July/August 2019

Keeping In Touch

National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Avenue
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President's Postcard

Gay Austin

Garden club spring activities have been non-stop across our nation. Beginning in April, several states celebrated the new administration by the installation of state officers for the 2019-2021 administration. It was an honor to attend the Kansas, Oklahoma, Indiana and South Central Region Garden Club conventions. The enthusiasm for our future was evident by the participation of garden club members. Educational programs were highlighted with topics of conservation of natural habitats, pollinator protection and special recognition of scholarship recipients.

The 90th Annual NGC Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi was a tremendous success with over 743 registered attendees from all across the United States, including International Affiliates from 11 countries. Gathering on the Gulf showcased many educational and entertaining events that National Garden Clubs, Inc. has to offer for our garden club members.

Since being installed as President, I have enjoyed attending other state annual conferences, where I installed state officers in Wisconsin, Michigan, Colorado, Oregon and Montana. Congratulations to all of our volunteers who have accepted the challenge to lead the members of their state garden clubs as we embrace the challenges of our world.

Through my travels, I have enjoyed hearing the successful programs of garden clubs who are dedicated to their communities' needs. Although we live in many different parts of our nation, it is obvious that we are alike in that we promote the mission of National Garden Clubs, Inc. As we PLANT AMERICA with seeds of service, our success continues. We are reconnecting with nature by conservation of environments, strengthening our membership and ensuring our future by involving coming generations.

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Landscape Design

Greg Pokorski

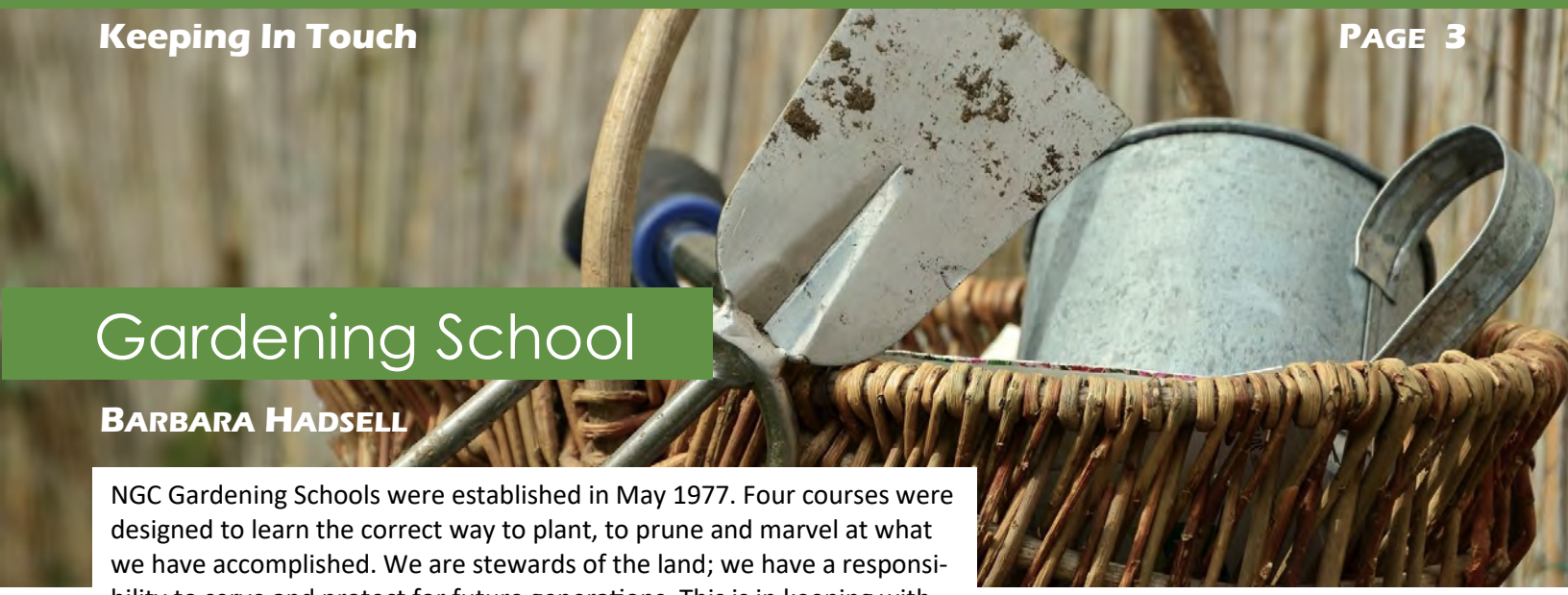
Landscape Design (LD) School dates back to 1958 when it became the second of NGC's Schools. It addresses the principles and elements of LD, development and history of landscape design, process and many other subjects. New curriculum, effective for new school series as of July 1 2019, increases focus on aligning landscaping to the ecosystem and on designing and evaluating your own landscape plan.

