

KEY NOTES



South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

October 2013
Volume 10, Issue 2

"A World of Opportunity—Be Involved"

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Key Notes issues

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

The deadlines for the respective issues are:

June 20

September 20

December 20

March 20

Please submit your articles by email, if at all possible, to mfloyd3570@aol.com

Subject: SAR Key Notes



THE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE "A World of Opportunity—Be Involved"



During the past four months, Russ and I have been traveling—beginning with the drive to Seattle, WA for the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention and an extended trip which took us through fourteen states and into Canada.

This past week, we traveled to Norfolk, VA for an Army reunion and on to Virginia Beach. We have put over 7,500 miles on our trusty Honda Odyssey and been from the Pacific to the Atlantic Oceans. The beauty of our country is always inspiring, and we are thankful to live where we can travel freely any where we choose. We were impressed by the many Blue Star markers we saw along the way, and were interested to read the sponsoring garden groups.

The summer months are a time we are busy in our gardens and relaxing as we vacation or take a break from routine activities. Now that Fall is here, I hope you will plan to take part in the many activities of your local garden clubs, as well as attend the meetings of your district and state organizations. It is always great to be with fellow gardeners—and Be Involved!

In August I attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Franklin (KY) Garden Club. There were many state and local dignitaries there and, in their remarks they commended the Club for the various improvements they had made in their community, and the continuing influence the members have as they educate others. Congratulations for staying involved, Franklin Garden Club! If your club is celebrating an anniversary, please let me know.

I hope your club has studied the South Atlantic Region awards list and have decided which ones you will apply for this year. Chairman Judy Ann Fray has updated the list and there are many areas of garden club work that will qualify. We don't do our good deeds for awards, but isn't it fun to be recognized and share with others what projects we are doing? Deadline for SAR Awards is January 25th.

Thank you for all you do to make our garden club work worthwhile.
Be Involved.

Martha

State Presidents' Themes and Reports



The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. Joanna D. Kirby, President “Kentucky, Let’s Grow” Helping Hands Across Kentucky

Fall is in the air in the beautiful Commonwealth of Kentucky and our district meetings are coming up soon. The late season flowers and trees are starting to go into full color as our days shorten and the nights cool down. As gardeners across the state begin to clear away summer annuals and vegetables and replace them with mums, pumpkins, gourds and pansies we realize that another wonderful summer is almost over.

Across the state this year many clubs entered their prized blooms and designs at local fairs as well as our state fair held in Louisville the end of August. Many of our clubs held garden tours, flower shows and teas to encourage others to ‘join in the fun’ and visit a garden club in their communities. The Franklin Garden Club celebrated their 50th anniversary with many local dignitaries present to celebrate the occasion.

Kentucky hosted a Flower Show Symposium sponsored by the Kentucky Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges in Frankfort and they all deserve a standing ovation for their dedication and willingness to learn and share their passion with others!

One of my projects ‘Monarch Waystations’ has really taken on a life of its own with many clubs joining in with their ‘Helping Hands’. This Spring there were only 54 certified Monarch Waystations (Monarchwatch.com) in Kentucky, now there are 85 and we are still planting! We have planted at libraries, schools, extension offices, parks and our state headquarters, the Wallis House and Arboretum in Paris. The Monarch butterfly is in a state of decline across the United States and without our help as gardeners it will continue to dwindle. Because of development and farming practices as well as an over abundance of spraying their habitat and host plant (Milkweed), they are disappearing at an alarming rate. Through education, workshops and our Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. website we have been able to alert our membership as to the importance of re-establishing this critical habitat before it is too late. Our website gives a

list of Waystations, sightings (through Journey North), photographs of Monarchs as adults and caterpillars, news tidbits and links to other sites.

As I have traveled around the state dedicating these wonderful gardens I have gained a whole new respect for our many club members that are devoting their time and talents in these gardens now filled with an assortment of plants and butterflies. The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. is a proud partner with WildOnes to help encourage others to plan and plant. Each time I visit a club a butterfly appears on a map of Kentucky with photos of the members and a short description of their programs and projects and all who visit our website can see how much we do here. There is even a space called ‘On the Road Again’ highlighting our adventures with non-members at extension offices, fairs and libraries. A lot of people that might not visit a club meeting are coming out to these open forums taught by club members to learn more and hopefully join a club. The Garden Club of Danville has partnered with Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill (a historic site) giving monthly workshops on flower arranging, hypertufa, sand casting and they also decorate the village for Christmas with live greens. Many other clubs also work with and for historic properties as ongoing projects.

This Fall we will have a Tea at the Wallis House for all members and guests to enjoy the beautiful home and arboretum and take an afternoon off sipping tea and exploring the gardens.

The Landscape Design School Course III will be held November 6-8 in Scottsville, KY.

As the days shorten we find ourselves spending a little less time outdoors and as we approach the holidays we can be thankful for the beauty of the earth which God has given to us to care for and protect. May His blessings enrich your lives.

Joanna D. Kirby

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



Members of the Board of Directors of The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. met in Morehead City, September 22-23. Hosted by members of the Rose of Sharon Garden Club in Jacksonville, NC, it featured a Hawaiian Luau.

Immediately following our state meeting, three of us, who serve on the National Garden Clubs' Board, will go to the National Headquarters in St. Louis for their Fall Board Meeting.

October will be a busy month for the officers and the many garden clubs in North Carolina as the ten district meetings begin. Officers and the Ways and Means Chairman will travel from the mountains to the sea with stops in between during a four week period.

