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SPRING 2021

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The National Gardener

Spring 2021 | Vol. 92, No. 2

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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330 International Affiliate Member Organizations

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THE COVER

"Grand Rapids in Bloom" is the ambitious planting project of 50 *Prunus Kanza* 'Kwanzan' cherry trees along the scenic Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by members of Kent Garden Club. The iconic flowering cherry cultivars are noted for their bountiful spring blooms that offer a riot of welcome color to the downtown corridor each spring. Photo by Shannon Sprague.



Gay L. Austin
2019-2021 NGC President

President's Message

During a recent morning walk, I noticed the first group of migratory robins in the open pasture close to our home. To Mississippians, this indicates spring is not far behind. With this evolving season comes an air of expectation as nature begins to awaken around us.

This is the last president's message of this administration and also the last print issue of *The National Gardener* – the flagship magazine of NGC – which has been in print 91 years. To the editor of TNG, Patricia Binder, thank you for working with us since 2016 to create a beautiful, educational and enjoyable publication. For TNG readers, please note the magazine is transitioning to a digital format on the NGC website at gardenclub.org, beginning in summer 2021.

As NGC President for the 2019-2021 administration, this chapter of my volunteer journey has provided a lifetime of happy memories, many far more valuable than I can ever express. The

connection with garden club members around our world sustains my sense of purpose for the critical reasons our group exists. I would be remiss not to share our many accomplishments together:

- The NGC Board of Directors and International Affiliates exceeded expectations in all areas. Even in challenging times, we have accomplished many programs that will strengthen our organization in future endeavors. It would be impossible for me to list the scores of individuals who contributed to our success, but to each one of our volunteers, I express sincere thanks for your dedication and service to NGC. Please know how much I have valued your effort, skills and time.
- In September 2019, a formal dedication was held to recognize the extensive renovation of the grounds and gardens at NGC headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. More than 200 NGC members

from across the United States, including former NGC presidents, were on hand to celebrate the remarkable transformation. Michelle Smith, executive director at NGC headquarters, and her highly efficient staff worked tirelessly on the project in keeping with NGC's commitment to gardening and sustainability. While the new design respects the past, it also serves as a role model for current, eco-friendly performative landscapes.

- In August 2020, NGC launched a new website on gardenclub.org Through the dedication and talent of our NGC staff at headquarters and website committee, this digital face of NGC provides outstanding education and connects our gardening community of current and potential new members and viewers from around our world.
- All NGC educational opportunities continue to provide an excellent source of knowledge. We developed digital schools that broaden our visibility and access worldwide. The approximate number for each school, symposia and/or refresher from June 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020, includes: Environmental Schools – 47; Gardening Schools – 52; Landscape Design Schools – 41; and Flower Show Judges – 57. NGC Affiliate International Schools hosted an equally significant amount of educational schools. Our dedicated national, international, state and

local chairmen contributed many hours of planning to continue our mission for education and are to be congratulated for these successful learning opportunities.

- Another area of success is the broader message to promote NGC's mission and highlight the efforts of our members nationwide. Through the professional efforts and outreach by Binder PR and Marketing Communication, our NGC public relations firm on record for 14 years, we are able to share our news in the media. Articles on a wide range of topics, with a focus on National Garden Clubs Inc., have been published in print, online and shared on social media, including two separate features on gardening in the pandemic by CBS Market Watch and Boston University News; an American Flowers Week focus in a leading national digital magazine; and a gardening piece in a prominent national magazine that has 7.6 million readers. In addition, NGC garnered local and regional media publicity on the installation of new NGC executive officers, the recipients of NGC's prestigious Award of Excellence and programs such as Plant America. The exposure makes an immeasurable impact on NGC's public image and serves as an effective marketing tool. Thank you to the many garden clubs that shared our news on their websites and in social media.

Programs supported by NGC continue to be successful. A few highlights of the

“All NGC educational opportunities continue to provide an excellent source of knowledge.”