Input from North Carolina, where a school began in February 2018 and will conclude in August, illustrates why garden club members and the public should attend. The courses offered students the opportunity to get professional help in designing their own gardens and advised how to talk with civic leaders about ideas that would help enhance public places, such as parks, playgrounds, libraries, and welcome areas.

The professional instructors were experts in their specialized fields and gave students the tools needed to plan, prepare and maintain their home gardens. Students have wanted to come to subsequent courses to learn new and additional information on the next course curriculum so they can build on what they have already learned. It has been a very happy, relaxed and educational time to learn more about the landscape and how to make their homes and surroundings more beautiful.

See *Netscape*, our twice-yearly Landscape Design newsletter on the NGC website for news and photos about this important NGC educational program. http://www.gardenclub.org/schools/landscape-design.aspx

"New curriculum...aligning landscaping to the ecosystem and on designing your own landscape plan."



Gardening School

Barbara Hadsell

NGC Gardening Schools were established in May 1977. Four courses were designed to learn the correct way to plant, to prune and marvel at what we have accomplished. We are stewards of the land; we have a responsibility to serve and protect for future generations. This is in keeping with NGC Bylaws Article II, Number 5: "to study and to advance the fine arts of gardening, landscaping, floral design and horticulture."

Courses cover all aspects of growing, from understanding soil structure to pruning techniques, plant identification, etc. Topics include botany, soils, growing annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, fruits and vegetables, lawns, pests and diseases of plants, plant classification, and selected subjects of local interest. Qualified instructors are relatively easy to recruit as Extension agents, botanical garden directors and university horticulture instructors, both active and retired, are available. Experienced Regional Gardening Accrediting Chairmen are ready to guide the State and Local GS Chairmen through the procedures to set up an accredited Gardening School.

A new position on the Gardening School Committee, Marketing Liaison, is staffed by former GS Accrediting Chair Inger Jones who will suggest ways to keep the Region and State websites/newsletters up to date with School information. All of our Gardening School Committee members will continue to encourage our Consultants to carry out the NGC mission of education for members and for the public. Their activities provide important reasons to join a garden club and to retain membership.

Schools' Handbook

Judy Newman

The new Schools' Handbook which includes guidelines and check lists for the school chairmen and committees, interactive/fillable forms and curriculum for the Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools is available as a free download from the NGC website. School Chairmen and committee members are encouraged to download a copy. Please download the forms and save as a pdf, then open forms, fill in forms and "save as" in new name: Series, Course, Date, City. All exams are open book.

Handbook Clarification *Section 3 Conducting the School Instructor Qualifications,* add "Other Qualified Instructors: Extension agents, retired professors, high school teachers, DNR personnel, college interns, landscape architects, environmentalists, nursery personnel."

Environmental School

JUDY NEWMAN

Wisconsin hosted the first series of Environmental Schools (ES) in 1991. Currently there are 31 states with Environmental Chairmen; most are hosting schools with additional students traveling from neighboring states. Currently, NGC recognizes 992 Accredited or Provisional ES Consultants. (Provisionals are students who have completed two or more schools.) Since its inception, 2237 people have attended one or more of the NGC Environmental Schools.

Upon successful completion of the four Environmental Courses, a person becomes an Environmental Consultant. To maintain this Good Standing, it is necessary to refresh at either a two-day course or a multiple refresher within five years. No additional examinations are required.