November 3-5, a Judges Symposium will be held in Raleigh with Tina Tuttle and Gina Jogan as instructors. For more information go to our website:

www.gardenclubofnc.org.

We were delighted to learn that Vivien Phillips, one of our members, had her garden featured in COUNTRY GARDENS, a publication of BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS. Vivien's garden in Newland, NC shows her expertise in DAHLIAS. The article is titled "Dahlias Don't Disappoint".

Also in September, the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs celebrated their 60th anniversary and was awarded a Certificate of Congratulations by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. For those interested you may request, from NGC, this beautiful certificate for anniversaries.

The garden clubs in North Carolina are working on many and varied projects to follow the themes: "Volunteering To Make a Beautiful Difference"; "A World of Opportunity-Be Involved"; and "Making a World of Difference-Choices Matter."

Jenene

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



The Garden Club of South Carolina is creating our future by conserving and preserving our natural resources. We are diligently working to implement our single major project, *Historic Trees for Historic Places (HTHP)*, by engaging community partnerships and energizing our membership. Devising innovative strategies for individual clubs, we are working with community resources to achieve our project goals and increase our statewide visibility. And, we are having Fun!

On September 5, the GCSC Board of Directors met at Forest Lake Club in Columbia, for our second meeting. As a part of the meeting, we held breakout HTHP project sessions, which we devised to enable each member to use as a local facilitator, on her return to her own community or city. Because each group was comprised of members from all districts, each reported a variety of thought, not dictated by any specific geography or size of district. What innovative and productive work! Members left, energized for the tasks at hand.

From the Upstate to the Lowcountry, each of our seven districts held a Fall Gathering for club members and officers to meet the GCSC President and leaders, as well as others from the district. Members gained additional information about HTHP, learning strategies to implement and individualize the project, suiting it to specific community needs. In addition, members learned about NGC, SAR, GCSC and GCSC district scholarship funds, as well as the wide variety of awards.

Realizing that we should analyze our informational needs and communication resources, we have redesigned our tools and methods of delivery to our membership. Each of our five media sources serves a different purpose. From *The South Carolina Gardener*, to the GCSC Website, to our new digital publication, *The Gallivanting Gardener*, to Facebook and BLASTS, we are communicating with our membership and the community, at large.

The South Carolina Gardener, our quarterly publication, serves as a resource of topical information, based on seasonal variety and project schedules. Delivered almost immediately after the first flush of autumn, this Fall Issue sports a change of focus. Designed as an informative tool, the quarterly features both continuing and periodic writers. Each issue will reflect a theme, indicative of a

garden-related season, project or events. While some articles focus on specific content, including horticulture, landscape design, conservation or historic preservation, others detail time-sensitive material.

The Gallivanting Gardener, our digital publication, features a light-hearted look at gardening! Articles contain serious information, presented with a fun-loving focus. Care to learn about curious, unique garden topics, written with a humorous slant? Care to solve a puzzle or two? Care to grab the latest installment from a favored columnist? Care to test your gardening skill or knowledge? Tune in!

Our redesigned Website is our immediate and more

complete source of current information. Because we constantly update our information, we are able not only to supply necessary information, but also we can provide in-depth, complete coverage for particular topics. HTHP articles and online forms enable members to download information, document project details and add information. Additionally, we feature complete coverage of member obituaries, memorials, celebratory garden club events and projects, club and district news, garden book reviews, bibliographies, resource lists, and a detailed members-only section.

Judith Dills

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Marilyn J. Mason, President

**Theme: "Working Together To Preserve Our Legacy
-Conserve, Preserve, Restore, Educate".**



As my theme states over these next two years – we will be “Working Together to Preserve our Legacy” through efforts to Conserve, Preserve, Restore and Educate not only our members and youth, but in the communities at large.

I'm happy to say we're making progress. Summer did not slow up VFGC members from making every minute count. There were three Blue Star Dedications, and a club 50th year anniversary. In July, the Annual VA Flower Show Judges Symposium was held in Staunton, VA with 92 attending. In September, Flower Show School was held in Staunton. We were pleased there were six out-of-state attendees. Landscape Design School was held in Williamsburg. We'd love more of you to visit beautiful Virginia for your next school. Flower Show School III will be held in Richmond, March 3-6, 2014.

As I learned at our September board meeting, our Chairmen are working to implement programs in support of my theme. A President's Project award to “Plant Native Trees” will help clubs with their projects on historical, public, or youth gardens with monetary awards given next Spring. Support for this project is derived from a donation of \$10 per tumbler complete with VFGC's logo. VFGC's grant programs: “Grants to Beautify and Restore” and “Key Grants For Youth” will soon announce this year's recipients.

As this beautiful Fall season begins, I will be travelling

throughout Virginia to attend District meetings, a Blue Star dedication, and many special events. In addition, for the first time, VFGC will have a presence at the Virginia State Fair in October. This annual event promises to provide fresh recognition for VFGC and our mission. I know you believe as I do that we can and do “Make a Difference”.

“Follow the Star to SAR” is your invitation to attend the SAR Convention at beautiful Hotel Roanoke, March 23-25, 2014. The Convention theme is “SAR – Involved and Shining.” The committee has planned educational programs, a flower show, and entertainment at two of the meals around the SAR Convention business meeting. Vendors will have a diversity of items from which to purchase, as well.

The Standard Flower Show will feature SAR Director Martha Morgan's theme: “A World of Opportunities – Be Involved”. Hotel Roanoke has offered a most reasonable room rate of \$99/night plus taxes. Believe me, this event promises to be a Convention you will not want to miss!

