

CAR Review



Regina I. Brown, Director



From Our Director:

Welcome to Spring in the Central Atlantic Region! It is refreshing and exciting to see the buds, blooms, and leaves popping out after their long winter of rest and expectation for a glorious Spring.

This Director is amazed at how quickly the last two years have passed as we have been launching the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc. The following are some highlights as I reminisce.

There have been two Conferences. In October 2017, a mini-Conference was held in Annapolis, MD, where the focus was directed to establishing our governing and administrative documents, such as Bylaws, Standing Rules, Conference Manual, and Mission Statement. This mini-Conference was open to the Executive Committee and invited Committee Chairmen. The format of this meeting provided an opportunity for the leadership to brainstorm various options in order to successfully guide the future of CAR-SGC. It was proposed that this format be utilized at the beginning of the annual Conference at least once in each Director's term.

The Director's Project was introduced, which built on the NGC theme "Plant America". This Director chose the theme "Plant America: Knowledge is Key to Success" since, without basic education to establish a garden, a successful bounty will struggle to materialize. This Director's main purpose was to support the NGC Schools: Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design, and Flower Show. Another important purpose was to give back to those who have tirelessly engaged in the mission and goals of CAR-SGC and NGC by providing tuition reimbursements to qualified applicants. This Project was so well received that a line item for Education Grants was added to the budget.

A second Conference was held in October 2018 in Columbus, OH: "Something is Happening in Ohio". This very successful Conference was preceded by a Tri-Refresher, which received comments such as, "This was the best Tri-Refresher I have ever attended".

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs: Lisa Arni
www.delawaregardenclubs.org

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.: Diana E. Bonner
www.fgcofmd.org

National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.: Robin L. Hammer
www.ncagardenclubs.org

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.: Louise M. Davis
www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.: Monica C. Hansen
www.fgcnys.com

Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.: Deanna J. Stearns
www.gardenclubofohio.org

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania: Christine M. Leskosky
www.pagardenclubs.org

Caroline Carbaugh, Editor
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Having a Symposium or a Refresher in conjunction with a CAR-SGC Conference is an excellent way to relieve the States of some of the financial burden associated with these events.

The Central Atlantic Region was exceedingly honored to welcome the 89th NGC Convention where "Love Blooms in Philadelphia" in May 2018. Seven hundred NGC members attended from across the world. Because of the unique setting, they were able to enjoy historical tours as well as tours to several famous gardens in the area, such as Longwood Gardens.

The 2019 Conference "A Capital Harvest" will be hosted by National Capital Area Garden Clubs in Arlington, VA on October 24-25 and will be one you will not want to miss. Chairman Lydia Barbour and her dedicated team have been working diligently to offer an outstanding opportunity to enjoy this Conference as well as a mini-vacation to explore our Nation's Capital, which is nearby. This Conference will also be followed by a two-day Symposium.

Please be sure to check the website car-sgc.org for details of events in the Region. Individual State websites are also a good source for information.

It has been an honor for this Director to attend annual Garden Club meetings and other events. Also, it has been a distinct pleasure to serve as the first elected Director of CAR-SGC. This Director is immensely pleased to relinquish these honors to Gail Corle, Director-Elect, and Angie Raitano, Alternate Director-Elect, who will provide excellent leadership for the future of CAR-SGC.

Thank you for your generous support during the last two years, and may you enjoy many more years as members of CAR-SGC.

Fondly,

**Regina I. Brown, Director
Central Atlantic Region of
State Garden Clubs, Inc.**

From Our Director-Elect:

Hello States and Membership,

As we all know, spring brings growth and many changes and one major change for me is becoming your new Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Club's Director at the National Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi this May. But before saying another word, I want to thank Regina Brown on behalf of all the membership for doing such a wonderful job as 2017-2019 Director. Regina, we love you and wish you the best in all your future endeavors. Hugs from all.

As your new Director, I am hoping to bring the Region together and work on all the issues that seem to haunt our 7 States. The theme for this administration is -----

"SEVEN TOGETHER"----Planting America.

As a Region, we are in existence to help the States in any way possible. This is our primary **Purpose**. We will continue with the Educational Grants for NGC Schools program, which was established under the direction of Regina, Jeannie Nelson and Judy Vehse, but there will be a new Region Project. It will be an-----

Outreach-Leadership Project

Titled

"GROWTH BY SHARING"

The Project Committee is headed by Chairman, Robin Hammer and Vice-Chair, Chris Leskosky. Plus five Chairs with individual tasks, each established to help with issues to benefit our States.