The courses include identification of local and global environmental issues, recognizing historic environmental leaders and actions, exploring backyard habitats, sustaining forests, grasslands, deserts and mountains, efficiently producing food, identifying pollutants, recognizing the impact of global warming, protecting the ozone layer, protecting healthy water. Each course includes a field trip with visits to recycling plants, boat trips sampling water, visiting nature centers and more.

Consider attending Environmental Schools, perhaps, traveling to another state. Take the time to explore some of the water, land and air issues across the country and its impact on all.

Flower Show School

ARABELLA DANE & JAN WARSHAUER

"Plants of the World" is now the primary horticulture nomenclature resource for NGC Flower Show Schools and Symposiums (www.plantsoftheworlde.online.org.) The previously used www.theplantlist.org is no longer being maintained. "Plants of the World" is the most current, relevant, easiest to use and complete online search engine for plant nomenclature. It includes the most recent nomenclature changes (updated regularly) as well as all the older data from IPNI and from The Plant List. The Plant List was the primary resource for plant names for most of our institutions, government agencies and plant societies.

Rafael Govaerts of Kew Science, (Kew Royal Botanical Gardens) who keeps up the Plants of the World website, pointed to his World Checklist for Selected Plants site http://wcsp.science.kew.org/ to use as a backup when needing to chase back synonyms. For example, when the need rose to verify the now outdated *Sansevieria* species names to convert them to their new *Dracaena* species, the World Checklist was most helpful.

Peter Stevens maintains the Angiosperm Phylogeny Website of Missouri Botanical Garden www.mobot.org/MOBOT/research/APweb/. Peter Stevens and his global committee approve nomenclature changes relying, among other things, on published old records, DNA, chemistry, etc. Proposed nomenclature changes are evaluated by meetings of the committee and on an ongoing basis.

Plant America

Shawnelle Kapper

With their Plant America Grant, The Sunset Garden Club (SGC) members and friends created a welcoming, beautifying, and pollinator-attracting garden at the prominent front corner of the new Madison Wisconsin Midtown Police Precinct.

In the words of Midtown Precinct Captain Jay Lengfeld, "I'm hoping the community feels that this is their building; this is their police department." As such, the inviting garden space near the precinct's entrance is intended to capture the public's attention and make them feel more at ease. The blue, yellow and white flower color palette will remind onlookers of the women and men in blue who faithfully serve to protect us. The natural setting reflects the Madison Police Department's community -policing philosophy that speaks to the relationships between the police and the people served in order to achieve important goals: prevention of crime, greater degrees of public trust, and enhanced quality of life.

Additionally, conservation efforts to protect the declining population of both monarch butterflies and rusty patched bumblebees will be highlighted in the garden. By registering the garden as a pollinator way station, it will become part of the National Garden Club's initiative to create safe habitats and oases for native species. SGC plans to engage with neighborhood schools to make them aware of this crisis and offer ways for them to help, primarily by participating in the new photography-based volunteer Bumble Bee Brigade monitoring project focused on this garden. For more information visit: wiatri.net/inventory/bbb/.

PLANT AMERICA

National Garden Clubs

PLANT AMERICA GRANTS - David Robson

The Plant America program allows clubs to apply for community grants to help with community beautification projects, community and/or school gardens, landscaping for Blue Star Memorials or Habitat for Humanity homes, or public horticultural or environmental programs or events.

Club applications are due October 15, 2019 with projects completed by April 2021. Final reports are required.

Applications are available online at http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/plant-america-community-project-grants.aspx. Click on "Plant America Community Project Grants Guidelines and Applications" for a fillable PDF using Adobe. (It is not fillable in most browsers.) Applications can then be submitted to the web-address on the form. Please remember to follow the form's guidelines, especially with the description, timeline and the judging criteria!

Out and About

Information from Around NGC, Inc.

CONNECTICUT CLUBS BECOME CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

- Rebecca Paul

When Inge Venus was installed as the 44th President of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. in 2017, she introduced her theme of Plant Connecticut – Be A Conservation Champion: Conserve Water, Assist Pollinators, Garden Organically. President Inge followed this up by introducing her project for the Conservation Championship Award of encouraging clubs to work with their local government to create either a Xeriscape Garden or a Pollinator-friendly Garden in their communities. Individual garden club members were encouraged to establish a Xeriscape Garden in their yard.

