

Key Notes

South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 17, Issue 2 January 2024



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Remember to Plant America!

Go Green...Plant Natives!

And Plant Seeds For New Clubs!

Happy New Year to All!

Having been a former math coach and married to a longtime football coach, there was always a certainty after that last defeat or that last victory of the season. Coaches were immediately looking and planning for the new season. Garden club members are a lot like coaches. Once the deadline for awards has passed, whether an application has been submitted or not, they are looking for the next future project...a flower show, a home and garden tour, a community planting, a marker dedication, or some other worthy project. Every club project you have done shows what an impact your club has had on your community. Every new project or continuation of others impacts those living around you.

And even though winter has just barely begun officially when the new year rolls around, it seems that winter is leaving and spring is not far behind! All over our region and others, those nursery catalog pages are now getting earmarked in anticipation of this new year's plantings. Will it just be flowers or trees or shrubs or vegetables? Or all? My grandson handed me a catalog to show me his Christmas wish list...nearly everything was marked. Are you like him? Me? I get real excited when I look through those catalogs with picture perfect flowers, gorgeous trees and shrubs, and delicious looking vegetables, thinking I want one of everything! Then my family is quick to bring me back to reality...

But now is the time to start planning for the new year in your garden club. You can see spots that need some tender care, some places that need beautification come springtime and some new potential members to be invited. Perhaps someone not in garden club has given you an idea for your club to pursue. Making plans with your likeminded garden club friends is a good way to spend a few wintery days. And, you know, picking up new ideas for projects is another reason to attend your district meetings, state, region, and national conventions. Not only do you glean successful projects, but you make new friends as well.

Speaking of conventions, our South Atlantic Region Convention is March 17-20 at the beautiful Embassy Suites Greenville Golf Resort and Conference Center in Greenville, SC. Registration information will be available soon.

I am looking forward to seeing you! Remember that awards will be presented at the convention. If you haven't donated toward the awards for this year or next, I am sure a donation to Martha Hilton, awards chair, would be most appreciated. Also, remember that a perfect way to honor a dedicated club member would be to give a SAR Life Membership by contacting Dorothy Richardson. These Life Memberships help provide money for our SAR Scholarships. A win-win.

(Continue)



PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND THEMES

There are two good new year resolutions I want to share with you:

Bud Qualk, SAR Horticulture Chair and NGC Correspondence Secretary, says to have a heart echo done that will show if you have a bad aortic valve that can stretch the aorta, causing it to burst and result in death. There are no symptoms, and it is common. The heart echo is covered by insurance and takes only about 10 minutes. He is living proof.

Debby Cooper, Deep South Region Director, suggests getting your shingles shot after experiencing them in her eyes. Our Key Notes Editor, Sharon Jones O'Connell, has been dealing with the same this holiday season.

Please remember that many of our members or their families are in need of our prayers. May this New Year be a blessed one for you and your family.

Carcille

The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc.

Susan Throneberry

Theme: "Go Green...Plant Kentucky!

Plant Kindness and Beauty, Harvest a Garden of Friends."



Now that the Holidays are behind us, gardeners in Kentucky are making their list and checking it twice - the list of plants, seeds, and bulbs for their gardens! The cold, dark days of winter allow us to browse through catalogs and go online to find old favorites and newly hybridized offerings from nurseries. Our gardeners are already planning and planting in their greenhouses!

Kentucky ranges from Zone 7 in the western part of the state to 6 as you travel through the north and east of our Commonwealth. We've experienced some extreme weather conditions in the last two years, so I know we are all hopeful for an uneventful planting and growing season. The Re-Leaf Natural Disaster Fund, established in 2023, has awarded the first grant to a GCKY garden club working to revitalize a park decimated December 2021 by a tornado.

The 2024 convention for The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. will be held April 8, 9 and 10th at the Historic Boone Tavern in Berea, Kentucky. Plans are underway for interesting speakers, fun and informative workshops, and award presentations. We are honored to have in attendance the NGC 1st VP Donna Rouch.

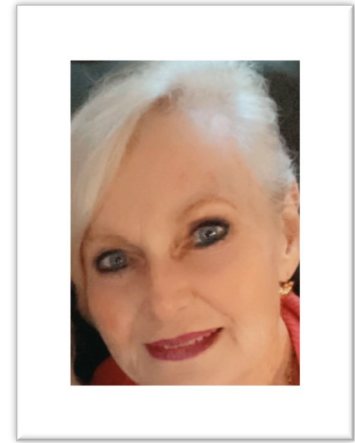
Spring is always beautiful in Kentucky, but especially at our state headquarters located in Paris, Kentucky. The Wallis House, built about 1850, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and offers an Arboretum free of charge and open to the public. Spring is a particularly scenic time on the 4.5 acres around the GCKY Headquarters as the Pollinator Garden and the other plantings are coming into bloom. If you're visiting horse country just outside of Lexington, please plan a visit to the Wallis House and Arboretum. The contact information is listed on our website.

<https://www.gardenclubky.org>



PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND THEMES

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The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.