Judith Schaeffer----Liaison to Teachers---Youth Programs

Anthony Antes/Melissa Siegel----Liaison to Master Gardeners----Educational Programs

Tonya Young----Liaison to Senior Living Communities-- --New Clubs and Programs

Chris Leskosky-----Leadership Outreach

Mickie Marquis-----Mentoring Programs/Sister Clubs

You will hear more on the unique work of this committee, but the main goals are:

- To increase education.**
- Stress the importance and benefits of leadership workshops.**



**Aid with new ideas for membership increase.
Help States & Garden Clubs to learn how to think
out of the “Box”; to grow and retain.**

We must all work together and the new CAR-SGC Board is here to help the States and Clubs with any issue that arises. That is the sole reason for a Region-- --Be there for our membership, a person to call when there is a question or need for guidance. This Region is full of individuals with so much knowledge to share. So let's get that info out where needed.

The next two years will be a learning curve for this Director, but we will all learn together. The Region has had many changes in the last several years, with bylaw revamping by National, but we will persevere. This Region has always been a role model in many ways among the other 7 Regions. We are strong and have wonderful Leadership from our 7 States; so lucky to have such a wealth of knowledge within and now is the time to reach out and spread that knowledge around.

Now to an exciting Region Event being planned: **Our Annual Fall Conference**. It is going to be a wonderful conference in Arlington, VA and I hope everyone will make the effort to attend ----**“A Capital Harvest”**. The

Region Conference is a great way to enjoy friends and gain information about what the other states in our Region are doing in all the many aspects of Garden Club. Come and enjoy the Region's efforts October 24 & 25. You can see all the information and registration form on the Region's website. (www.car-sgc.org)

This year the Fall Conference will be immediately followed by a **Symposium** for Flower Show Judges, but please remember anyone can attend. This is a great educational value for anyone who loves horticulture and/or Design. (Info also on the web)

My deepest thanks to all who have offered to serve under this administration, what a knowledgeable group, and I know together with our membership, we will do great things over the next two years and **PLANT AMERICA the C.A.R-S.G.C way.....**Over the top of course!

Horticulturally yours,

*Gail Corle,
“Your” Incoming Director
Central Atlantic Region of
State Garden Clubs, Inc.*

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs 2019 Annual Conference



**Hosted by National Capital Area
Garden Clubs**

October 24-25, 2019

Arlington Hilton, Arlington, VA

Be on the lookout for Registration to begin in early May. You will love the registration process♥. You will be able to use the CAR-SGC website and PayPal! We will provide travel information, an early bird discount, information about the workshops, their leaders, the tours, the programs, the options for dinner, and on and on and on!

Here are just a few details to whet your appetite: The luncheon feature is the documentary, “Return”, concerning courageous Native American women who reclaim foods for their tribes’ health and spirit. Next is a glorious afternoon tour of the U.S. Botanic Gardens on the National Mall or a workshop choice of: a photography contest, unusual uses of herbs, or art with design. And don’t forget the vendors and cocktail hour! The evening program will be a combination of design and Farm-to-Table initiatives existing in your regions. (Continued on page 4.)

Register by July 1 to get the Early Bird rate, which is a discount of \$50 for Full Time Registrants. Full Time registrants will also get preference for the meals, workshops and tours over Part Timers.

Currently 26 of the 45 hotel rooms in the block at the Arlington Hilton are taken. It is not too soon to make your reservation to ensure you have a room. The daily cost at the Arlington Hilton is \$119 room + taxes = about \$135...single or double occupancy. The hotel has extended the room rates for 3 days before and 3 days after the Conference and the Symposium, so you can turn this into a 10-day vacation during the non-tourist season in the Nation's Capital. What a deal!!!

Look for Conference information on the CAR Website at <https://www.car-sgc.org/conference-2019>.

**Lydia Barbour and Kaki Power,
Chairman & Vice-Chairman, CAR-SGC 2019 Conference**

October 26 and 27 Symposium to Follow CAR-SGC Conference

National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. invites you to attend our NGC Symposium at the Arlington Hilton, which has been specially scheduled for the convenience of those attending the CAR-SGC Conference, although attending the Conference is not a requirement. Any garden club member is welcome, not just Judges.

On October 26th, Julia Clevett will pursue *So, What's New in Design?* Her Allied Topic will be *Botanical Arts Design*.

On October 27th, Dot Yard will focus on *NGC Judging of Orchids*. The much-needed Allied Topic will be *Evaluating NGC Flower Shows/Books of Evidence with the Provided Forms*.