One month following SAR, VFGC will return to Hotel Roanoke for its Member Meeting. “Working Together to Preserve Our Legacy” is the theme. Each District will depict an aspect of the theme in exhibits featuring – Preserving Legacy, Conservation, Preservation, Restoration, Education, and Trees. This meeting will be fun, informative, and educational, with workshops and a design program by Sam Hall who is also an entertainer and musician.

It will be a busy year ahead, indeed. I look forward to seeing a ‘great’ number of you as we ‘Follow the Star to SAR’ in March.

Marilyn Mason



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

REIGNITING THE PASSION FOR GARDEN CLUB

Recently, one of our local club programs was on preparing our gardens to receive plants, seeds, etc. During the presenter's talk, it occurred to me that we, as garden club members, may need to "prepare the soil" of our clubs as we try to bring in new members. We should ask ourselves, "How can I persuade someone to join our organization when I can't really remember why I joined myself?"

Yes, active members do enjoy all we do in Garden Club. But, like many good and stable relationships, we fall into a pattern . . . doing what we need to do to make the club run, volunteering for projects and committees, hosting meetings, etc. But, stop for a moment and remember. Remember what actually brought you to the decision to join garden club. Reignite your passion!

Was it the prospect of doing a beautification project for

your community? Was it being able to take part in floral design and flower show competition? Was it being a part of a group that shared your gardening interests? Whatever it was, remember that feeling and convey it to prospective members. Think of it this way, if you say to someone, "Would you like a piece of chocolate cake?," the response will probably be "yes." If, however, you elaborate on the piece of cake – a moist slice of rich homemade cake with smooth homemade chocolate buttercream, topped off with fresh strawberries – the answer will be, "Yes, indeed!"

Long story short – share your excitement and passion to prospective members. They are our new "plants" coming into our "garden."

Patty Arndt, WV Garden Clubs

Officer Reports

Jo Jean Scott

SAR Chaplain, 2013 - 2015

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you,

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

Mother Teresa's poem "Anyway"

Corresponding Sect. Dianne Caines

As Regional Corresponding Secretary for this term I want to remind each of you-----I am available to send cards--both congratulatory and sympathy, to individuals. Please notify me with their address, email or pertinent information and I will respond. Dianne Caines, SAR Corresponding Secretary (dhcaines@aol.com; 502-418-8715)



Chairman Reports

AIR/WATER QUALITY

Carolyn Augustine

WATER...Did You Know?

Did you know.....

We use 127% more water today than we did in 1950.

About 95% of water delivered to our houses goes down the drain.

A garden hose can use almost as much water in an hour as an average family of four uses in one day.

Americans spend 29 billion dollars annually maintaining the nation's entire water system. We spend almost as much money each year buying bottled water - 21 billion dollars.

We only recycle 27 percent of our plastic water bottles. We throw away the other 36 billion plastic water bottles each year.

Freshwater ecosystems cover less than one percent of the Earth's surface, but are home to 35 percent of all vertebrate species.

Global extinction rates for freshwater species are four to six times higher than those for terrestrial or marine species. **In the United States nearly half of the 573 animals on the threatened and endangered list are freshwater species.**

Forty percent of all fish species in North America are at risk or extinction.

In the United States, 69 percent of freshwater mussel species, which help to filter water, are at risk of extinction.

The amount of moisture on Earth has not changed. The water the dinosaurs drank millions of years ago is the same water that falls as rain today. Water is constantly being recycled as it evaporates, condenses and returns to Earth as precipitation.

The water coming out of your kitchen faucet is four billion years old and may have been lapped up by a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Of all the water on earth only 2.5% is freshwater.

Of that 2.5% - 60% is trapped in glaciers and icecaps; 10% is found in surface waters including lakes and rivers;

30% is found in groundwater, but some of that is deep and out of reach.

Of all the water we take out of rivers, lakes and the ground...

70% is used for agriculture; 22% is used for industrial purposes; 8% is pumped into cities and homes for drinking, watering and washing.

The average American uses about 100 gallons of water a day - more than 15 times that used by many people in developing countries.

A staggering one person out of eight - nearly 900 million people in total - lacks access to clean water.

Every day 4,800 people worldwide die from waterborne diseases such as cholera, leptospirosis and botulism. Most waterborne diseases cause diarrheal illness, which is the second largest killer of children worldwide.

More than 30 years after the Clean Water Act promised clean water, an overwhelming majority of Americans live within 10 miles of a polluted river, lake, or coastal water. These waterways are unsafe for fishing, swimming, or aquatic life.

70% of the earth's surface is water; 75% of the human body; and 90% of human blood is water. Of all the water there is on earth, 97% is in seas and oceans and 2% is in ice caps. Of the remaining 1% fresh water, only a small percentage is accessible. And from what's accessible, 98% is used for agriculture and industry.

Water's necessity does not end with humans. In fact, water is the quintessential part of most living organisms. Even plants need water. **There is more animal and plant life found in water than on land and in the air collectively.**

For humans, water is so important because it's used in so many activities. We need to drink water to survive and stay healthy. We need water for bathing, cleaning and washing. We need water for cooking. Water is in the form of milk, fruits, meats, vegetables, and even in stones.

There are about one million miles of pipeline and aqueducts for water delivery in the US and Canada...enough to go around the earth 40 times!

Water is the most common substance on earth, however only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking.

66% (two-thirds) of the human body is water.

A cow must drink 3 gallons of water to make 1 gallon of milk.

75% of a tree is water. 70% of an elephant is water.