Linda McLendon ,

Theme: "Cultivating Inspiration" in Gardening by Communicating, Educating and Participating ”

What a Beautiful, Festive, Jolly Holiday Season we are in right now, with the splendor of the sparkle and glimmer of beautiful lights, trees, and decorations which will certainly make you smile. The decorating, shopping, baking, making cookies, wrapping gifts and all the excitement and the Joy of being together with family friends and making wonderful memories are being wished for you.

North Carolina is so thankful and proud of all our Garden Club members who volunteer and are dedicated to help and keep our gardens so Beautiful. It is such a pleasure to represent the GCNC as their President.

We have been quite busy the last few months with our “Fall Board Meeting in Blowing Rock, NC, and attending District meetings.

We have attended the dedications of 4 (four) Blue Star and 2 (two) Gold Star Memorials in the last 2 months with many more on our calendar. We had a Landscape Design School, Course 1 in October with plans of continuing Courses 2 through 4 in 2024.

We are delighted to be planning to host the 2025 SAR (South Atlantic Region) Convention on March 9-10th, 2025 in Raleigh, NC.

Also, we are planning our Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., 100th year Anniversary on April 27-28, 2025 in Winston Salem, NC.

On November 2, 2023, in Manteo, NC , I was given a copy of a beautiful welcome sign representing “The Elizabethan Gardens”. Their statement: The sign that greets visitors at the entrance of “The Elizabethan Gardens” was recently redone because the original was showing normal weather-related wear and tear. The original sign language was not changed – only the graphics were updated. A copy of the new sign was presented to “The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. President, Linda McLendon at the Gardens November 2nd board meeting. This was indeed an honor and very much appreciated by the GCNC.

A picture receiving the welcome sign being presented by Teresa Armendarez, Executive Director, The Elizabethan Gardens, myself and Gail Reynolds, President, The Board of Governors is being sent in this report.

GCNC is looking forward to 2024 with the great opportunities and excitement it will bring to us.

By being positive and working together, we are looking forward to many more great things happening in The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. My hope for you all is that you and your family will be Blessed and

will have a very “Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year”.

Blessings to all

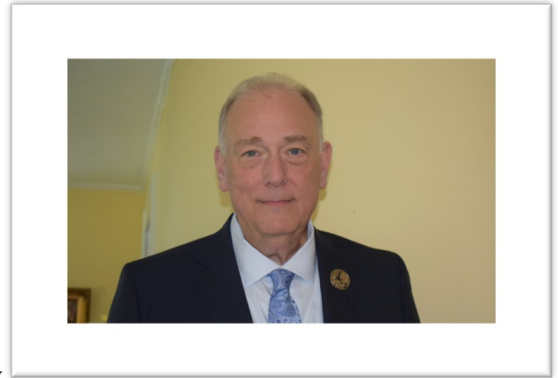


**PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND
THEMES**
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The Garden Club of North Carolina.
David E. Stoudenmire, Jr. , President
Theme: "Legacy Gardening" Past - Present - Future "

Dear SAR Garden Club Friends,

I want to share with all some of my observations in the local garden clubs throughout the Garden Club of South Carolina.



With the start-up of our monthly local club meetings, I have had the opportunity to travel across the state to be a guest of or a speaker for numerous clubs. What a joy it has been to get to meet with our members in their clubs they love so much! Not only have I enjoyed listening and learning about the work on the local level, but I appreciated so often the opportunity to speak on my President's Theme: "Legacy Gardening" Past-Present-Future. You have allowed me to explain and challenge our clubs to support our goal of designing, raising funds, and installing an appropriate ramp at our Memorial Gardens.

The deadline for our clubs to get their submissions in for our GCSC awards has come and the applications are all in. It was exciting to see and hear about the work that went on, the recording of that work, and the writing up in these awards. I look forward to the presentations of the awards at our State Meeting in April at Riverbanks Botanical Garden as clubs are recognized and awarded certificates and monetary awards for first places. The creativity, professionalism, and dedication to our mission in South Carolina of GCSC is sound and thriving. Truly we are a "force for good" in South Carolina just as each of our sister states!

Truly my heart swelled as we neared Veterans Day. Participating in the GCSC Program under the leadership of our Trustee Chairman, Peggy Little and all our Trustees was an honor. GCSC was host in the Memorial Garden to a large turnout of our honored guests, the men and women that have served our country in one of our military branches. We were honored to have Governor and Mrs. McMasters, Congressman Joe Wilson, representatives of Ft. Jackson, and one of the most special additions to our program, The Quilts of Valor Presentations brought tears to most every man and woman's eyes on that beautiful November day. At the conclusions of the program, the Trustees treated all present to a fabulous spread of homemade treats and drinks. Plans are already under way to prepare for our Memorial Day Program. As soon as the Trustees meet in January, we will announce the day and time of GCSC's Memorial Day Program at our Memorial Garden. Along with our state Veterans Day Program, numerous local clubs held ceremonies to dedicate new Blue Star Markers or to re-dedicate refurbished ones. These ceremonies around the state were attended by many and speak well of GCSC's commitment to honoring our Veterans of the Past, Present, and Future. Please do not forget GCSC continues to sponsor grants to help with Blue Star Markers.