Registrar for the Symposium is Poss Tarpley, who can be reached at post@aol.com. She will gladly send you a registration brochure with all the details, including the wonderful room rate and Metro access.

**Shirley Nicolai,
Symposium Co-Chairman**

From Our States:

Delaware

Garden Clubs in Delaware have had a busy year. Here are reports from several clubs.

Spade & Trowel Garden Club of Seaford

The Spade & Trowel Garden Club of Seaford, Del., is a very active club. We celebrated our 60th anniversary in 2018 with a fabulous dinner party at the local yacht club.

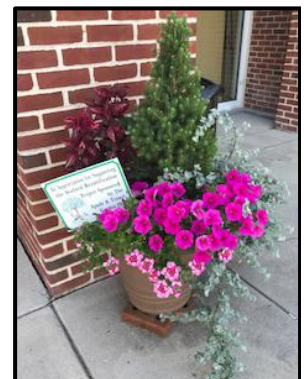


Blue Star Memorial Re-dedication October 2018

One major undertaking in 2018 was refurbishing the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker on Route 13, originally installed in 1981. After the unveiling, we had a luncheon at the VFW in Seaford.

Not long after, the club geared up for the annual greens sale, making about \$5,000 worth of wreaths, mounds, swags and centerpieces. We used some of the evergreens we had gathered to decorate the historic Ross Mansion for the holidays.

We added pots at the library to our beautification project in 2018.





Hanging basket on one of the bridges in Seaford.

Several of the club programs this year have focused on preparation for a garden show, "The Birds and the Bees," to be held June 27 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Seaford Public Library. Show chair-person Sharon Christopher has shared Planning with the entire club and conducted a workshop at which every

club member in attendance created a planter to enter in the show. Dottie Howatt shared some "Wild and Crazy Designs" and club member Carol Kinsley gave tips on garden photography.

The Spade & Trowel Garden Club received a \$1,000 Plant America Grant from the National Garden Club to establish a serenity garden at Delmarva Teen Challenge's Home of Hope.

**Carol Kinsley,
Spade & Trowel Garden Club**

Milford Garden Club

Our club has been in existence since 1966 and meet monthly and have lively speakers or trips for our members. Our civic projects include maintaining the gardens at the Milford Senior Center, The Riverfront Theatre, and the planters at the Veteran's Home. We have given annual scholarships to deserving High School seniors each year. We also have a program of garden therapy with the residents of a local nursing home.



Members and their grandsons planting the spring planters at the Milford Veteran's Home

Every other year our club has a flower show. Currently our club has 4 active accredited judges and one emeritus judge. Our annual plant sale is a major

fundraiser. The upcoming year we are exploring placing a Blue Star Marker at the Veteran's Home in Milford.

**Susan Newark,
Milford Garden Club**

Countryside Garden Club

TWEED'S KITCHEN

DECK

STEPS

BEE

GRASS

1. HOPS (VINE)	Humulus lupulus
2. OKRA	Aabelmoschus esculentus
3. LAVENDER	Lavandula angustifolia
4. ROSEMARY	Rosmarinus officinalis
5. THYME	Thymus vulgaris
6. DILL	Anethum graveolens
7. SAGE	Salvia officinalis

TAVERN GARDEN

RAILING

STEPS

GRASS

8. FEVERFEW	Tanacetum parthenium
9. BORAGE	Borago officinalis
10. BASIL	Ocimum basilicum
11. CHIVES	Allium schoenoprasum
12. MINT	Mentha
13. PARSLEY	Petroselinum crispum
14. CALENDULA (ANNUAL)	Calendula officinalis

Over the past year, the Countryside Garden Club in Hockessin, Delaware designed a Kitchen Garden that will grow herbs and flowers used during Colonial times for medicine, cooking, and fragrance. The garden plot is located outside of *Tweed's Tavern*, a historic building, circa 1780-1830, that was restored to replicate its original architecture several years ago. An educational pamphlet about the history of Kitchen gardens will be created by members and placed in the Museum to educate school groups and the public. Club members will now enjoy tending to the new garden as well as maintaining the trees, shrubs, woody perennials, spring and summer flowers year round and decorating during the holidays.

**Marybeth Johns,
Countryside Garden Club**

Garden Gate Garden Club

A new project for GGGC, headed by Anne Aleman, is GGGC Recycles. Through education, presentation and project reporting at monthly meetings our ultimate purpose is to promote recycling as a civic

duty and an environmental responsibility. All members and their families will be participating.

We recently had a field trip to the Solid Waste Authority in New Castle.