2019-2021 administration include:

- The NGC college scholarship program supplied over \$300,000 in financial aid to students majoring in fields of study related to horticulture and the environment.
- The Plant America Community Grant program received over 450 applications, with almost \$100,000 being awarded to 107 member clubs. Grant recipients used funds to assist in community service in multiple areas of gardening, horticulture, garden design and beautification.
- NGC continues to work with the United States Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in which garden clubs donate funds in \$68 increments to NGC's Penny Pines program that help to sustain and/or replace national and urban forests through this reforestation program. This administration has received over \$60,000 in donations to assist with this much-needed program.
- NGC's youth programs continue to educate and nurture world stewardship in the next generation of gardeners. Through our programs, clubs and affiliates, we encourage tomorrow's citizens to be responsible and capable in respect to and knowledge of our environment.

- An effort to develop a photography program is being developed, with more information to follow soon.
- Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community! Please plan to join NGC clubs across the nation to mark National Garden Week, June 6-12, 2021. This is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

As this chapter closes for us, we realize that change is inevitable. To implement successful change, we must accept the evolution, respect leadership and have faith in our successes. With a strong foundation forged by our past and present volunteers and continued dedicated experienced leadership, National Garden Clubs Inc. is in capable hands to ensure stability and growth.

My garden club volunteer experience began in my own backyard. From the first invitation to join a club, I embraced each opportunity given to me and have reaped a lifetime of joy from this experience. I am humbled to have served in this capacity and look forward to NGC members strengthening our legacy by service to our world and its future. ■



NGC Calendar

Annual Conventions

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2022 | Orlando, FL,
May 17-20 |
| 2023 | White Sulphur Springs, WV,
May 2-5 (installation) |

Fall Board Meetings

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 2021 | St. Louis, MO,
Sept. 22-24 |
| 2022 | TBD,
September |

Celebrate

National Garden Week

in your community

Join NGC to celebrate National Garden Week!

National Garden Week was founded by National Garden Clubs Inc., to promote the organization's objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts and the involvement of garden clubs in communities. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, reach out to potential new members and collaborate with other area groups as part of those efforts.

Some ideas to consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden," workshop at an area nursery.



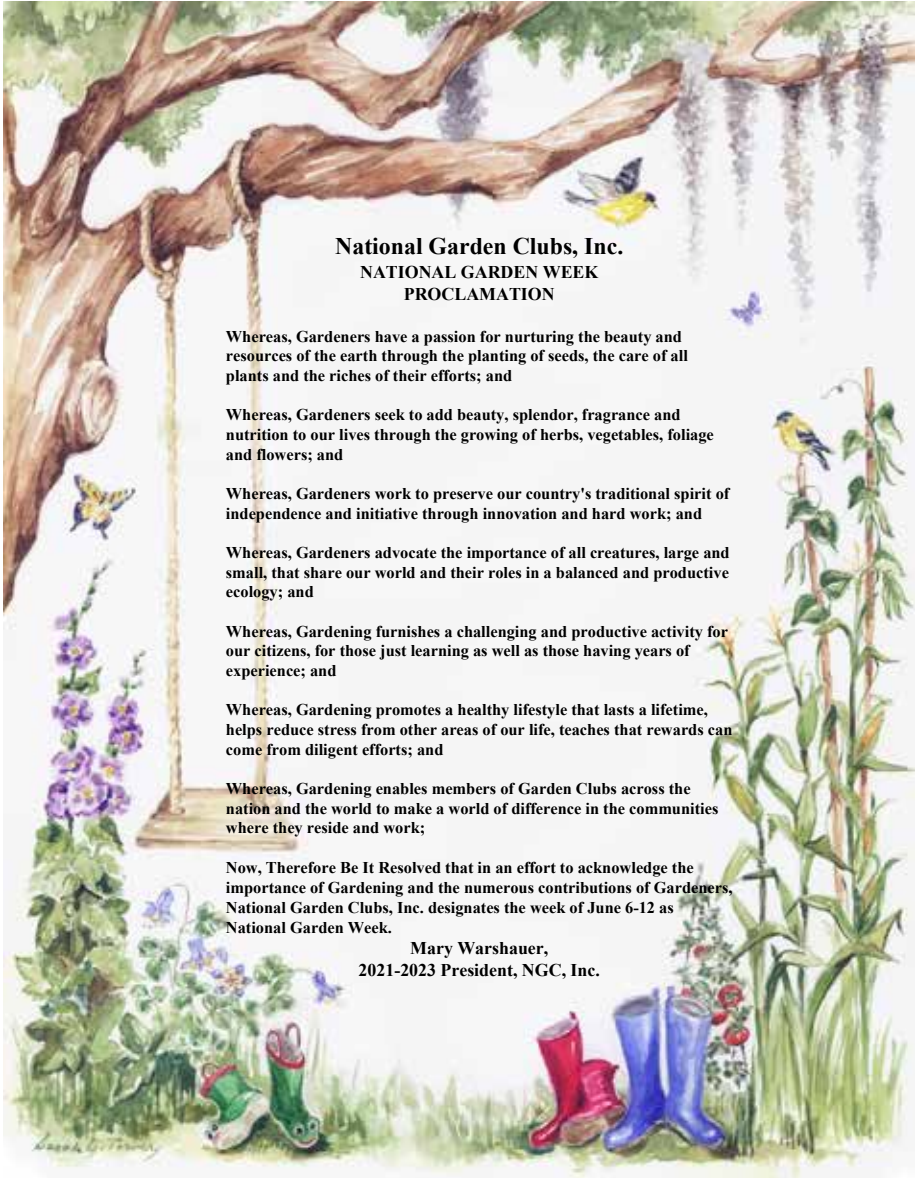
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share ideas and show your knowledge of all things that grow.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. Reach out to local groups to assist in your efforts.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or students at a local school.