GCSC continued a long-standing tradition of co-sponsoring the State Christmas Tree. Under the direction of our chairman, Karen Galloway extra help was solicited from our general membership to help decorate the State Tree in November and to participate at the 57th Annual Governor's Carolighting. Columbia Garden Club and GCSC were recognized in print, through media presentations, and at the ceremony for this wonderful gift given to all the citizens of South Carolina and the visitors that passed through Columbia during this holiday season.

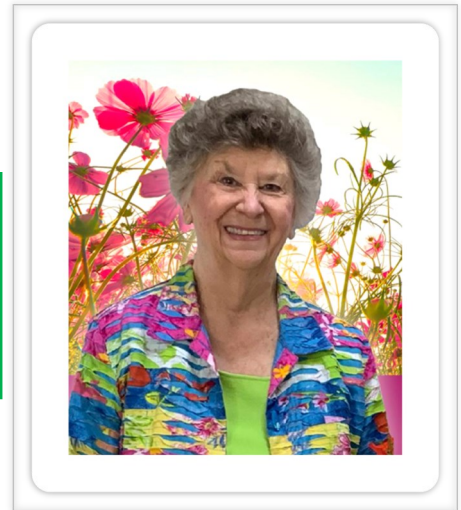
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PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND THEMES (Continue)

Again GCSC has sponsored a State Arbor Day tree planting in the Memorial Garden. Thanks to chairman, Mark Cockerille, a new dogwood was planted in our Memorial Garden to replace one that did not survive last summer's heat wave. I was pleased to celebrate many club's Christmas activities and enjoyed such wonderful new programs such as bringing your place setting and decorations and getting to enjoy, touring historic Revolutionary sites, touring Loutrel Briggs' gardens in Rock Hill and observing similarities in the design there as in our Memorial Garden. Also, the thrill of bidding for items that members had donated and the excitement of sharing laughter with garden club friends has made each stop on this fall's journey to winter such a delight.



The Garden Club of Virginia, Inc.
Val Storie, President
Theme: Every Person Makes A Difference



Hello SAR,

Winter is upon us. Yes, Christmas will be here soon, a time to celebrate, see family and enjoy the festivities. A fun, yet busy time of year. And the baking, oh my!

VFGC district award chairmen are reviewing their respective awards as I am sure the others States are. I hope there will be many to review and with more sent by email, this adds to the challenge to review each one. These are exciting to see.

Virginia clubs are having fundraisers, making wreaths, garland, bird seed ornaments. I hope each club does well. And I am sure many are having their holiday luncheons, whether catered, pot luck, all are good. Also, there may be "thieves gift exchange" or flower arrangements taken to elderly homes.

While visiting the districts during their fall meeting, they were encouraged to have a flower show at their spring meeting. I am so pleased to announce this is starting to occur...keep up the great work.

The new ODG distribution went well, check out the VFGC web site. Some may not be pleased, changing to email vs. sending by US Postal mail. However, the new format/magazine was outstanding (in my humble opinion). Gail, the editor, deserves a lot of credit. Can't wait for the next issue.

I always encourage members to continue to visit the NGC and VFGC web sites and your own district site...they are a wealth of information.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and please remember "Every Person Makes a Difference".

Val Storie

**PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND
THEMES**
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The Garden Club of West Virginia, Inc.

Martha Hilton, President

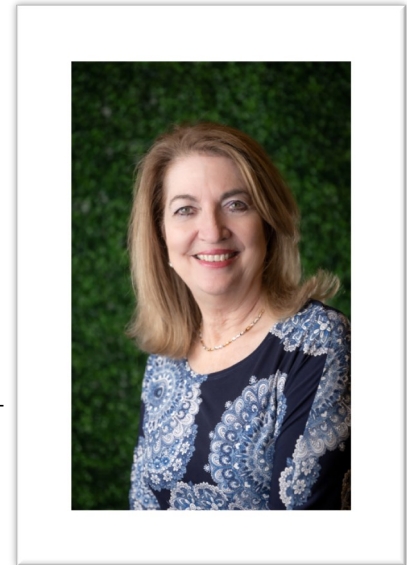
Theme: "Go Green,, Grow With the Flow
Bee the Seed! Sow-Bloom!"



**WELCOME TO 2024!
IT'S GOING TO BE A BLOOMING GOOD YEAR!**

I know it's been said so many times before – can you believe we have made it through another year? I've been told that time moves faster as you get older – thanks Nannie! – but I am so very amazed at what you do as Garden Club members each and every year as you use your time so wisely!

Your District Directors have been marvelous at giving us their time in preparing for our upcoming Convention – "Cultivating Connections" April 19th – 21st. We will be hosted by the Glade Springs Resort in Daniels, WV. As a continuation of what we started last year, we will be having a Welcome Dinner Friday evening & it's theme will be "Hee Haw"! Yep, google a show or two & see what fun we may bring to the party! Come in your coveralls, your hat with the price tag still on it – even your pig tails! We just are thrilled to have you join us so that you can get an update on what has been happening throughout the State as well as give you the opportunity to experience new ideas for your meetings or your gardening. Plus, you all have worked so hard this past year – you deserve a little fun & comradery with your fellow gardeners.