*Elaine Pataky,
Garden Gate Garden Club*

Maryland

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland Hosts "Make Every Day Earth Day"

This has been the fastest two years of this State President's life and with so much accomplished. \$10,775 was raised for the President's Project, NorthBay Environmental Camp for Middle School Students, which provides life-changing outdoor education experiences and leadership training. Clubs have embraced and implemented the President's theme, "Planting Maryland from the Mountains to the Ocean". All four of the Federation's Councils had either schools, a refresher course or symposium and all Councils presented programs during National Garden Week in 2017 and 2018.



There was a very successful fundraiser, "Deck the Halls with Holiday Magic" and a successful educational program open to the public, "Make Every Day Earth Day" presented by the FGCMDC Conservation and Environmental Awareness Committee. In March 2017 and 2018, the Federation had a booth at the popular Maryland Home and Garden Show. Our displays and exhibits generated a lot of interest and applications for membership.

The State Annual Meeting was held March 26, 2019. The program presented 18 different design types covering 30 years of the "Handbook for Flower Shows" and was titled "Reflect on the Past – Celebrate the New" to coincide with the installation of the new officers. Carolyn Braverman is the 2019-2021 FGCMDC State President. Her theme is "Planting Maryland for Beauty and Wildlife". It has been a rewarding experience and a pleasure for this President to represent the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.

Tributes at our State Annual Meeting March 26



To Dottie Howatt



To Diana Bonner



To Shirley Nicolai



Passing the Gavel

Photos by Susie Middleton

The Federation will be holding these schools in 2019:

Flower Show School Course 1	April 30-May 2
Gardening School Course 4	Sep 4-5
Flower Show School Course 2	Sep 23-25

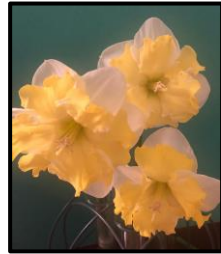
**Diana Bonner,
President, FGCMDC**

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland held its Environmental School Course 3 on April 3 and 4 in Columbia, Maryland. Our course was attended by 32 people from six different states including Connecticut, New Jersey, District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland and California! We had 20 repeat students who had attended Course 1 and 2 with us, as well as several who were refreshing. The instructors were very interesting and dynamic and the two days seemed to fly by. There were many positive comments on the quality of the school and instructors, and we are looking forward to Course 4 next spring.

**Linda Harris,
Environmental Studies Chair, FGCMDC**

National Capital Area

NCAGC held two successful State Conferences in the 2017-2019 term, where we hosted nationally known speakers on design, horticulture, and climate change, and held a variety of popular workshops, on topics including ceramics, floral



design, writing for gardeners, herbal vinegar, painting on recycled materials, and more. NCA held many state meetings and other special events, all designed to foster camaraderie and community, both in our clubs and throughout our unusual



“State”—the District of Columbia, and our close in Maryland and Virginia neighbors. At our Conferences and General Meetings NCA members crossed rivers and went over bridges, we circled the Beltway and we *circled*

Glebe Road, to work together, learn together, and to *Grow Together!*

We created a wonderful project together, the NCA President’s Project, “A Garden For Every Garden Club!” Tying into NGC’s theme, “Plant America,” every NCA Club was encouraged to create a new garden or highlight work on an existing club garden and clubs submitted photos of their Club’s garden for an amazing slideshow displaying NCA club members working together in our communities. This NCA President’s Project successfully engaged our Club members to spread the mission of NGC and NCA. The Slideshow was updated and presented at each General Meeting and we were entertained as Club President’s spoke about their Club’s gardens. NCA “grew together” as we highlighted gardening and community service and our clubs increased NCA visibility in our communities.

We opened our special program at our most recent State General Meeting to members of the United States National Arboretum community and all enjoyed the award winning documentary film, *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*. Friendship Garden, an NGC project, is also an ongoing NCA

project. The newest phase of the Garden will be completed this spring.

NCA members enjoyed two successful NCA trips. In 2018 NCA traveled to the Newport Flower Show and in March 2019, NCA visited the Philadelphia Flower Show—Flower Power!



Trip to Newport Flower Show



Encouraging our clubs to join our new 501c3 State Group Exemption and to keep our Clubs up-to-date has been both fulfilling and challenging. Many thanks to all who continue to accomplish these goals.

NCA recreated and updated our Website and we are proud and delighted to use it today and look forward to its continued evolution and increased usage.

Successful classes were held in all four NGC Schools. We have added many consultants and provisional consultants to our State Council’s rosters. Thank you to all who attended. NCA enjoyed hosting NGC members from many other states.