- Place a plant or flower arrangement at a public facility, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters. ■

Sara Hemphill

Chairman, National Garden Week
 SaraElisabeth@gmail.com

Download the NGC National Garden Week materials for use in publicizing your National Garden Week project!
gardenclub.org/national-garden-week



National Garden Clubs, Inc.
 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK
 PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants and the riches of their efforts; and

Whereas, Gardeners seek to add beauty, splendor, fragrance and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage and flowers; and

Whereas, Gardeners work to preserve our country's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through innovation and hard work; and

Whereas, Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small, that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and

Whereas, Gardening furnishes a challenging and productive activity for our citizens, for those just learning as well as those having years of experience; and

Whereas, Gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our life, teaches that rewards can come from diligent efforts; and

Whereas, Gardening enables members of Garden Clubs across the nation and the world to make a world of difference in the communities where they reside and work;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that in an effort to acknowledge the importance of Gardening and the numerous contributions of Gardeners, National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates the week of June 6-12 as National Garden Week.

Mary Warshauer,
 2021-2023 President, NGC, Inc.



blooming on the grand

Photo by Barb
Hoogeboom

A stroll along the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan, can be a delightful experience in nearly any season. However, the view is even more breathtaking in spring, courtesy of a riot of color from the bounty of blooms bursting from the Kwanzan cherry trees, which line the river's banks.

A Dream Takes Root

The planting of the cherry trees is an ambitious community beautification project by members of Kent Garden Club in Grand Rapids. The project, "Grand Rapids in Bloom," was launched in 2016 and spearheaded by Adele Krhovsky, then Kent Garden Club president, whose vision was to plant Kwanzan cherry trees along the banks of the river to mimic the area that graces the renowned Tidal

Basin in Washington D.C.

In spring 2016, members of the garden club coordinated local efforts to plant nine Kwanzan cherry trees on the grounds and along the walkways of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, situated on the western bank of the Grand River.

The cherry trees were donated by members of Kent Garden Club, the majority of which were planted in memory of members of their families. The trees, which feature an attractive, upright symmetrical canopy, can grow up to 25 feet tall and do not produce fruit. The trees quickly became beloved downtown icons due to their ease of care and pleasing aesthetics.

In summer 2018, Kent Garden Club members organized a successful garden walk to raise funds for the planting of



Photos by Shannon Sprague

to provide the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of plantings on the grounds of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. In 2020, members planted 45

additional trees. That fall, three more memorial cherry trees were planted on the grounds of the museum, resulting in a total of 12 cherry trees planted on the property.