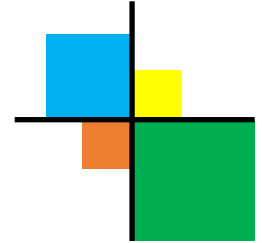


I'm getting ready to receive SAR awards – so I'll be seeing how you've done this year in showing off your community and club involvement. Then of course, we don't know how you all will do at National but that's the fun of taking the time to show off all of your hard work through the past year! Get ready to be impressed by your fellow Garden Club Members!!

Here's to a winter of resting and getting ready to enjoy the Spring to come! There's plenty to plan and plenty to share with your fellow members – make sure you check out the WVGCI Website and Facebook page! Keep those pictures coming!!



CHAIRMAN REPORTS



Bees & Butterfly Preservation, Pollinator Gardens, Endangered Species

Dina Braniff (WV) SAR Chairman

I am honored to chair Bees & Butterfly Preservation, Pollinator Gardens, Endangered Species for the SAR of National Garden Clubs. I invite you to email me at dina.braniff@gmail.com to let me know what your garden clubs plan to do in support of Bees & Butterfly Preservation, Pollinator Gardens, and Endangered Species. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at the 2022 SAR Convention in KY and the 2023 SAR Convention in VA and the 2023 NGC Convention at the Greenbrier Resort in WV!

It has been just over a year since the passing of Queen Elizabeth. I thought about this committee, and the importance of bees at the time of her passing because of a New York Times article I saw entitled "When the Queen Died, Someone Had to Tell the Bees."

The article was published on September 13, 2022 and reported that John Chapple, the beekeeper at Buckingham Palace had informed Queen Elizabeth II's bees of her death. He also placed black ribbons tied in bows on the hives. "Telling the bees" is a standard practice that goes back for centuries. In the past centuries beekeepers were fearful of bad luck, health risks to the bees, or possible loss of honey production if the bees were not told. In today's time it is thought more of as "a mark of respect."

It is not too late to google this article for your reading pleasure and an ode to the importance of bees!

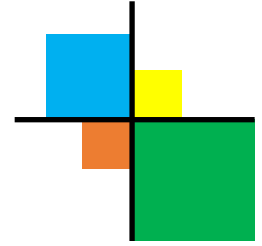
I would especially like to encourage your clubs to involve youth in educational activities involving Bees & Butterfly Preservation, Pollinator Gardens, and Endangered Species. My club sponsors the Lubeck School Conservation & Garden Club. I have included photos of students in the school butterfly garden. It is indeed a true outdoor classroom!

I wish you all great success in your gardening efforts and encourage your important, continued support of the Bees & Butterfly Preservation, Pollinator Gardens, Endangered Species Committee.



CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)



BIRDS

Gail Hill, Chairman
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Birds – December Issue – The Facts and Myths About Cardinal Birds

I love the Cardinal Birds and always have. I get great enjoyment in watching them year-round in my backyard from my patio and sunroom windows. I have holly trees and wax myrtles and they enjoy both of these trees and make great striking pictures when you look out and see the bright red of the male species against the green of these trees. I've looked out at times and seen as many as three to four pair of male and female cardinal at a time either feeding, watering or frolicking around the back area of the yard.

Cardinal birds are a fascinating and beautiful bird species. They have this attractive color, especially the male birds that are pleasing to the eyes. Plus, Cardinal birds are known to be active songbirds that can sing various melodies. Aside from its physical and behavioral characteristics, the Cardinals also have many interesting backgrounds associated with them. I might mention here that the Cardinal is the State Bird of four of our five South Atlantic Region States, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

Some Facts

Cardinals are named after the Roman Catholic Bishops because their red color reminds us of the robe catholic bishops.

Male Cardinal Bird's red color comes from the food they eat. Carotenoids in their feather structure are the ones responsible for giving out this color. And the carotenoids they ingested from their diet will enhance the red pigment in their feathers.

Cardinal birds are omnivores which mean that they include both animals and plants in their diet. To attract Cardinal birds into your backyard, installing [bird feeders for Cardinals](#) will be the best way. It is not only their color that provides a beautiful sight on your property, but they will also help you control pest infestation in your backyard.

This bird species suffers from baldness. This phenomenon in the cardinal's life is pretty standard, especially during late summer. They tend to get rid of old feathers and give room for new and fresh ones.

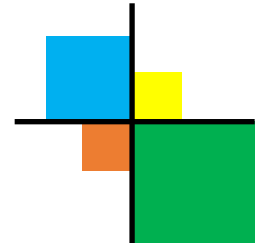
Have you seen a cardinal bird covered in ants? If yes, then you should know that there is no reason to panic.

Cardinal birds cover themselves with ants. This behavior is called anting, where they voluntarily cover their whole body with ants. Although it is a bit unusual and alarming, cardinals are not the only bird species that do that. Ants release formic acid that helps birds ward off lice, so they do anting once in a while. The Cardinal bird species is a [monogamous creature](#) that means that they will mate for life when they find their partner. They will start building their nest and build a family, and the male cardinal helps his mate from creating a nest to incubating their eggs. They will only look for a new partner once the other one dies.