Two NCA State Flower Shows were held, celebrating the horticulture of the National Capital Area and the new design styles in our Handbook For Flower Shows. Participants were from all four NCA Districts. Opening the Show up to all was a great way to involve many who had never participated in a Flower Show in their own club and to learn how wonderful it is to be a part of an NGC Flower Show. Our Judges Council, inspired, started a new three part Design Class Series, which is so popular that the class was

filled by lottery as twice the number possible signed up! NCA members do love to grow and to learn together!

The NCA Landscape Design Council held an extremely popular Landscape Design Grant Program in our State, with five clubs each winning \$1000 grants. The projects were varied and the Grant Program continued NGC “Plant America” theme and strengthened our NCA Theme, “Plant America—Let’s Grow Together!”

Serving as NCA President has been rewarding. We do things like this to leave all a little better than it was before—I hope I have done this. I have especially enjoyed working with all the Fantastic Seven—our State Presidents and our CAR-SGC Regional Officers—true friends and fellow gardeners!

Thank you all for the wonderful privilege!

See you in the Garden!

Robin Hammer,
President, National Capital Area Garden Clubs

New Jersey

“Supporting our Local Clubs” has been our focus for the past two years and it has been an important theme in order to insure our clubs not only still exist in 10, 20, 25 years, but that they are vibrant with an engaged membership that is growing. The attraction to Garden Club and the key activities of its membership take place at the local level.

Over the years, many of us looked forward to and eventually joined the Garden Club of our mothers and grandmothers; however we can’t expect the same to attract our daughters and granddaughters.



They have grown up in a world of technology, hyper communication, social media, dual careers, many opportunities that compete for little time. Should they join a garden club, they want that time to be fulfilling in

their busy lives, they want to feel they’re making a difference in their communities and they want an experience they can be proud of and share with their

friends on social media, often in real time.

What has this meant to our endeavors at the GCNJ?

Let’s start with technology, which can be wonderful when it works, but so frustrating when it does not. It would be so easy to ignore the challenges and remain in an analog world, but to insure our future, we must persevere, we must stay with digitalization, scheduling and communication enhancements, even when it would be easier to just do it the old way.

Our clubs and our club Presidents are faced with the same issues. To help them, our Fall Presidents Leadership workshops were offered on various days throughout the state. This allowed for group interaction and discussion as well as flexibility to attend respecting our clubs’ schedules. Much time has also been spent individually with clubs addressing their individual situations and needs.

For decades, Flower Shows were regular events in most clubs. Not so anymore, members prefer to focus on the environment and beautifying their communities. Since many of our members still enjoy entering and being involved with a Flower Show, we are pleased to again sponsor a State Flower Show. This show is viewed by thousands of members of the public highlighting our organization and our members. We also offered two Flower show schools (in response to the new 2017 Flower Show Handbook changes), and a Symposium. Gardening Study School was again popular and we were pleased to start a new Landscape Design Series.

We must be cognizant of these trends and provide guidance, education and programs that facilitate the interests of our local clubs in their communities. In that regard, we have updated our Speaker’s List, shared programs that were successful and those that were not. Our club presidents have met on a number of occasions, shared their challenges and brainstormed possible solutions.

Moving forward, clubs know GCNJ is here to help them develop and continue to be a positive force with both their membership and in their communities.

Louise Davis,
President, The Garden Club of New Jersey

Milkweed for Monarchs Helpline/New Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. Project

One of The Garden Club of New Jersey’s primary initiatives over the past few years is alerting our club members and the public to the emergency facing our severely declining pollinator population and the fact they provide us with one third of the food we eat. We have successfully obtained an official state butterfly, the beautiful Black Swallowtail, after a 2 ½ year campaign in 2016.

Not resting on that successful effort, we immediately launched a new initiative entitled ‘Pollinator Center Project Signage’, a series of six pollinator signs including a custom sign that listed the garden centers/museums, public/private gardens, schools and the garden clubs who provided the signage with photos showing New Jersey’s official state pollinators, the Goldfinch, the Honey Bee and the Black Swallowtail Butterfly. These signs listed host plants, nectar plants, fruit and seed plants for bees, birds, butterflies and butterfly caterpillars, and this project ultimately was awarded National Garden Clubs’ Award of Excellence at the Richmond Convention in May, 2017. The project was chosen to represent National Garden Clubs part in achieving the goal of a



GCNJ Partnering with a Local Garden Center

Photo by Bob Geremia

1,040,000 Million Pollinator Gardens Challenge in the news release generated by National Wildlife Federation. NGC is one of the over 50 participating organizations forming the National Pollinator Garden Network and chose our project because of its “out of the box” partnering of garden clubs with garden centers and nurseries in a joint effort of educating the public on best plants for pollinators.