Gardening on the Grand

Gardening on the Grand is a project initiated by Sue Jabin, a local Master Gardener and patron of the arts in Grand Rapids, who provided years of leadership to Kent Garden Club members. Jabin enlisted help from members of the club

“In 2020, members planted 45 flats of begonias.”

flats of begonias. The club creates a schedule during the growing season, which elicits help from members to weed garden areas two days each month from April through October. Volunteer hours during this time may total 130 hours or more. In addition, members tend a Kent Garden Club Knock Out® Rose anniversary garden, which features a prominent marker that recognizes the club's 100th anniversary.

Future plans include the installation of a butterfly and pollinator area. Kent Garden Club member Barb Hoogboom

BOUNTIFUL BLOOMS

Japanese cherry trees were introduced to the United States in 1903, and many varieties are planted throughout the nation. In 1912, the mayor of Tokyo, Japan, presented Japanese cherry trees to the city of Washington D.C., as a cultural symbol of hope, renewal and friendship.

The trees were planted around the iconic 107-acre Tidal Basin, which is part of West Potomac Park. Built in the 1800s, the man-made, 10-foot-deep reservoir was built to harness the power of tides from the nearby

Potomac River. Adjacent to the Tidal Basin are important national monuments, including the Jefferson Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

Named after a mountain in Japan and native to that country, as well as China and Korea, the dazzling, showy flowering Kwanzan cherry tree is believed to be the hardiest of all species of cherry trees. Each spring in our nation's capital, Kwanzan cherry trees provide a stunning floral

display of large clusters of deep pink double blooms. The blossoms are on full display at the National Cherry Blossom Festival, an annual event that attracts people from across the U.S. and visitors around the globe, where they marvel at and photograph the Kwanzan and other species of Japanese cherry trees situated along the banks of the iconic Tidal Basin.

Visit nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom and nps.gov/articles/dctidalbasin



▲ Photos courtesy of the U.S. National Park Service

is the chairman who leads the volunteer efforts.

Extending the Vision

In an outreach to and collaboration with city and community leaders and members of the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department, Kent Garden Club members proposed the planting of Kwanzan cherry trees on the

eastern side of the Grand River to mirror planting efforts at the museum grounds to the west. These efforts included:

- In fall 2017, five cherry trees were planted at nearby Sixth Street Bridge Park, which offers easy access to a historic bridge and Riverwalk. The project was funded by Kent Garden Club.
- In 2018, a noted, local philanthropist



▲ Members of Kent Garden Club regularly tend to their installation of a special garden – which features a stunning display of Knock Out® roses – on the grounds of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The garden honors the club's 100th anniversary. Photos by Kathy Wolverton.

joined the project's efforts. By year's end, 17 additional cherry trees had been planted.

- In fall 2019, 16 more cherry trees were added.

In only four years, a total of 50 Kwanzan cherry trees have been planted as part of the Grand Rapids in Bloom project. Members of Kent Garden Club forged civic relationships and successfully led community efforts to support the goal of the mayor of Grand Rapids – to expand the downtown green canopy and add

to the beautification of the city's parks and Grand River corridor. In addition, due to the relatively short 15-to-25-year lifespan of the trees, members of the garden club are committed to plan and plant additional cherry trees, when needed, to preserve the city's iconic tree canopy and beautiful

blooms along the river.

Founded in 1913, Kent Garden Club has nearly 100 members and is a member of Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. For more information, visit kentgardenclub.org ■

Kathy Wolverton

*President
Kent Garden Club
Akw47@comcast.net*



RIGHT: Future plans include the installation of a butterfly and pollinator garden on the grounds of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. An overgrown area (right), was cleared by Kent Garden Club members (above) and will be ready for a variety of pollinator-friendly plantings in spring. Photos by Barb Hoozeboom. ▶





PLANT AMERICA community project grants

Congratulations to the 51 garden clubs across the nation that have been awarded a 2021 Plant America Community Project Grant from National Garden Clubs Inc. NGC takes great pride in the vision and commitment by the members of these clubs to green communities across the nation.

Members of the NGC Plant America Community Grant Committee marveled at the scope of the diverse and unique projects undertaken by club members. Listed below are the NGC garden clubs that were awarded up to \$1000 in support of their local efforts.