Cardinals are known to be a very territorial species. Male cardinals will fight for their territory from intruders, predators even their own reflections. You might have seen cardinals attacking a window or a mirror. This is because they are so territorial and thought their reflection is an intruder. (Continue)

CHAIRMAN REPORTS (Continue)

Birds (Continue)



They are known to be dimorphic birds, meaning that male and female cardinals have different physical appearances such as size and plumage. This characteristic helps differentiate gender in birds.

They can live up to 15 years. On average, cardinals in the wild only live for up to 3 years, but they can be able to live for 15 years, especially if they come in contact with little to no harm during their lifetime.

During winter, you can witness a big flock of cardinals consisting of more than five pairs. This flock can be as big as 70 birds flying together to hunt. As the weather grows colder, food becomes more insufficient, and cardinals combine forces to hunt for food. Having multiple bird feeders in your backyard will surely attract many of them in the winter, and your backyard will be busy with these red singing birds giving color to a white and snowy yard.

There are a total of 19 subspecies of cardinal birds and can be distinguished by their plumage.

Female cardinal birds sing to attract males, ward off intruders, or if they need food. Male cardinals tend to produce more aggressive singing to protect their territory and females create more elaborate melodies.

The Myth

Are you a superstitious human being? Then cardinals might become more interesting for you when you know the myth about this species. Based on old folklore, you have a visitor from heaven when you see a cardinal bird in your yard.

Cardinal birds are a symbolic bird as it symbolizes positivity amidst the troubles we experienced in our life. There is a quote about this belief that goes, "Cardinals appear when Angels are near". Because of this, many have been associated with Cardinal sightings in their property to their departed loved ones.

At this time and age, many of us might disregard this belief. However, seeing a Cardinal bird come to your yard with this thought at the back of your mind gives you peace, comfort, and security. It can also provide positive energy, especially if you are going through hard times.

This is one reason why some people tend to specifically attract cardinal birds into their property to enjoy their beautiful colors, listen to their songs and heal them spiritually and emotionally. The feeling it gives to most people is priceless, and birds, not just the cardinals, are a great stress reliever which could also be why the positive vibes cardinals give.

Cardinals have played a significant role in mythology and literature for centuries, especially in spirituality. This bird species symbolizes hope, life, and restoration. This is why we see cardinal birds in most memorial arts, urns, and the likes.

The message and meaning behind the cardinal bird have more significance on spiritually inclined individuals and those who believe in superstitions. However, even if you are just an ordinary human not really into spiritual and superstitious things, you can still find peace within with the help of the cardinal birds.

Takeaway

Knowing these facts and myths about the cardinals will inspire you to attract and protect them. Birds, as a general, need the help of humans to survive. We have to protect these species for them to continue their existence.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)

Chaplain

Betty Jackson, SAR Chaplain
bettywisejackson@gmail.com



It is midafternoon, a few days before Christmas. I am sitting at my dinette table looking out at the beautiful sunlight. A glance at the thermometer tells me it's 43 degrees outside. This we have been experiencing for more than a week, maybe two. What is happening here in South Carolina? The "saying" has always been "If you don't like the weather today, wait two days and it will change."

We who live in the Southern Atlantic Region are blessed by enjoying each of our four seasons to its fullest. Yellow daffodils will soon wake from their winter naps and fruit trees will soon show their flowering buds and spring will be bursting everywhere.

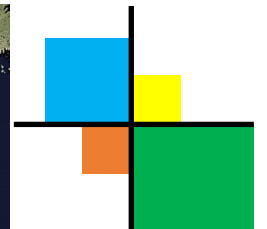
SAR Board members and committees will be wondering what to pack as they travel to "Upstate" here in South Carolina for the SAR Convention in March.

Our planning committee has been excited about hosting this event and trying very hard to make it a memorable experience. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Foot Note: Please advise our SAR Director, Carcille Burchette, and/or me, Betty Jackson in the event that anyone on our board has the misfortune of being ill or losing a family member or the passing of a member of the board. Thank you!



CHAIRMAN REPORTS CONTINUE



Environmental Education – Energy Conservation

Karen Prewitt: SAR Chairman

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Grassroots Green : A New Year - A New Normal ?

For the last twelve years I have written a wide variety of articles for Key Notes on environmental issues, and during those years I have researched and reported on some of the major changes that have affected the South Atlantic Region, and the world at large. Today's message is increasingly important.



The Nor'easter storm that hit the east coast this past weekend (December 17th-18th) has turned out to be a *new* 'wake-up call,' not only for the experts at the National Weather Service, but also for hundreds of municipalities and civic leaders who have been slowly pondering those "what-if" statistics that increasingly are making the news. This storm was predicted to bring heavy rains to much of the east coast and those of us living in coastal areas expected to be impacted by some flooded low lying areas and heavy rains associated with tropical storms. What *wasn't* expected was the severity of this winter storm! The NWS defines 'moderate flooding' as tides that reach over 7.5 feet and 'major flooding' as tides that reach eight feet or higher. Here in Charleston (S.C.) officials confirmed that the tides reached 9.86 feet... the fourth highest level in recorded history! Civic leaders claim they weren't prepared for the extent of last week's water incursion, or the 7+ inches of rain that fell in twelve hours.