You can survive about three weeks without food, but only 3 days without water.

It takes 50 glasses of water to grow enough oranges to make 1 glass of orange juice.

You can fill an 8 oz. glass of water about 15,000 times for the same cost as a six pack of soda pop.

A tomato is 95% water; an ear of corn is 80% water.

Rivers and streams make up 3.5 million miles.

Lakes cover 41 million acres

The average daily requirement for freshwater in the United States is about 338 billion gallons.

There are more than 200,000 individual water systems providing water to the public in the United States.

If the Earth were completely flat, it would be covered by water 2 miles deep!

One gallon of gasoline can contaminate 750,000 gallons of water.

We use about 108 gallons of water per person per day in our homes.

There's as much water in the world today as there was thousands of years ago. In fact, it's the same water.

A single dripping faucet can waste far more in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week.

A leak of one drop per second wastes 2,400 gallons of water per year.

Every glass of water brought to your table in a restaurant requires another two glasses to wash and rinse the glass.

Source: Project Oceangraphy

Chairman Reports (continued)

ARBOR DAY

Geneva Hunt

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

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

Let this chairman know what you did or what plans you have for Arbor Day 2014.

AWARDS

Judy Ann Fray



This administration introduces some new awards for garden clubs and organizations thereof. Some of the awards that we have had for years have slight changes, so all Awards Chairmen are advised to study them accordingly. We look forward to the addition of donors to help round out these offerings.

GARDEN THERAPY / HEALING GARDEN Award is broader. PLANT IT PINK Award is new. FLOWERING TREES LANDSCAPE emphasizes planting of Native Trees. WATER CONSERVATION encourages programs and study of Water, Waterways, etc., and may qualify for the NGC President's Special Project Award.

Also new is a WEBSITE Award to encourage clubs, councils and districts in their establishment and use of websites. To encourage on-time registration for the 2014 SAR Convention in Roanoke, a special award has been added. BE SURE to check this out!

Of course, our REGIONAL DIRECTOR's Special Projects promoting "BEAUTY SPOTS for BEES and BUTTERFLIES" has garden clubbers buzzing to try to win some of the generous monetary amounts!

We look forward to receiving many applications!

CALENDARS/VISION OF BEAUTY

Elaine Thornton

Just a friendly reminder that the 2014 Vision of Beauty Calendars are now on sale from NGC, Inc. headquarters for \$6.75 for a single copy and \$5 each when you buy two or more copies. These lovely engagement calendars are filled with inspirational floral designs, so why not buy yours so you are prepared for 2014 or do your Christmas shopping early as they make perfect gifts for friends and family members. Also, encourage your club members to get their Vision of Beauty Calendars. There is a \$25 cash award to the club selling the largest number of Vision of Beauty Calendars with the winner determined on a percentage basis. Remember your club only needs to supply the number of members and the number of calendars sold as "evidence" to your State Awards Chairman.

CONTAINER GARDENING

Helen Heater

A Time to Select, Reflect and Collect

To design your container garden with endless appeal you can select

containers and plants that can contribute color and style that fits any of your needs or space. As I read once "there's a right pot for the right spot". It is that time of year garden centers have sales on wonderful containers. Keep a watchful eye for those special ones.

Whether you use a barrel, a basket, etc. there is some type of containers to help you create your special place, the possibilities are endless and the choices are fun and results can be exciting. Some considerations choosing a container are price, style, plant moisture requirements, best plants selection for container type, and most important consider the climate in which you live.

There are containers that are designed for extreme heat or cold, some are made with a double wall of fiberglass fibers or resin and/or polypropylene which are designed to withstand colder climates. Plastic pots or containers are best for dryer climates where terra cotta or clay is best for wetter climates. Note: these types (terra cotta and clay) are more porous and have a tendency to dry out quicker. The big difference between these two (plastic vs. clay) is the rate at which they retain or loose moisture. Glazed or ceramics, like large clay pots or concrete or even metal ones are best for bigger plants, shrubs, or small trees or even in windy locations, and they are also less likely to topple over with the larger plants. These types of containers retain moisture better and they are much more durable. Some of these larger ceramic pots or containers are simply used as garden art. They are colorful and add a beautiful accent your garden.

To demonstrate: one of my favorite and a more permanent fixture or container to my garden is a dismantled antique horse-drawn rake. Some of the teeth from this rake have been welded on a steel pole (which is cemented in the ground) and the loop end serves as place to hang plastic pots or baskets. The plastic pots serve well for proper drainage and weight for this type of fixture. This year I placed million bells in a variety of colors. I call it a "Carousel of Color". Thought you might like to see an example of a unique fixture/container. I thoroughly enjoy summer and it is my time to experiment, have fun and share ideas. (Above is a photo for your viewing)

However, since summer is coming to a close in our region, we need to remember a couple of important things. First as we empty our containers don't forget to put them away clean. Be sure to wash them thoroughly with insecticidal soap, bleach, etc. to kill any bacteria. We don't want to keep any of that for next growing season. Also during this time, sort out containers which didn't work as well as anticipated. Reflecting on the things that really work well gives us reason to collect and plan better for next year.

Second of all, keep that container garden going, with winter around the corner, don't forget to plant one or two container(s) of

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October 2013

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

Chairman Reports (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

bulbs for spring. Put a little spring on your steps to lift your spirits after a long winter. When planting a variety of bulbs in your container check their bloom time-period to make sure they bloom close to the same time; otherwise you will end up with dead foliage with newly emerging blooms. Most spring bulbs require at least 2 ½ to 3 months winter chill in order to bloom. Plant in a large plastic pot and sink the whole thing into the ground for the winter. When the buds begin to appear in the spring pop the container out of the ground and place into a nicer container to set on your steps or in your entry way. Note: of course you will have to preplan to have these special pot(s) ready when spring comes.