Start planning your next gardening project, and take advantage of the 2022 NGC Plant America Community Project Grant application, which will be posted on the NGC website at gardenclub.org ■

David Robson

Chairman

Plant America Community Project Grants

drobson@illinois.edu

- Fayette Garden Club The Garden Club of Alabama Inc.
- MGM Garden Club Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Gold Canyon Garden Club Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Descanso Garden Club California Garden Clubs Inc.
- Pacifica Garden Club California Garden Clubs Inc.
- Potter Valley Garden Club California Garden Clubs Inc.
- Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club, California Garden Clubs Inc.
- Wilton Garden Club The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Inc.
- Garden Club By the Sea Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches Inc. Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Coral Pines Garden Club Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

- The Garden Club of the Halifax Country
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Spalding Garden Club
The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.
- Dogwood Garden Club
The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.
- Avondale Estates Garden Club
The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.
- St. Mary's Garden Club
The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.
- Ladies' Garden Club
The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.
- Douglas Garden Club
The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.
- Valley Garden Club
Garden Club of Idaho Inc.
- Merry Tillers Garden Club
Garden Club of Idaho Inc.
- Enter the Garden Club
The Garden Club of Indiana Inc.
- Iris Elm Garden Club
The Garden Club of Indiana Inc.
- Little Sioux Federated Garden Club
Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa Inc.

- Franklin-Simpson Garden Club
The Garden Club of Kentucky Inc.
- Attleboro Garden Club
The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Inc.
- Chula Vista Garden Club
Michigan Garden Clubs Inc.
- Michiana Landscape Study Club
Michigan Garden Clubs Inc.
- Magnolia Garden Club
The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- Park Place Garden Club
The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- Water Valley Town & Country Garden Club
The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc.
- Missoula Garden Club
Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Rainbow Garden Club
Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Dominion Valley Garden Club
National Capital Area Garden Clubs Inc.
- Epping Garden Club
New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Old Homestead Garden Club
New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Garden Club of Hackensack
The Garden Club of New Jersey Inc.
- Modern Gardeners Garden Club
The Garden Club of North Carolina Inc.
- Madison County Garden Club
The Garden Club of North Carolina Inc.

**Plant America
Community
Project Grant
application will be
posted on the NGC
website at:**

gardenclub.org

- Cary Garden Club
The Garden Club of North Carolina Inc.
- Fox Chapel Garden Club
The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
- Presque Isle Garden Club
The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
- Palmetto Garden Club of South Carolina
The Garden Club of South Carolina Inc.
- The Beaufort Garden Club
The Garden Club of South Carolina Inc.
- Poinsett-Bland Garden Club
The Garden Club of South Carolina Inc.
- Chapin Garden Club
The Garden Club of South Carolina Inc.
- Franklin County Garden Club
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.
- Gardeners' Club of Parker County
Texas Garden Clubs Inc.
- Pine Lake Garden Club
Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
- Olde Berkeley Garden Club
West Virginia Garden Club Inc.
- Judy's Garden Club
West Virginia Garden Club Inc.
- Lake Wissota Garden Club
Wisconsin Garden Club Federation

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'show me state' garden club GOES FULL STEAM AHEAD ON PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY PROJECT

Members of Clayton Garden Club in Clayton, Missouri, are working with local children and families to create a new gardening initiative with funds the club received from an NGC 2020 Plant America Community Project Grant.

Partnering with the Urban League of Metropolitan Saint Louis Head Start Program, club members will launch efforts in spring to create raised garden beds at a local Head Start facility. According to club members, the garden beds will help to instill in children and teachers a love of gardening, as well as introduce plant science to young children, helping to prepare them for future STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) learning.

Funds for the project provided materials for two raised beds for each classroom, including soil, seeds and child-sized gardening tools. Children will be able to activate all five senses while they learn, explore and grow vegetables and herbs for their classroom. The project also was planned in a joint effort with PNC Bank's Full STEAM Ahead Program, which provides STEAM coaches for plant science teacher training at Head Start.

The project is slated for completion in June 2021, culminating in an "Eat What You Grow" celebration. Officials at the Mt. Zion Head Start plan to continue to use the raised beds as hands-on learning

tools in which to implement STEAM learning.

