ Other (medical reasons only) Specify _____
 No requests for substitutions will be accommodated at the time of meal service.
 We will make every effort to accommodate your medical allergies but will not be able to accommodate individual dislikes. Thank you for your cooperation!

Hotel Reservations

Reservation deadline is February 23, 2013 (at midnight)

Crowne Plaza – The Campbell House, 1375 S Broadway, Lexington KY 40504
 Call the hotel at 800-593-5447 and mention NGC SAR convention.
 Or make reservations on internet: <http://www.crowneplaza.com/hotels/us/en/lexington/lexsb/hoteldetail/hotel-room-rates>

In the box on the left-hand side headed "Book This Hotel!", enter the required reservation information, click on "Have a Group Code?" and type in NGC, then click on "View Rates"

2 Beds Executive (double beds) \$89 per night
 King Bed Leisure (one king bed) \$89 per night
 1 King Bed Superior 2 Room Suite \$189 per night

Check-in 4pm Check-out Noon approx. 14% taxes
 All rooms are non-smoking. Free

Travel Information

By Air:
 Blue Grass Airport (airport code LEX), 4000 Terminal Drive, Lexington, KY
 Airlines: Delta, United Airlines, US Airways, American Eagle, & Allegiant Air
 The hotel offers free shuttle service to and from airport. Call the Hotel at (859) 255-4281 upon deplaning (prior to securing your baggage) as they are located only twenty minutes from the airport. By the time you get your luggage, the van should be at the Shuttle Pick-Up area, which is located at the median by the Baggage Claim exit doors.

By Automobile:
 Interstates I-64 and I-75 merge in Lexington at I-75 exit 111 and I-64 exit 81 (on right to I-75 N). Take I-75/I-64 Exit 113. Turn right at end of ramp onto N Broadway (US-27 S). Drive approx. 4.8 miles - hotel is on S Broadway with right turn into entrance (just past Rite Aid Pharmacy).

Monday, March 25, 2013
 9:00am - 2pm Exhibits & Vendor Room Set up
 1:00pm - 6:00pm Registration
 12:00pm - 1:00pm Regional Finance Committee Meeting
 1:15pm - 2:15pm Regional Executive Committee Meeting
 2:00pm Exhibits, Vendor Room Opens
 2:30pm - 3:15pm Lecture - Bees & Mysteries
 3:30pm - 4:15pm Lecture - The Browning of Our Eastern Forests
 5:30pm - 6:30pm Reception - Cash Bar
 6:30pm Vendors close for the day
 Tuesday, March 26, 2013
 8:00am - 6:00pm Breakfast on your own
 8:00am - 6:30pm Registration
 8:30am - 12:00m Vendors open
 12:00m - 2:00pm Official Opening
 2:30pm - 3:15pm Lunch & Program - Life on the Farm
 3:30pm - 4:15pm Lecture - Sustainable Gardening From the Ground Up
 5:30pm - 6:30pm Lecture - Native, Terrestrial Orchids
 6:30pm Reception - Cash Bar
 Wednesday - March 27, 2013
 8:00am - 8:30am Dinner & Program - Designing with Things from Different Places
 8:30am - 11:00am Registration
 8:30am Vendors open
 After Close of Convention Awards Breakfast (Final Business included)
 2013 - 2015 Board Meeting