ENERGY/CONSERVATION

Gail Hill

It was my pleasure to serve as chairman for The Garden Club of North Carolina's 2011 South Atlantic Region Convention at the Proximity Hotel in Greensboro. When I was asked to chair the occasion I immediately thought "I have to see if we can work something out with the Proximity Hotel". I thought this is what we are all about, energy, conservation, recycling, solar energy and everything. This is how Dennis Quaintance was thinking when he was imaging his new hotel. This was his dream.

This hotel has received the highest certification (Platinum) from the LEED Green Building rating system. Before the hotel was even completed, it had recycled 87% of its construction waste.

The hotel uses 40% less energy than conventional hotels. Seven feet square windows help provide lots of natural light. Descending elevators help provide the energy for the next ascending trip.

Four thousand square feet of solar panels on the roof help to provide a continuous supply of hot water and geothermal refrigeration in the restaurant helps to reduce water consumption by 30%. The restaurant also uses local vendors to supply food for the daily menus. The hotel is even experimenting with a variety of plants on a roof garden that will help reduce urban heat.

The lack of wallpapers, carpets and upholstery filled with formaldehyde allows those with allergies to breathe freely.

If you're traveling through North Carolina, stop by the Proximity and take one of their tours of the hotel.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ~ LITTER ~ RECYCLING

Grassroots Green

Karen Prewitt

'Tis the season

By the time this edition of *Key Notes* reaches you, retailers and the media will be bombarding you with costly advertising campaigns aimed at encouraging you to purchase lots of things you don't need for the holidays. These unneeded and often unwanted

gifts then get wrapped in millions of miles worth of pretty paper and ribbons.

Added to the wrapping paper frenzy is the custom of sending boxes full of holiday cards to people you hardly know. Further compounding this ecological madness is the use of *extra* energy to keep those indoor and outdoor decorations burning all night.

Should I even mention the loss of 200+ million trees that could otherwise be happily growing in a mountain forest and helping to cleanse the atmosphere?

At the risk of sounding like a modern-day Mr. Scrooge, I think it is worth taking a moment to re-think what each of us could do to help save our environment this year.

If each of us would cut back just a *little* in our preparations for the most holy days of the year, it would be better for our children, grandchildren and future generations.

A one word definition of the best way to save the environment is, "conserve", perhaps that is why Environmental Education and Conservation are so often linked as a single chairmanship in our garden clubs. Perhaps this year we could consider basing our purchases on stewardship and not consumption. Consider gifts that don't require costly wrappings that end up in a landfill. What about giving the gift of a live tree, shrub, or a bag of daffodil bulbs in honor of a family member, co-worker or a friend. Purchase a Christmas tree with a root ball that can be planted in your yard, or donated to a park.

Tree giving isn't limited to just Arbor Day! With the recent weather disasters in many parts of the country, helping to rebuild a park or public garden area would be a welcome form of gift-giving that helps others. Many municipalities will even place a permanent marker at the site of your gift to honor a loved one.

A gift membership to The Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, or a myriad of other worthwhile organizations would save you shopping time and save our natural resources. How about donating to an environmental scholarship? **You could even do two things at once by putting the gift card inside your Christmas card!**

If you *must* wrap those packages, why not use real ribbon that can be re-used? For years I have re-cycled old Christmas cards and made them into gift tags, or used them to decorate the front of packages covered in plain paper. How about using a decorative dishtowel or scarf to 'wrap' your package? Outdo Martha Stewart in your creativity... you could even cook something yummy as a gift!

In the spirit of the season, consider giving the gift of yourself. You could help a neighbor or family member by weeding their garden, or running their errands or taking care of a sick friend for a day. The environment will thank you and so will I.

"Be the change you want to see in the world" - Mahatma Ghandi

Chairman Reports (continued)

NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Patsy Stephens

This is a gentle reminder for all SAR states to purchase National Life Memberships to honor their members. Isn't there someone you know who deserves this honor, someone who has done an outstanding job for many years?

An application can be downloaded from the NGC Website. A completed application and check for \$200 should be mailed to me, the National Life Membership Chairman for SAR. If anyone needs an application form, please contact me. The NGC Life Member pin is sold separately from NGC Member Services.

Looking forward to getting an outstanding number of application requests.

NATIVE PLANTS

Jo Ann Johnson

The Chairman of Native Plants for South Carolina, Sandra Hamaan, may be contacted at dasaham@charter.net - Sandra has prepared valuable information in the form of a single sheet that is very informative. If you wish you may e-mail me or write me at my home address and I will be glad to help.

Jo Ann B. Johnson

9859 Hwy 90

Little River, SC 29566

E-mail redrubylu@juno.com

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL

Barbara Ohmsen

I hope your state president turned over the materials for Smokey Bear that she received at the NGC Convention in Seattle. If not, please check with her!

I am looking forward to hearing from all five states in 2014. Encourage your clubs to contact schools, churches, Scout groups, home-schooled children, etc. to enter the poster contest. Your deadline to me is February 14.