The response was overwhelming! At the 90th FGCCT Annual Meeting in 2019, President Venus presented a gold-framed Conservation Championship Award Certificate to twelve garden clubs and an engraved marble plaque to two individual garden club members. State Project Chair Holly Kocet emphasized that the President's Project has addressed the serious issue of pollinator decline, primarily caused by lack of floral resources and pesticide use. Each participating club's work stands as an example to their community of how we can make positive impacts and effect change. For more information on the award recipients and their winning projects, please visit the FGCCT website: https://ctgardenclubs.org/

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION - Jacqueline Connell

National Garden Club's Environmental Concerns Committee is committed to investigating the complex environmental issues facing us today. We encourage NGC garden clubs internationally to continue holding study schools, conferences, speakers, projects, trips and flower shows focusing on climate change, pollinators, recycling, exotic invasive species, or wildlife, air, land and water conservation topics.

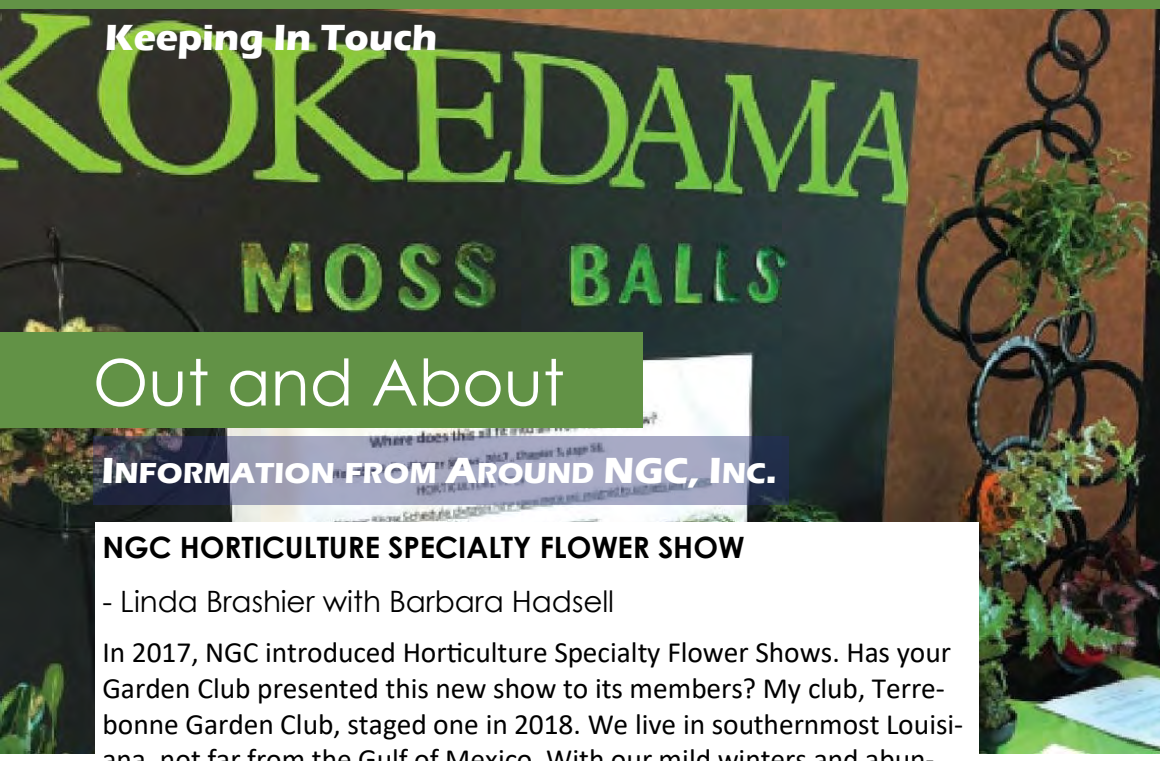
We call on all our members to help us identify "Innovations in Conservation" — creative solutions to our environmental problems that could be helpful to our members in their regions, states, municipalities and their home gardens. Please share your ideas with our committee. We hope to publish as many as possible. Contact: CJ820558@gmail.com

MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR

- Lisa Robinson

The Member Award of Honor is an opportunity for clubs, states and regions to recognize the incredible accomplishments and dedication of their special achievers. The selected few from their local area are judged at the state level with one submitted for consideration at their regional level. Once a candidate is selected by each region, NGC is able to award these candidates with the National Member Award of Honor.