The Garden Club of New Jersey members came to realize through all its efforts regarding growing our pollinator population, providing plant and nectar food, that alas, when we’re too successful, and have too many caterpillars, we end up not having enough host plants to feed these hungry guys. Panic sets in big time, and an emergency call goes out. ‘The Milkweed for Monarchs Helpline’ is being launched so that help will be just a phone call away as we set up a system throughout the state enlisting garden clubs, the public, private and commercial growers in each locale providing milkweed for Monarchs, and parsley, fennel, dill, carrot tops, golden alexander and Queen Ann’s lace for our Black Swallowtails. New Jersey & Pollinators, Perfect Together!

***Jeannie Geremia,
GCNJ President Elect***

New York

The FGCNYS have been busy with club and community activities. We currently offer three \$1500 college scholarships and 10 CEC camperships annually. Our children’s library “Backpack” program, filled with NGC children’s books, seeds or bulbs and gardening and club information, encourages the love of gardening for students and their families.

In District 1 members completed the beautification of the Garibaldi Meucci Museum. District 2 has a Gardening School course IV this year. District 3 held the new Horticulture Specialty Flower Show at a District Luncheon meeting. District 4 sponsored a bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden and made over \$500 profit. District 5 club presidents will present a workshop entitled “Sharing Great Ideas” to increase membership. District 6 sponsors the “Great NY State Fair Flower Show”, which incorporates three flower shows in a row, at the state fair, drawing exhibitors from surrounding districts. District 7 will complete Flower Show schools III and IV in 2019 and began Landscape Design School course I March 2019. District 8 circulated the tri-fold “How to Join a Garden Club” at the Erie County Fair and club flower shows and have successfully recruited new members. District 9 held their annual floral showcase featuring master floral arranger Mary Lynn McGee. District 10 held a House and Garden tour with speakers or workshops open to the public.



Ad highlighting Classes from Each section in District 3 Flower Show

Photos by Lynne Arnold

Lynne Arnold, Monica Hansen, Gary Barrak, Carol DeMicco at District 3 Meeting

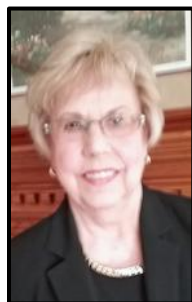


Finally “Three Clowns and the Prez” is a floral design program including the Challenge design done by all four exhibitors. The exhibitors include two former state presidents, the current state president and treasurer. The program was offered for District events and sponsored by the state.

***Lynne Arnold, CAR Liaison
Federated Garden Clubs of New York State***

Ohio

The last article from Ohio was titled “SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN OHIO” which was the theme of the CAR-SGC conference last October. Well, things continue to happen in Ohio. Landscape Design Consultants school and Gardening Study will complete the fourth session of their schools before our June convention. Ohio has now combined landscape consultants, gardening consultants, and environments consultants into one council. The new group is now known as Ohio Tri-Consultants Council.



Over the past year and a half, Ohio has dedicated eleven Blue Star memorials and Five Gold Star

memorials. Two Ohio memorials are being refurbished under the warranty. Looking forward, we will dedicate six more between May to September of this year. One Blue Star By-Way Marker dedication is being rescheduled. Nordonia Hills Garden Club with 69 members joined Garden Club of Ohio, Inc. last fall and is now planning and researching plans to dedicate a Blue Star Memorial.

We have awarded \$27,000 in scholarships to Ohio candidates studying in the fields of environmental studies, agriculture, natural resource management and landscape design. Many individuals have joined our Life Member Scholarship which means our account continues to grow. Donations and members giving to this account is a gift that keeps on giving and we are so grateful to be able to award these scholarships.

Two more Plant America Grants were awarded to Ohio clubs. Milan Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker October 7. They will use funds to landscape the area of the Village Square with ground preparation, mulch, planting low maintenance plants, adding a bench and a professional stone walkway. Berlin Heights Garden Club will landscape an 87’ x 20’ area in front of their Oak Bluff Cemetery fence. A Gold Star Memorial will be incorporated. Four new trees will be planted along with a pollinating garden with spring blooming bulbs. Since there is no landscaping in the area, this project will add beauty along a busy highway. This addition to this historic cemetery brings honor to an unknown sailor from the War of 1812 who is buried there as well as Almon Ruggles, surveyor of the Firelands.