Clayton Garden Club is one of the longest continuous garden clubs in the United States, marking over 80 years in the St. Louis area. It is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri Inc. ■

Judy King
*Publicity Chairman
Clayton Garden Club
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ABOUT HEAD START

Head Start is a national program that provides early childhood education and child development services to low-income children and families, with a focus on school readiness in literacy and math skills and job skills training for teens and adults. Serving the St. Louis community for 102 years, the organization offers multiple locations throughout the region.



SUMMER CAMP PLANTS 'mustard seeds' of learning

▲ Pops of autumn color frame the Ivan Racheff House, the headquarters of Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. Built in 1902, the original home was later modified for commercial and residential space by Ivan Racheff, president of Knoxville Iron Works. The gardens were established by Racheff in 1947.

For more than 18 years, members of Norwood Garden Club in Knoxville, Tennessee, sponsor the one-day Mustard Seed Camp each summer for children in kindergarten to age 13.

The camp, highly anticipated by area children and their families each year, is held at the Ivan Racheff House, a historic home built in 1902 with gardens in Knoxville. Situated on three acres that feature seasonal plantings, the home plays an integral role as part of Racheff Park & Garden, and also serves as headquarters of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Inc., whose members maintain the gardens. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Growing Good Stewards of the Earth

Mustard Seed Camp provides educational activities for up to 26 campers on a first-come, first-served

basis. The primary objective is to educate and encourage youth to be active participants in the community, the environment and become good stewards of the earth. Through fun hands-on instruction and activities, attendees learn the value of gardening activities. Environmental issues also are introduced to campers. Each year, the camp's theme pays homage

to the current president's project of National Garden Clubs Inc. and theme of Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. In 2020, the camp theme

“The primary objective is to educate and encourage youth to be active participants in the community....”



incorporated NGC's "Plant America" and TFGC's "Using your Senses – Taste, See, Hear, Touch and Smell."

In addition, members from other area garden clubs, as well as local businesses and organizations in Knoxville, support the camp each year. Community efforts include creating attendance certificates or goodie bags, donating refreshments, as well as supplying plants and seeds for campers to take home. Through the community's contributions of tools, materials and financial support, Norwood Garden Club is able to offer the camp free of charge to campers. Mustard Seed Camp is coordinated each year by Kathy Pearson,

junior garden club chairman and member of Norwood Garden Club. Another member volunteers as the on-site registered nurse for the safety of the campers.

A Day at Mustard Seed Camp

The day begins with the opportunity for each attendee to choose from a variety of donated flowers, seeds or bulbs and plant them in the children's garden area. Campers are then divided into three age-appropriate groups to participate in the day's planned rotation of activities. Professional speakers from the surrounding area are invited to share their knowledge and field expertise through 35-minute presentations

on topics such as the environment, gardening and wildlife habitats. Fun hands-on activities also are featured. At lunchtime, campers learn the value of recycling and how to develop good recycling habits when they observe first-hand how much trash is generated by the sack lunches they bring to camp.

Buoyed by the learning experiences at Mustard Seed Camp, participants often revisit the garden throughout the year to plant additional flowers or plants. Older campers return to volunteer in the garden to earn community service credit for their projects or clubs in middle school or high school. Members from area Boy Scout or Girl Scout troops also have taken on projects at the garden. ■

Maggi Burns

President

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

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**Photos courtesy
of Norwood
Garden Club**



◀ In 2020, campers listen to Charlie Rhodarmer, director of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, who provided insights into the history, language and culture of the Eastern Band of Cherokee. Campers complied with area COVID-19 guidelines. The museum, theater and interpretive center, located in Vonore, Tennessee, was named for Sequoyah, a soldier, silversmith, statesman and the creator of the Cherokee writing system. The museum is Tennessee's only tribally operated historical attraction.

digging in

GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS TURN INTEREST INTO ACTION

Members of Dig and Dream Garden Club in Centennial, Colorado, measure the success of their volunteer gardening programs by the effectiveness of their efforts and impact on the community.