Nominations came from seven of the eight regions. Congratulations to the 2019 recipients: Central Region James Pavelka - Indiana, Central Atlantic Region Peggy Turnblacer - Maryland, Deep South Region Kathryn Litton - Georgia, New England Region Annette Jarvis - Maine, Pacific Region Norma Curtis - Oregon, Rocky Mountain Region Joy Kancir - Colorado and South Central Region Ronna Precure - Arkansas.



Out and About

INFORMATION FROM AROUND NGC, INC.

NGC HORTICULTURE SPECIALTY FLOWER SHOW

- Linda Brashier with Barbara Hadsell

In 2017, NGC introduced Horticulture Specialty Flower Shows. Has your Garden Club presented this new show to its members? My club, Terrebonne Garden Club, staged one in 2018. We live in southernmost Louisiana, not far from the Gulf of Mexico. With our mild winters and abundant rain, horticulture is second nature to most of us. Seven of our members participate in Gardening School and having chaired a series of four courses, the school is advertised at many of our meetings.

As we staged the Horticulture Specialty Show, over thirty members exhibited specimens. Entries numbered one hundred thirty seven in sixty-seven classes! Having seven gardening consultants enhanced the number and quality of entries.

The new Horticulture Specialty Flower Shows provide excellent opportunities for NGC Gardening Consultants to help stage and enter specimens. Their skills are also useful to helping classify horticultural entries in Standard Flower Shows.

Tips & Tricks

Tips & Tricks is a new feature of KIT featuring practical information from members to members. Please send your special tip for gardening, landscaping, helping the environment, showing or judging at flower shows, improving club meetings, etc. We will use your tips at space permits. Photos of your tip or trick are welcomed and encouraged.

◊**An inexpensive Slinky® on a shepard's hook prevents rodents from the climbing pole to eat bird food. Stretch the Slinky® from top of hook and let it hang loose mid to bottom of pole so rodents are unable to get a foothold when their weight makes it bounce trying to climb up pole. Bird seed lasts much longer now!**

Julie West, California

◊**Before planting a potted plant, submerge the plant in a bucket of water for about ten minutes to completely hydrate the inner roots.**

Nancy Bahn, Missouri

Out and About

INFORMATION FROM AROUND NGC, INC.

GOLD STAR MARKER IN FRANCE - Nancy Hargroves

- ★ FIRST marker NGC has located outside of United States.
- ★ Donated by Jefferson Parish Garden Clubs, Métairie, LA.
- ★ The marker was placed in Sainte Mère Église, France, the first town liberated in the D-Day invasion.
- ★ Madame Simone Renaud and her husband Alexandre, the mayor, witnessed the liberation of France on June 6, 1944 from a unique viewpoint. Their small town of Sainte Mère Église was the first town liberated in the D-Day invasion.
- ★ Many American soldiers are buried in Sainte Mère Église.
- ★ Madame Renaud spent a lifetime tending to the graves of those American soldiers and corresponding with their loved ones back home.
- ★ She became friend, family and touchstone to those whose lives were forever changed by D-Day.
- ★ This is a memorial gift, which the entire membership of the National Garden Clubs presented to her son, Maurice Renaud and to the town on the 75th anniversary of D-day.

It is fitting for NGC to recognize a woman who planted flowers, took care of graves of the men who died liberating her town and wrote to the families of the fallen. Known now as the Mother of Normandy, she was a remarkable woman, whose devotion to a generation of heroes transcended all boundaries.