Our President’s Project is to Feed Ohio. Our clubs have been gathering and sharing food for 18 months and will continue into June. It is wonderful as the numbers increase to know that we are helping those 1 in 5 children in Ohio who suffer from hunger and are food insecure. The collected food is shared with food pantries, churches and places that feed the underserved. Over these 18 months, 67,229.15 pounds of food has been donated. Our members are very generous.

We have a wonderful convention planned for June 5-6. The theme is “We Want You” using the WWII military logo. “Rosie the Riveter” portrayed by Mary Ann Jung will be our banquet program speaker with

Ruth Pangrace portraying Eleanor Roosevelt. We have workshops on designing beautiful containers, gardening techniques with handicapped individuals, new designs from the Handbook of Flower Shows, microgreen growing workshops, and planting a multi-cultural planter workshop. There is a choice of Mexican, Italian or American which will consist of veggies, herbs and flowers. We will also plant a "button garden". This will relive what our soldiers did during WWII while in rehab. All of this plus the Ohio Judges Council flower show "We Need You". All divisions and classes are titled around the impact of World War II. Designs will be interpreted around themes of American Red Cross, Victory Gardens, Save & Salvage WAC (Women's Army Corps), WAVES (Women Accepted for the Voluntary Emergency Services), WASP (Women's Airforce Service Pilots), and Women accepted for the Marines Corps in 1942.

All of this and a lot more work by our wonderful and active garden club members. It is also necessary to remember our President-elect Mary Lou Smith is busy filling her board of directors.

We have gained knowledge witnessing how caring and passionate our members are with their projects and programs and have had the opportunity of making lasting friendships. Indeed, lots of things are happening in Ohio.

Deanna Stearns,
President, Garden Club of Ohio

Pennsylvania

"Seasons in Bloom", this year's theme for the GCFP annual Convention, is attracting many to attend and will be held at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA April 7-9. The Convention will feature design and horticulture speakers, workshops, a Tri-refresher, educational exhibits and a seasonal bazaar. This will also be my swan song to what was an amazing two-year term.



In the words of Andrew Carnegie, *"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision; the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational*

objectives". Looking back when I chose my theme, "TEAM UP and Plant America Together Everyone Achieves More", I knew the TEAM I would be working with would accomplish exceptional things towards the GCFP organizational goals and objectives.

Here are some highlights We have achieved these past two years:

- ❖ Four (4) Blue Star Markers were dedicated and 3 more contracts have been signed, making a total of 7 markers.
- ❖ Three new clubs were added to the Federation.
- ❖ This year, eleven (11) of our GCFP clubs received the NGC Plant America Grants, plus the 3 from last year making 14 total!
- ❖ There was an immediate sellout of the 1st Edition of the Keystone Kalendar, a calendar highlighting GCFP members designs, horticulture, landscaping and club events.
- ❖ Three successful Leadership Workshops were conducted.
- ❖ We held not only two outstanding State Conventions but also a National one as well.
- ❖ We held all NGC Schools, Flower Show, Landscape Design, Gardening and Environmental.
- ❖ Our GCFP website was restructured – every manual, President's Packets, Bylaws, GCFP History, and the outstanding Club Programs and Projects from across PA were added, saving money and thousands of sheets of paper each year. Working many hours on this project made pertinent information available with the click of a finger.

Annual State Club President Reports – The response was phenomenal. The first year I received 100%, this year I received 112 out 113 clubs!

From the President's reports

- Numerous clubs carried out community beautification projects, some **TEAMing** up with other organizations in their areas.
- \$72,950 dollars were awarded to student's education, which does not include the \$13,000 GCFP Scholarship awards each year.

- Clubs had very interesting ways to attract new members and keep current ones involved and held outstanding programs and speakers.
- New websites were formed, and most clubs publish beautiful newsletters.
- Many clubs conduct horticulture therapy with children and the elderly.
- I am amazed to see how much financial support clubs give towards the GCFP donation funds.

Upcoming PA events are:

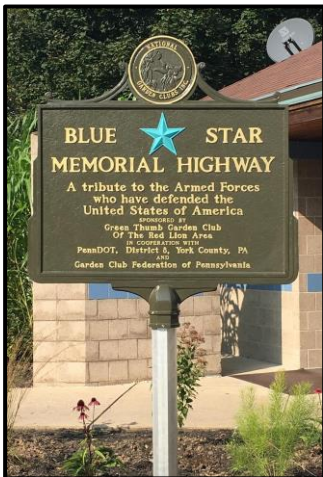
May 15: Wildflower Walk at Bowmans Hill, 1635 River Road, New hope, PA