Federated in 1961, the 35-member club – whose members vary in age and gender – undertakes several important projects in the area, which continue to leave a positive footprint in the community. In 2016, members designed and installed a butterfly garden at Centennial's Smoky Hill Library, which

is part of the Arapahoe County Public Libraries system. The following year, the garden achieved national recognition as a Certified Butterfly Garden and a Certified Monarch Garden by the North American Butterfly Association. The garden club is the recipient of a 2020 Ames Tool Grant and uses the tools it received on this project, as well as at the club's other projects, including the Pickens Technical College Rose Garden and the Ronald McDonald House gardens. The garden club also garnered an NGC 2020 Plant America Grant.



◀ The garden at Smoky Hill Library in Centennial, Colorado, designed and installed by members of Dig and Dream Garden Club, is recognized as a Certified Butterfly Garden and a Certified Monarch Garden by the North American Butterfly Association.



▲ Dig and Dream Garden Club members used the tools and garden wagon they received from a 2020 Ames Tool Grant at the butterfly garden at Smoky Hill Library. Prior to earning the grant award, members furnished their own gardening tools on the project and even needed to tote water in buckets for the lack of a garden hose. The cart, and other needed items, furnished by the Ames Tool Grant, simplified garden chores, especially in the transport of plants and other materials.

The rose garden at Pickens Technical College, situated on the sprawling college campus, was designed, installed and has been maintained by members of Dig and Dream Garden Club since the 1970s. Garden club members maintain a memorial garden on the campus to honor past members, collaborate with the college's staff on new and ongoing projects and work closely with students on the care and maintenance of roses in the garden. Each year, garden club members sell perennials at a Mother's Day Plant Sale on the

campus, with proceeds funding club activities. The college offers nearly 50 certificate programs in state-of-the-art skills to adults and high school students as part of the Aurora Public Schools and Colorado Community College System. For students interested in a career in the gardening industry, the college offers an urban horticulture and landscape management program, which hosts six greenhouses where studies include a wide



▲ The garden club maintains the butterfly garden and members offer decent-led garden tours for adults and children.



range of topics, from tropical plants to nursery propagation. In addition to course work in the classroom and laboratory, the campus offers a living library of trees, shrubs and perennials for students to study. For more information, visit pickentech.org

In addition, garden club members maintain the NGC Gold Star Families By-Way Marker and the NGC Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at Fort Logan National Cemetery. The 214-acre national cemetery is managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and earned national significance for its association with the development of military and veterans cemeteries during the late 19th and early 20th centuries by the federal government.

Members of Dig and Dream Garden Club also planted trees throughout the city, provided trees to area schools and helped design gardens at area senior-living facilities.

The rose garden at Pickens Technical College in Aurora, Colorado, is considered one of the garden club's outstanding and ongoing legacy projects. ▲

“The garden club works diligently to find creative ways to keep members engaged.”

The garden club works diligently to find creative ways to keep members engaged. In keeping with the changes to regular activities due to local restrictions from the coronavirus, the club successfully held virtual meetings and members are volunteering at outdoor projects – with members working in shifts to observe area social-distancing guidelines. The club

continues its educational programs, including the introduction of a virtual program on gardening for butterflies, and expanded its website – adding the ability for members to pay membership dues online. Future plans include the development of a junior garden club to



Dig and Dream Garden Club members designed, installed and regularly maintain the welcome garden, shade garden, interior gardens and patio planters at the Ronald McDonald House in Aurora, Colorado. The facility is part of Ronald McDonald House Charities, a nationwide network that provides the basic comforts of home for families of seriously ill or injured children who are patients at nearby metropolitan hospitals. Garden club members help support Ronald McDonald House guests by preparing handmade welcome kits containing personal care items. The gardens offer beautiful, natural spaces that provide a needed respite for families. Although local restrictions from the spread of the coronavirus curtailed many of the club's activities at the facility last year, garden club members look forward to the opportunity to return to their projects at the facility this year.



introduce young people to the joys of gardening.

Dig and Dream Garden Club is a member of Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

Visit diganddream.com ■

Victoria Schmidt

President

Dig and Dream Garden Club

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Photos courtesy of Dig and Dream Garden Club

Dear Members of National Garden Clubs Inc.,

National Garden Clubs Inc. announces the exciting transition of The National Gardener, the 91-year-old quarterly flagship magazine of NGC, from a print publication to a digital platform. This change debuts with the summer 2021 edition. The new publication, along with past issues of the magazine, will continue to be available on gardenclub.org

To subscribe and receive The National Gardener directly to your inbox, visit The National Gardener page on the NGC website and complete the easy subscription form. You may unsubscribe at any time and subscriptions are always FREE.