If you have any questions, please contact me:

Barbara S. Ohmsen, 757-484-1753 or basohmsen@cox.net

My address is: 2881 E. Meadow Wood Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23321-4243

Odds 'N' Ends

Directory Corrections/Changes (changes underlined)

P.6 Calendar Comm, Jean Ohlmann: email - j.ohlmann@twc.com

P. 7 Horticulture Comm., Carolyn Patterson: phone – 304-924-5505; email cjpatt77@frontier.com

P. 15 Civic Development, Rebecca Crow: zip code – 29360-0175

P. 16 Energy Conservation, Gail Hill: zip code – 27410-2694

P. 17 Gardens: Raingardens, Lea Ann Terrell: zip code – 26041-1867

P. 17 Flower Show School, Jean Ohlmann: email - j.ohlmann@twc.com

P. 17 Environmental Ed./Litte, Recycling, Karen Prewitt: zip code – 29401-1603

P. 18 Invasive Plants, Donna Hopkins: zip code – 40601-4459

P. 20 Organization Study, Carolyn Patterson: cell phone – 304-613-1062

P. 22 Website, Margaret Graham email jpgm69@gmail.com

P. 23 Youth – Speech/Essay, Sarah Ann Parler: phone – 803-897-2304

Awards & donors

Page 27, Award # 4: add Judy Ann Fray

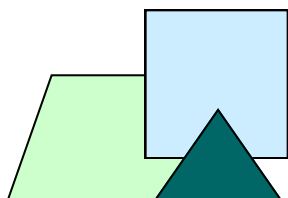
Page 28: Award # 10: Donor is Nancy K. Hoel

Award # 11: Add Judith Dill

Page 29: Award # 13: add Patty Arndt

Page 25: Award # 25: Donor is Mary Dixon

Page 33: Award # 34: Add Carolyn Patterson



Key Notes

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

October 2013

NGC Convention 2014

From Pres. Linda Nelson

Crown Bees and National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Partner to Add Gentle Mason Bees to Gardens

National Garden Clubs, Inc. announces a partnership with Crown Bees to increase native bee awareness, and encourage gardeners to add gentle, rarely stinging mason bees for food and flower pollination. Creating edible landscapes and bee-safe habitats in backyards can help save the food supply threatened by declining honey bee pollinators.

NGC President Linda Nelson says that **"MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE"** in our environment is the goal shared by this newly formed partnership". Crown Bees is a mason bee pollination and education company and National Garden Clubs, Inc is the largest worldwide nonprofit organization of volunteers pursuing gardening's best practices and education for a sustainable environment.

President Nelson says that, "The hallmark of National Garden Club activities is to protect and conserve our natural resources, and to promote education so we may all be better caretakers of our beautiful planet." She also says that, "Increasing bee awareness and promoting the use of bee safe products allow us to be part of this powerful solution".

Debbie Skow (Native Bee/Bee GAP Chairman for NGC) stated that she will be working to collaborate with Crown Bees to implement 1) A NGC Bee Speakers Bureau to increase bee awareness and practices, 2) encourage bee products in annual plant sales by individual garden clubs, 3) develop a bee education program for our youth programs and 4) to implement the BeeGAP (Gardeners Adding Pollinators) program where members raise mason bees to pollinate gardens. Crown Bees purchase excess bees to send to commercial farmers to supplement honey bee pollinators.

Dave Hunter, founder of Crown Bees, said, "This is a groundbreaking alliance to reach communities everywhere with an easy backyard garden solution to the declining honey bee population. Nearly 1/3 of our food supply is threatened by lack of pollination. We need more alternate bee pollinators to keep food on tomorrow's table. Bees flourish in an edible landscape, and that is a great solution in which we all benefit."

For more information related to any of the above subjects you may visit NGC at www.gardenclub.org or Crown Bees at www.crownbees.com



NGC President 2013-2015

Linda Nelson

"Making a World of Difference—
Choices Matter"

The NGC 2014 Convention will be in Norman OK May 1-4, 2014. At this time there are no other details listed on the NGC website. We will have lots of info in the January 2014 issue of Key Notes. You may also check the NGC website as details will be posted there as they become available.



SAR Convention 2014

South Atlantic Region Convention

"Follow the Star to SAR"

March 23-25, 2014

Roanoke VA

The 2014 South Atlantic Region Convention is hosted by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. The committee has been busy planning for an interesting and exciting time for all.

In addition to the workshops, meals, programs, and friends, you will want to take the tour of the historic Hotel Roanoke. And we hope you will want to enter the flower show and show off what you grow. The brief form of the schedule is in this newsletter with information on getting the full schedule.

The registration form is found on page 13 of this newsletter.

We look forward to your attendance and allowing us to welcome you to Virginia.



Key Notes

October 2013

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

SAR Convention 2014 (continued)



Attention: SAR Committee Chairmen and State Presidents

Promote your SAR chairmanship or a project, or showcase your state with an educational display at the 2014 SAR Convention. Exhibits will be set up at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia on Sunday, March 23 between noon and 2:00 p.m. You may use a space of 32" across by 30" deep on a table covered and skirted in white.

Reservations for exhibit and display space will be accepted through Monday, January 6. Contact 2014 SAR Convention Chairman Janice Clem at tchokie@aol.com or at 540-977-1713 to make a reservation, to request additional space or for questions.

Follow the Star" to the South Atlantic Region Convention
March 23-25, 2014

The Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia

Virginia is the place to be in 2014! The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. invites you to attend the SAR Convention to be held Sunday, March 23 – Tuesday, March 25 in the beautiful Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia where you will see "SAR: Involved and Shining."