June 5-6: GCFP Symposium – Atherton Hotel, State College, PA

Oct.14: Leadership Workshop Atherton Hotel, State College, PA 10 am to 4 pm

I am so proud of what the GCFP has accomplished as a **TEAM!**

Chris Leskosky,
GCFP President 2017-2019
“T.E.A.M. Up and Plant America”
Together Everyone Achieves More



**CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION of STATE
 GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
 DIRECTOR’S PROJECT**

**“PLANT AMERICA: KNOWLEDGE IS KEY
 TO SUCCESS”**

The reorganization of the region to CAR-SGC under the Plant America theme presented a new approach to giving back to the members supporting the region: the idea of encouraging members to better understand goals of the region through education. Expanding the idea of gardening to include landscape design, environment, flower design, horticulture and the knowledge of preserving the earth around us supported new goals and the CARSGC mission statement.

With that thought in mind, a proposal was presented by the CAR-SGC Director and the Director’s Project Committee. The proposal outlined a grant program of giving financial aid back to the seven states by encouraging club members to attend any National Garden Club school, symposium or refresher. It stated that a member could apply for an individual grant to pursue education in one of the NGC fields of education. The funding would come from the Life Membership/Scholarship Program already in place.

State Presidents were given application forms and asked to submit eligible applicants for the project covering the two year 2017-2019 term of the Director. At the close of 2018, the committee was pleased to present each of the CARSGC states with a check to cover the registration fee for eleven recipients. The recipients were attending a variety of the NGC schools, symposia & tri-refreshers. It is with great pleasure that we congratulate: National Capital Area recipients A. Parke & K. Lelis; Maryland recipient L. Harris; New York recipients M. Bomba & R. Wasserman; Delaware recipients K. Batt & M. Polhemus; Ohio recipient L. Marke; New Jersey recipients T. Blake & L. Williams; and Pennsylvania recipients A. Ferguson & N. Fulk.

We wish them the best and hope their involvement in the region promotes enthusiasm for a continued successful project.

Jeanne T. Nelson,
Director’s Project Chairman
Co-chairman Judy Vehse

**EVERY STATE CAN WIN THE
AHS REGIONAL PERENNIAL AWARD**

CAR-SGC garden clubs are eligible to apply for the American Horticultural Society Regional Perennial Award, which may be awarded to a garden club, a group of garden clubs, a district, a council or a state for an outstanding class or section of **herbaceous perennials** in a NGC Flower Show. The overall exhibit must be of outstanding quality and include a minimum of 20 exhibits. Each state can have a winner, so a total of 7 awards is the goal.

Applying for this award is easy. The book of evidence can be done in the required 3 pages and must include the date, name of State Garden Club, name of show and location; a copy of the schedule; a list of pertinent specimens in exhibit botanically named (genus, species/epithet and cultivar, if pertinent); a clear photograph of exhibits, including staging; a clear photograph of any top awards in exhibit, if applicable.

Most spring, summer and fall shows have a class or section that would qualify. The qualifying show does not have to be one in contention for NGC or State top awards. The emphasis is on horticulture, not design or educational exhibits.

The time to gather information for this award is during your NGC Flower Show. Appropriate photographs can be taken; the botanical names of

herbaceous perennials are handy for compiling a list. Waiting until January or February of next year makes the application process challenging, rather than easy.

Applications for the 2019 calendar year are due by April 1, 2020. On the official application form, put N/A for #s 4 and 5.

Anne Bucher

**Schools Being Held in the Central
Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs**

Flower Show School:

- Course 1: April 30- May 2, 2019, Bowie MD
- Course 2: Sept. 23-25, 2019, Bowie MD
- Course 3: None
- Course 4: October 14-16, 2019, Dewitt, NY

Gardening School

- Course 1: None
- Course 2: May 21-22, 2019, Fairfax, VA
- Course 3: None
- Course 4: Sept 4-5, 2019, Columbia, MD

Environmental School: None

Landscape Design School

- Course 1, 2, and 3: None
- Course 4: April 23-24, Wooster, OH

GARDENING SCHOOL – COURSE II

Our next course for Gardening School in the National Capital Area will be held on May 21-22, 2019 at the Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks location in Fairfax, Virginia. (Same place as Course I). Hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m.

We will be studying an array of subjects from “Plant Diseases and Pests” to “How to plant and care for Fruits and Veggies”. You can find the registration form on the NCAGC website (ncagardenclubs.org), as well as hotel info, schedule and full curriculum.

Should you have any questions, please either call me at 703-591-4017 or send me a note at jeskog612@gmail.com.

Registration is now open.

*Joyce Skoglund,
Chair, National Capital Area Gardening School*