PERFECT VISION - 2020 SAVE THE DATE - Kitty Larkin

Mark your calendar for May 12 - May 15, 2020 to participate in the 91st Annual NGC Convention at the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation hosts a pre-convention Tri-Refresher on May 11. A Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show, open to all NGC members, is featured during the convention. Look for the schedule for the "Perfect Vision 20/20" flower show on the NGC website. The schedule includes cut or container-grown horticulture specimens, collections, combination plantings, displays, educational exhibits and photography. Exciting programs and tours are planned including a presentation and tour of the International Crane Foundation. This is the only place in the world where you can see all 15 crane species. An eight-hour post-convention hands-on botanic jewelry-making workshop rounds out the business and adventures of NGC. Perfect Vision 20/20 is not just seeing, it is participating and enjoying.

Calendar of Events

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PRESIDENT GAY?

July 21 - 24	HQ Summer Meeting	St. Louis, MO
Aug 8 - 10	Smokey the Bear Ceremony	Washington DC
Aug 18 - 25	NGC Canadian Rockies Tour	Canada
Sept 5 - 8	Nebraska State Meeting	Nebraska
Sept 17 - 20	NGC Fall Board Meeting	St. Louis, MO
Sept 24 - 26	New Hampshire State Meeting	Lee, NH

SCHOOLS THROUGH SEPTEMBER - START DATES

Environmental School

Aug 22	Course 2	Nancy Lambert Fulk	PA
Sept 29	Course 1	Gwen Lanoux	LA

Flower Show School

July 31	Course 1	Lee Ann Terrell	WV
Aug 5	Course 2	Poss Tarpley	MD
Aug 19	Course 2	Judy Keliher	FL
Sept 9	Course 1	Pat Carswell	VA
Sept 16	Course 4	Jody Rogers	TX
Sept 17	Course 4	Reba Mackey	LA
Sept 23	Course 2	Susie Middleton	MD
Sept 25	Course 2	Jean Englemann	NV

Gardening School

Aug 9	Course 4	Debi Harrington	NM
Aug 24	Course 1	Cecelia A. Lussen	TX
Sept 3	Course 2	Cheryl Cappiali	CT
Sept 4	Course 4	Linda Harris	MD
Sept 12	Course 2	AdaMae Lewis	IA
Sept 24	Course 1	Linda Broussard	LA
Sept 24	Course 4	Jo Jean Scott	KY
Sept 30	Course 2	Debbie Angel	WA

Landscape Design School

Aug 12	Course 4	Linda McLendon	NC
Sept 10	Course 3	Josie Raborar	MO
Sept 23	Course 3	Michele Wehrheim	TX
Sept 30	Course 2	Glenda Knowles	VA