On Sunday, March 23, arrive in time to take a **guided tour of the historic, four-star Hotel Roanoke**, often called the Grand Old Lady. Hurry to register as only two tours of twenty-five can be offered and both begin at **1:30 p.m.**

Next, you will want to be with us at **2:30** as Margaret "Fred" Douglas, a certified landscape designer with Douglas Associates in Ashland VA, presents "**Simple Things to Transform Your Garden.**" Most of us have gardens that are 'mature' and in need of a little freshening up and face lifting. This presentation will focus on simple, inexpensive things that can be done – often in a day's time – to breathe new life into an old garden. In addition, Fred will address colors and plants that work well to create a refreshed garden.

At **4:00**, Bill Smoot, President and Director of the Fred Heutte Center in Norfolk VA looks into the new gardening concept of vertical gardening as we explore "**Living Walls – A Look at Vertical Gardening.**" He has traveled throughout the world visiting vertical gardens and will share his photos with you. Some of Bill's vertical gardens will be on display. Learn how to create a vertical garden using an inexpensive method Bill devised using hardware store materials and other items. One lucky person attending will take home a vertical garden.

Entries for the Standard Flower Show "A World of Opportunities – Be Involved" staged in Peacock Alley will be accepted **Sunday, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** and **Monday, 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.**

Designers and horticulturists from Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia are urged to enter the show. Titles throughout the show incorporate the theme of our SAR Director and of our five state presidents. Print a Flower Show Schedule from the SAR website: www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org.

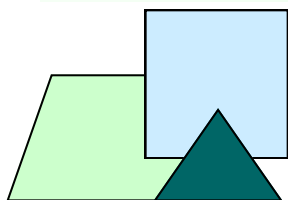
Dinner on Sunday evening begins at **6:30 p.m.** Enjoy an **Ikebana skit** followed by the program "**Growing Your Own Summer Bouquets**" by Lisa Ziegler, a home gardener turned cut-flower farm grower and owner of The Gardener's Workshop. Learn how having a small designated flower bed as a cutting garden is the first step to a season full of gorgeous cut flowers. Following Lisa's recommendations for easy soil preparations, variety selections, organic methods and harvesting practices will have your garden producing a bounty of flowers to fill your home.

The **Official Opening of the Fifty-Third SAR Convention** is on Monday, March 24 at **9:00 a.m.** with our SAR Director Martha Morgan presiding. At **noon**, the **flower show opens** so you can see all the top awards and ribbons won.

Lunch is at **12:30** followed by the program "**Boxwood: Stars for Gardens**" by Paul Saunders of Saunders Nursery. Their boxwoods are the best: good enough for extensive use in our nation's White House Gardens. Mr. Saunders will show us the great variety within the boxwood family including new cultivars being tested and will give updates on boxwood blight and boxwood decline. Those hearing his presentation are sure to come away with a new fascination for a very old plant species.

At **2:00 p.m.**, Pam Shank from Harrisonburg VA presents "**Landscapes in Miniature.**" A lifelong love of miniatures and her inter-

(Continued on page 12)



SAR Convention 2014 (continued)

(Continued from page 11)

est in gardening merged when she formed her business. In today's world of super-sizing everything, these miniature landscapes are a welcome surprise. Pam will put together a miniature landscape and show photos of other gardens she creatively planted with living miniature or dwarf plants.

Next, at **3:30 p.m.**, Virginia Tech's Entomology Department's Manager of the Insect Identification Laboratory, Eric Day, takes a look at some common and not so common pests in **"Horrid Insects & Lesser Known Trivia About What's Eating Your Garden."** Sometimes a complex pest problem has a simple solution. Be prepared to ward off insects in the upcoming growing season. **Dinner** begins at **7:00 p.m.** followed by the **design program "The Brilliance of Creativity"** by National Garden Club Flower Show School Instructor Frances Thrash. You may one of the lucky ones to take home one of the NGC design types created by Frances.

On **Tuesday, March 25** have **breakfast at 8:30 a.m.** and enjoy a most unusual fashion show. Jim Taetz of The Crystal Orchid Wedding and Floral Shop will be **"Bringing a Breath of Spring"** in a short **design program**. Then get ready to applaud for your club and state at the **Awards presentation**.

There will be two rooms of educational exhibits and vendors. You'll have lots of opportunities to shop.

Hotel Roanoke has given us a wonderful room rate of only \$99 plus taxes for a single, double, triple or quad. Please come and bring your friends and enjoy the eight programs, tour, flower show, entertainment and exhibits all planned just for you.

We look forward to your visit to Roanoke, Virginia for the SAR Convention at Hotel Roanoke – just follow the star!

"A World of Opportunities – Be Involved" Standard Flower Show

Our SAR Director Martha Morgan's theme for the 2013-2015 administration is "A World of Opportunities – Be Involved" What better way to honor her than to have a Standard Flower Show using her theme!

The flower show will be held in Hotel Roanoke's beautiful Peacock Alley. Entries will be accepted on Sunday, March 23 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and again on Monday, March 24 from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. The show will open at noon on Monday and close at 6:00 p.m. on the same day.

Your help is needed to make our SAR Convention flower show a success! We are counting on members from Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia to enter the show. Download the complete flower show schedule from the SAR website: www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org.

Please look over the Design Division classes and register early for the design of your choice.

DIVISION I DESIGN "SAR: A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES"

All classes are eligible for the Award of Design Excellence.

Designer has freedom of design style. Plant material is the designer's choice – may be all fresh, all dried or a combination of both.

Advanced registration is required by March 1 by contacting Nancy Goodman at cngoodman1@cox.net or at (540)400-8518.