The third highest tide on record occurred only a few months ago, with Hurricane Idalia, which left us with 9.23 foot tides. Up and down the east coast beaches that had been battered by Idalia saw extensive erosion because the storm hit on a 'Super Moon' and a King Tide.

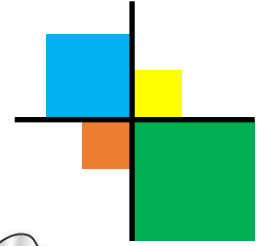
Unfortunately, this latest storm has given us a glimpse of what the next 25 years can hold for us, and the picture isn't a pretty one. More to the point, it is not just the Coastal areas that are being affected by the rapid changes in our environment. The torrential rains accompanying these new storms swell the inland ponds, creeks and rivers, which empty into larger bodies of water, thus affecting more people who live further inland who have never previously been bothered by flooding. Weather scientists are predicting rising ocean temperatures will cause an increase in the number of severe storms. A new climate study, just out, documents during the first two decades of the 21st century more than 7 million people moved to avoid areas that have been repeatedly flooded. This is transforming where Americans choose to live, and in some areas this exodus is affecting population decline. Scientists are referring to this as, 'Climate Abandonment Areas'. When people start to move, it can create a domino effect, encouraging others to depart. This leaves fewer people to support the tax base and causes a shrinking local economy.

Since garden clubs constitute one of the largest volunteer organizations on the planet, it is my hope we will use *this* New Year to consider how our clubs can interact with local civic leaders to help deal successfully with the problems we are facing. Corporately, we have the education and the 'know how' to assist others in making a difference... and it behooves us to use our talents for the greater good.

" Be the change you want to see"

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

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Gardening Schools

Charles McLendon

SAR Gardening School Chairperson.

Why Gardening Schools?

NGC Schools approved instructors are subject matter experts in their field. They have the most up to date information to share. Gardening Schools help members become accomplished Gardening Consultants, by engaging in gardening education.

The instructors share expert in depth advice to help you grow foods, how to plan, plant and grow nutritional vegetables, fruits, herbs flowers and ornamental. Plants that you know did not have toxic pesticides sprayed on them.

Gardener's love getting their hands in the soil. Nature and gardening have a psychological effect on us. Reducing mental stress and mental fatigue with less depression on these dreary days.

What if we involve our children or grandchildren? Children derive many benefits from exposure to gardening, develop power of observation and creativity. Most importantly children need to know where vegetables come from. Enough said.

We recently provided a Junior Master Gardeners summer camp for a week. I asked one of the young students where hamburgers come from. His reply to me **McDonalds! Enough said.**

I encourage you to talk with your local Gardening School Consultants and plan a school. We have no gardening schools scheduled in our SAR regions.

Looking on the NGC Website for available gardening schools there are only two currently that are Hybrid/Virtual if anyone needed to refresh.

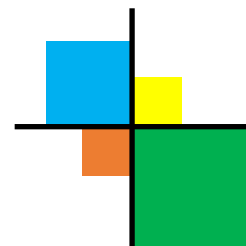
While it is cold and dreary outside it is a suitable time to take one of the schools that NGC offers. If I can assist you in any way, please let me know.

Ring in the new year by learning a new skill!

Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

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HORTICULTURE REPORT

SAR Horticulture State Chairmen:

Kentucky Sue Kirkman

Virginia Martie Parch

West Virginia Ronda Kinder

North Carolina Polly Kopka

South Carolina Karen Oliver



Our Horticulture Chairman team discussed sharing our events and programs and I was able to offer some PowerPoint and YouTube options if they were ever needed. I want to thank Carcille Burchette and the SAR State Presidents for all their help in getting this group together.

This Chairman attended the Garden Club of Kentucky Convention, the SAR Convention, and the National Garden Club Convention at the Greenbriar.

I gave two PowerPoint presentations at the University of Kentucky McCracken County Extension Office to the Master Gardeners and the public “Growing Plants from Seeds” and one called “Growing Plants from Cuttings”. I also gave a PowerPoint Presentation on “Lawn Management” at the local West Kentucky College. And I also gave a program on how to make “Bee’s Wax Candles” at the Home and Garden Show in Paducah, Kentucky.

I Co-Chaired an NGC Specialty Flower Show at the McCracken County Kentucky Fair in June and entered the Kentucky Judges Council flower show last fall winning 5 blue ribbons and two Top Exhibitor Awards. I attended and passed Flower Show Judges school Class II and Class III in Marietta Georgia.

Bud Qualk

NGC Corresponding Secretary

SAR Horticulture Chairman

GCoFY Arboriculture Chairman

GCoFY Disaster RE-LEAF Chairman

CHAIRMAN REPORTS CONTINUE

Janice Clem, Penny Pines Chairman
tchokie@aol.com. 540-977-1713



In the last few months of 2023 there have been wildfires in some of the National Forests in our SAR states.