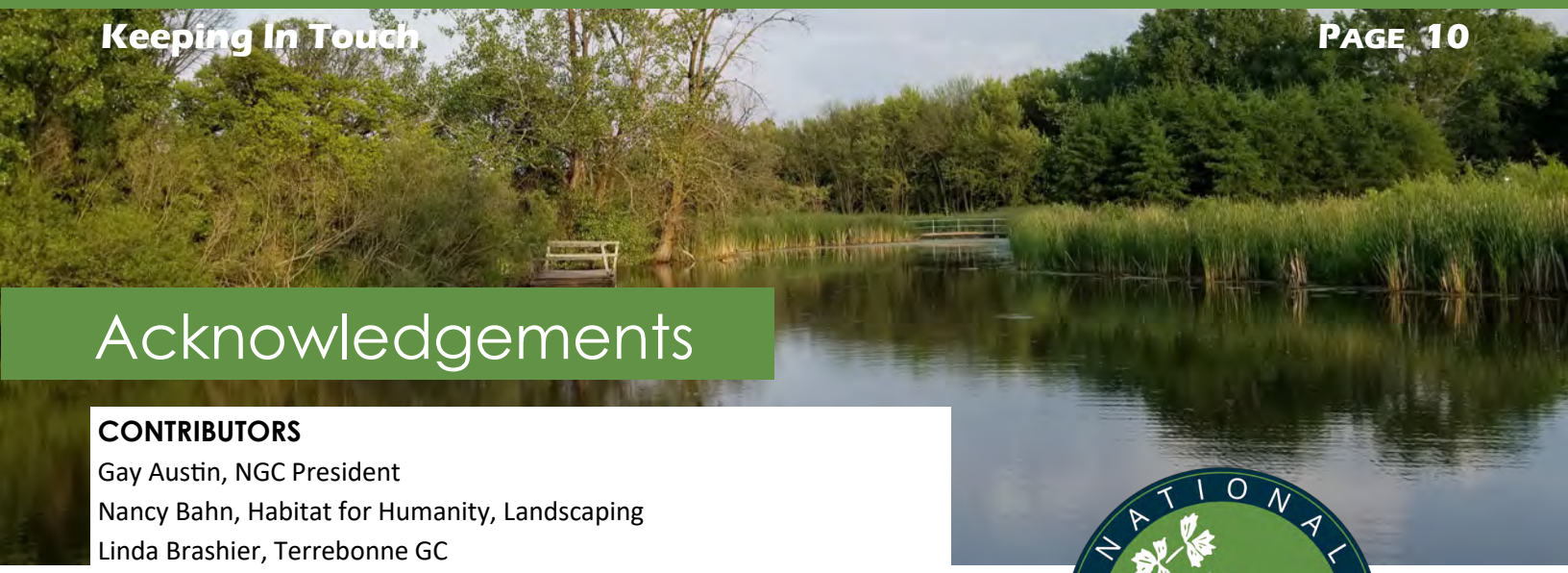
Multiple Refreshers

None listed through September

Flower Show Symposium

July 14	Cookie Roland	GA
Aug 7	Sybil Ingram	AL
Sept 9	Rose Knight	AR
Sept 13	Barbara Mikkelson	MN
Sept 15	Jinny Marino	NC
Sept 23	Lynn Dinvald	MI
Sept 24	Laurel DeBoer	IL

See NGC website for more information on all schools, refreshers and symposiums.



Acknowledgements

CONTRIBUTORS

Gay Austin, NGC President
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Linda Brashier, Terrebonne GC
Jacqueline Connell, Environmental Concerns & Conservation Coordinator
Arabella Dane, FSS Accrediting Chair, SA & P Regions
Barbara Hadsell, Gardening School Chair
Nancy Hargroves, Immediate Former NGC President
Shawnelle Kapper, Sunset GC
Kitty Larkin, NGC 2020 Convention Chair
Judy Newman, Schools Policy & Environmental School Chair
Rebecca Paul, Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut
Greg Pokorski, Landscape Design Schools Chair
Lisa Robinson, Member Award of Honor Chair, 2017-19
David Robson, Plant America Chair
Jan Warshauer, Flower Show Schools Chair
Julie West, Finance Committee

STAFF

Gerianne Holzman, Editor
Ann Fiel, Assistant Editor
Gerry St. Peters, Joyce Bulington & Jan Sillik, Editorial Review

Coming in September: Back to School with Youth Projects, Awards Help. Deadline: August 1, 2019. Send articles to geriannewgcf@gmail.com

PHOTO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PG 1: Gerianne Holzman, Warren Stroud from freeimages
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Pg 5: G Holzman
Pg 6: Federated GC of Connecticut
Pg 7: Houma Times, Julie West
Pg 8: Lino9999 from pixabay, Mary Hazen
Pg 9: Lum3n from pixabay, G Holzman
Pg 10: G Holzman

Sitting on the Porch

Gerianne Holzman

Welcome to the new *Keeping in Touch*. Each issue will highlight a different aspect of National Garden Clubs, Inc. In this issue, we focus on our schools with special historical information and practical information for you, our members. As always, we welcome your club information and encourage high quality photos (with credits) to accompany your article. We will always highlight a Plant America project and continue listing upcoming schools, symposiums and refreshers along with letting you know when President Gay might be in your area. As I sit on my porch putting the finishing touches on this edition of KIT, I look back at all of the mentors and garden club friends that have helped me get to this spot. Think back to those that have led you down your garden club path and cherish those memories. Friends come and go through our lives and we always cherish our time with them.
Please Keep in Touch!

A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself.
Oprah Winfrey