Section A. "Involved" Eligible for Petite Award

Classes 1, 2 and 3 will be staged on a black 12 inch square shelf that is 6" tall. Background panel allowed. Staging for each design is not counted within dimension given but must be in pleasing proportion to 8" maximum

Class 1. "Inheriting the Past" – a small arrangement not to exceed 8" in height, width and depth

Class 2. "Creating the Future" – a small arrangement not to exceed 8" in height, width and depth

Class 3. "Helping Hands" – a small arrangement not exceed 8" in height, width and depth

Section B. "Shining" Eligible for Designer's Choice Award

Classes 4, 5, and 6 staged on pedestals. Underlay may be used but may not extend over the top of the pedestal.

Class 4 "Working Together" – a design using a gray pedestal. Pedestal has a 16" square top and is 40" tall.

Class 5 "Making a Beautiful Difference" – a design using a black pedestal. Pedestal has a 14" square top and is 34" tall.

Class 6 "Believing in Tomorrow" – a design using a gray pedestal. Pedestal has a 16" square top and is 40" tall.

DIVISION II HORTICULTURE "SAR: GROWING"

The Horticulture Division includes the following sections:

Section A. Narcissus (Daffodil)

Section B. Other Bulbs

Section C. Perennials

Section D. Flower Branches

Section E. Broadleaf Evergreen Shrubs without berries

Section F. Conifers

We're looking forward to receiving your beautiful designs and horticulture! "

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CONVENTION
March 23 – 25, 2014

“SAR: Involved & Shining”

The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, Roanoke VA

Registration: Please complete form, make check payable to: “2014 NGC-SAR Convention” and mail both to: Mary Sue Floyd, 2824 E. Meadow Wood Dr. Chesapeake VA 23321-4233 email: mlfloyd3570@aol.com, phone: 757-484-7604

Postmark by March 1, 2014 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 _____ Delegate
____ Guest _____ Spouse _____ Alternate Delegate

All attendees must pay a registration fee.

Full Time Package Plan includes registration fee, 2 dinners, 1 lunch, 1 breakfast, break service, 8 programs, flower show and tour of Hotel Roanoke.

VA Members & Non-spouse Guests **Package Plan**..... \$200
Out of State Members & Non-spouse Guests **Package Plan**..... \$210
Spouse **Package Plan**..... \$185

OR

Monday only Package Plan includes registration, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, break service,

4 programs and flower show

VA Members & Non-spouse Guests **Monday Package Plan** \$ 95
Out of State Members & Non-spouse Guests **Monday Package Plan** \$100
Spouse **Monday Package Plan**..... \$ 90

OR

VA 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
Additional Late Registration (after Mar. 1 - for all)..... \$ 10
Meals:

Sunday Evening..... \$ 55
Monday Lunch..... \$ 40
Monday Evening..... \$ 60
Tuesday Breakfast..... \$ 35

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please indicate special dietary requirements: Diabetic Vegetarian Vegan
Gluten Free 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!

No refunds after March 15

Please check the afternoon programs you plan to attend:

____ Sunday, 1:30-2:00 Tour of Historic Hotel Roanoke (space limited)
____ Sunday, 2:30-3:30 Simple Things to Transform Your Garden
____ Sunday, 4:00-5:00 A New Look at Vertical Gardening
____ Monday, 2:00-3:00 Landscapes in Miniature
____ Monday, 3:30-4:30 Horrid Insects & Lesser Known Trivia About What's Eating
Your Garden

Hotel Reservations

Reservation deadline for group rate is: February 21, 2014

Make reservations directly with the Hotel Roanoke, 110 Shenandoah Ave., Roanoke, VA 24016. Call 540-985-5900 or toll free at 866-594-4722 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and ask for the South Atlantic Region Garden Club meeting room block.

Room rate: \$99.00 plus taxes per night for single, double, triple and quad.

Check-in: 4:00 p.m. Check-out: 11:00 a.m. All rooms are non-smoking

Parking: Valet \$12/day; overnight parking \$7/day; Daily rates from \$1 to \$6.

Travel Information:

By Air:

Roanoke Regional Airport, Roanoke, VA Hotel Roanoke is 4.5 miles from the airport. The hotel offers free shuttle service to and from the airport.

Courtesy phone in the baggage area or call the Hotel at 540-985-5900 upon deplaning.

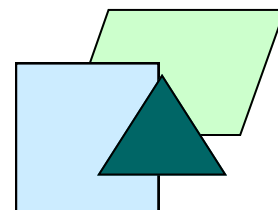
By Automobile:

I-81 to I-581-S Exit 5 Downtown. Stay in left lane. Merge onto Williamson Rd.

Turn right on Shenandoah Ave. at the second stop light (Roanoke Valley Welcome Center). Hotel entrance is the first right. Make quick left to go to front of hotel/registration.

From the east: Rt. 460 west to Roanoke. Left on Williamson Rd. (at the Civic Center area). Turn right at the 4th stoplight on Shenandoah Ave. (Roanoke Valley Visitors Center) Hotel entrance on right. Make quick left to go to front of hotel/registration. From points south taking Rt. 220 North to Roanoke: Follow 220 North to I-581.

Take Exit 4 East. Stay in right lane. Take 1st right onto Williamson Rd. (Civic Center on right and Sheetz on the left). Follow Williamson Road .6 of a mile to Shenandoah Ave. Turn right on Shenandoah Ave. (Roanoke Valley Visitors Center). Hotel entrance is on the right. Make quick left to go to front of hotel/registration.



The South Atlantic Region Member States



SARa Bee

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

Key Notes

www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org

July 2013