In North Carolina, the Black Bear Fire caused by humans destroyed over 2,008 acres and the Clear Creek Fire in Pisgah National Forest's Grandfather Ranger District had approximately 124 acres burned. South Carolina's Mill Mountain Fire in the Andrew Pickens Ranger District had 70 acres destroyed. In West Virginia, approximately 1,078 were burned in the Heavener Mountain fire in Pendleton County. While a search on the US Forest Service website did not show any recent wildfires in Kentucky's Daniel Boone National Forest, it did show that Virginia's Jefferson National Forest's Matts Creek wildfire in Bedford County burned over 11,020 acres in the James River Face Wilderness and Blue Ridge Parkway. The cause of this fire has yet to be determined.



Helicopter hovering over Matts Creek wildfire in Virginia on Nov. 19. (Photo Courtesy: U.S. Forest Service)

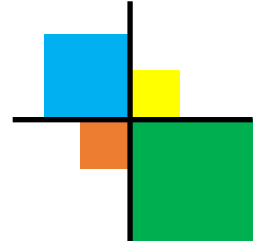
You might be wondering why I am sharing information about these wildfires with you. It's because we as National Garden Club members can help reforest these destroyed areas by donating to the Penny Pines program. The US Forest Service has a Memorandum of Understanding – basically a contract- with NGC in which the Forest Service plants seedlings to reforest areas that lost vegetation due to human activity, natural disasters or sudden climate change using our donations along with federal funds.

A donation of \$68 will provide about 200 native tree seedlings called a “plantation.” The donor may designate a specific forest and/or state to which the donation is sent. National Garden Clubs will acknowledge the donation and provide a beautiful certificate in honor of a person or organization or even an event or in memory of a special person.

Why not take up a collection at your next garden club meeting or event? You may be surprised at how eager our members are to support this worthwhile project. Just remember that donations sent to NGC Headquarters must be \$68 or multiples of \$68.

Download the donation form on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org, select “Programs” and then select Penny Pines. The donation form and a check are sent to NGC Headquarters, or you may donate using the online link.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS
CONTINUE



Lifetime
Membership

SAR Life Membership

Dorothy Richardson, SAR Life Membership Chairman
P. O. Box 14, Loris, SC 29569
(Home) 843-756-7413 (Cell) 843-430-5205
dwrich30@sccoast.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The SAR Life Membership supports the Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is open to a college sophomore or junior for use during the junior or senior year of college. Each state within the South Atlantic Region may submit one application to be in completion for the scholarship. Qualifying students must major in the study of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Plant Pathology, Biology, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns, City Planning, Land Management and or allied subjects. To obtain a SAR Membership, just complete an application and send to Dorothy Richardson, P. O. Box 14, Loris, SC 29569, SAR Life Membership Chairman with a check for \$65.00. Please make check payable to SAR and mail to Dorothy Richardson, SAR Life Membership Chairman. All the SAR Life Membership goes to the Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship, which means that you can use the entire amount as a charitable deduction for tax purposes. You will receive an SAR Life Membership Pin.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

CONTINUE



SAR SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

Judy Ann Fray
PO Box 263, Madison, VA 22727-0263
(540) 948-4220; ja.fray@verizon.net

The Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship

From The National Garden Club's South Atlantic Region (SAR)

This scholarship is open to a college sophomore or junior for use during the junior or senior year of college. Each state garden club organization within the South Atlantic Region (Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia) may submit one application to be in competition for the scholarship. A qualified student is one who is 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 (\$1,000 or \$2,000) will be determined by the SAR Board of Directors, and the recipient will be announced at the SAR annual convention in March.

Applications may be obtained from the SAR Scholarship Chairman, the website www.southatlanticregiongardenclubs.org Or from the Garden Club Scholarship Chairman of each state in the region.

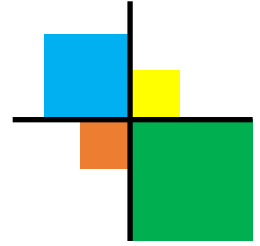
Completed applications must be received by the respective state SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN BY FEBRUARY 1. EACH STATE'S best application must come to the REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN BY MARCH 1.

Applications will be judged on the following scale:

Academic Record.....	40%
Need.....	30%
Character.....	10%
Commitment to Career.....	15%
Variety of Avocation.....	5%

As long as the recipient maintains a "B" average, he/she may reapply each year during their college career.

2024 CONVENTION



2024 SAR Convention
Embassy Suites Greenville Golf
Resort and Conference Center in Greenville, SC,
670 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, South Carolina, 29607
Save the Date
Sunday, March 17 through Wednesday, March 20



“Nothing Could be Finer Than to Be in Carolina”

SAR Convention **March 18 ~ 19, 2024** **Greenville, SC**



A great adventure awaits as we share the warmth and beauty of Greenville, a jewel of a city situated in the Foothills region of South Carolina. We'll gather to honor our South Atlantic Regional Director as well as attend fun and educational garden club events.

One of the highlights of the Convention will be a Tea and Garden Tour where we will honor our special guest Carcille Burchette, SAR Director. The event will be held at the historic Kilgore-Lewis House which was built in the 1830's and is headquarters for the Greenville Council of Garden Clubs. Tour the lovely grounds surrounding the house which include an accredited Arboretum and Garden habitat.

The convention will provide you the opportunity to attend many garden club events such as these must-see programs:

- Special “Welcome” by The Carolina Girls (Lake and Hills GC).
- “Tales from the Traveling Botanist”, by Douglas A. Rayner, PhD, naturalist/author.
- “Our Endangered Monarchs” by Kelly Long (Camellia GC of Greer).
- Special Presentation “There Was No Miracle Gro in the Garden of Eden” by Bonnie Satterthwaite, Territory Sales Manager, The Espoma Company.

The Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center, located at 670 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, SC 20607 (864-676-9090). We have a special room rate of \$159+ tax which includes breakfast, evening drinks, hors d'oeuvres and free parking. This special block of rooms is limited, so please make your hotel reservations early.

- Reservations can be made by clicking on the following link:
[Garden Club of SC Booking Link](#)
- Or by calling 1-800-EMBASSY and asking for the Garden Club of SC – South Atlantic Region Convention special room rate
- Last date to make hotel reservations is by **Friday, February 16, 2024.**

We look forward to seeing each of you as we welcome Spring to the upstate of South Carolina.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CONVENTION

March 18 – 19, 2024

Fifty-Ninth Annual Convention

“Nothing Could Be Finer Than to Be in Carolina”

Embassy Suites, Greenville, SC

Registration: Please complete form, make checks payable to “SAR 2024 Convention” and mail both to Margaret Graham, 1303 Golfview Drive, N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582, email: jpgmcg69@gmail.com, phone: 843-222-2548. Postmark by February 14, 2024 for On-time Registration.

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Please check _____ if we may email your acknowledgment to the address above.

Check **ALL** that apply:

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

Please mark the plan you want to attend. Registration fee and meals included.

Full Convention beginning Monday morning \$255.00
GCSC Member – Full Convention beginning Monday morning \$240.00
Monday Night Banquet and Program \$85.00
Tuesday Awards Luncheon and Program \$65.00
Tuesday Night Banquet and Program \$90.00
Additional Late Registration fee if space available..... \$35.00
Reception and Tour at Kilgore Lewis House NC
Executive Board, Former Regional Directors, and Finance Committee Monday Luncheon\$40.00
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please indicate special diet restrictions* _____

*These may be for medical reasons only

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 requests for substitutions will be accommodated at the time of meal service.

Meals: Full Convention includes one lunch and two banquets.

Complimentary breakfast, coffee and tea are available in lobby for hotel guests.

No Refunds After March 5, 2024

Hotel Reservations – Deadline is February 16, 2024

The Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center, located at 670 Verdae Boulevard, Greenville, SC 20607 (864-676-9090). We have a special room rate of \$159+ tax which includes breakfast, evening drinks, hors d’oeuvres and free parking. *This special block of rooms is limited, so please make your hotel reservations early.*

The online Booking Link: [Garden Club of SC Booking Link](#)

Or for phone reservations call 1-800-EMBASSY and ask for the Garden Club of SC – South Atlantic Region Convention special room rate.

Driving Directions: Take I-85 to Greenville, SC exit 48B

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

"Nothing Could Be Finer Than to Be in Carolina"

Monday, March 18, 2024

8:30 – 11:30 AM	Registration	Lobby
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Registration	Lobby
1:30 – 6:00 PM	Flower Room Open	Congaree Room
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Vendors	Lobby
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Finance Committee Meeting.....	Palmetto Club
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Executive Committee Meeting	Palmetto Club
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Board of Directors Meeting.....	Palmetto Club
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Luncheon – Former SAR Directors/	Congaree Room
	Finance & Executive Committees	
2:00 – 4:00 PM	Tea Honoring the SAR Regional Director	Kilgore Lewis House Garden/Arboretum & House Tour
7:00 – 10:00 PM	Dinner and Program	Palmetto Club
	Speaker Douglas A. Rayner, PhD, naturalist/author	Palmetto Club
	“Tales from the Traveling Botanist”	

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration Open.....	Lobby
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Registration Open.....	Lobby
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Flower Room Open	Palmetto Club
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Vendors	Lobby
9:00 – 11:00 AM	Official Opening of Convention	Palmetto Club
	Carolina Girls Welcome (Lake & Hills GC)	
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Awards Luncheon & Program	Palmetto Club
	Kelly Long (Camellia GC of Greer), “Our Endangered Monarchs”	
2:00 – 2:45 PM	“Braiding” Workshop by Debbie Sizemore (Simpsonville GC)	Congaree Room
3:00 – 3:45 PM	“Birds” by Ben Sill, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Clemson University ...	Congaree Room
7:00 – 10:00 PM	Banquet & Program	Palmetto Club
	Keynote Speaker Bonnie Satterthwaite, Espoma Company, “There Was No Miracle-Gro in the Garden of Eden”	

No Refunds After March 5, 2024

The South Atlantic Region

Member States



Don't forget the Key Notes Articles

Please submit your reports using Times New Roman 12 pt format. and ready for print, I will not rewrite your reports. Thanks you

Key Notes issues Deadline

March 20 Next due date

June 20

September 20

December 20

Please submit your articles by email to toddie1904@aol.com

Sharon Jones O'Connell

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