NGC sincerely thanks the subscribers and readers of TNG as it moves forward to grow NGC's unique voice and audience.



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restoring the roses



A visit to the Tulsa Municipal Rose Garden at Woodward Park in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a unique horticultural experience. In addition to the popular rose garden, the 45-acre public park offers a botanical garden, arboretum and specialty gardens that showcase azaleas, tulips, irises, dogwood and redbud trees, tropical plants, cacti and more – all situated in beautifully landscaped settings.

Members of Tulsa Garden Club, which was

“...the rose garden contained more than 9,000 roses in 250 varieties.”

organized in 1929, were the first to plant rose

bushes at the site in 1935. Club members continue to maintain garden areas and support the garden through a variety of activities and fundraisers. In its peak years, the rose garden contained more than 9,000 roses in 250 varieties. More recently, rose rosette disease – a virus transferred from plant to plant by a tiny mite - decimated the plantings, resulting in the removal of nearly all of the bushes.



▲ The bench in the restored rose garden is sheltered by original junipers.



▲ A member of the Second Chance program uses the tools the garden club received from a 2020 Ames Tool Grant on a project.



In a nod to the past, members of Tulsa Garden Club visit the rose garden.



The original rose garden ▲



Members of Tulsa Garden Club joined local landscape professionals and horticulture experts at nearby academic institutions in an effort to return the Tulsa Municipal Rose Garden – and the graceful, fragrant roses that once bloomed there – to its original botanical garden design and splendor. Toward that effort, the garden club established the Tulsa Garden Club Rose Fund, and through the generous donations from the community, new and replacement plants – selected for their hardiness and disease-resistant qualities – were purchased. The garden club also plans to continue to raise funds toward the rose garden’s ongoing restoration and maintenance. In

◀ **New roses were selected for their hardiness and disease-resistant qualities.**

2020, Tulsa Garden Club garnered an Ames Tool Grant, which provided materials and tools for the club to use in ongoing efforts at the rose garden.

Empowering Future Gardeners

Since the 1950s, the garden club has supported scholarships for students at Oklahoma State University majoring in horticulture, and more recently, in the university’s new landscape architecture program. The OSU Foundation currently manages the club’s endowment that funds multiple scholarships each year.

Students in horticulture studies at Tulsa Community College also benefit. Today, the TCC Foundation manages the club’s endowment for the college’s Second Chance program, which helps fund horticulture-programming scholarships, certification,

Since 1929, members of Tulsa Garden Club have opened their own gardens and arranged public tours to help visitors learn more about ornamental, vegetable and herb gardening, natural and functional hardscape, water management, and lighting. Proceeds benefit the projects of Tulsa Garden Club. In 2020, the 70th Annual Garden Tour was canceled due to area COVID-19 restrictions. Members hope to resume the tour this year.



as well as maintenance and supplies for inmates participating in the work program at Dick Conner Correctional Center, a medium-security prison for men in Hominy, Oklahoma.

Tulsa Garden Club is a member of Oklahoma

Garden Clubs Inc. Visit tulsagardenclub.org/ ■

Rose Shultz

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**Photos courtesy
of Tulsa Garden
Club**



▲ Visitors to Woodward Park often navigate to the many green spaces offered at the popular destination.

About Woodward Park

Woodward Park was completed in 1934 under the direction of

the Works Progress Administration (WPA), an ambitious public works program created by then U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt as part of the American New Deal initiative to employ millions of job-seekers in the years following the Great Depression in the United States. The successful program launched a number of significant projects across the nation, including the Lincoln Tunnel in New York City; The Overseas Highway (U.S. Route 1),

which connects Miami to Key West, in Florida; Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee; Hoover Dam, which spans the Black Canyon of the Colorado River and provides electric power to Arizona, Nevada and Southern California; and the Grand Coulee Dam in the state of Washington – the largest dam in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

In 2014, Woodward Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ENHANCING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH community projects

Nestled in the heart of Michigan in Genesee County, the community of Grand Blanc is known for its welcoming spirit and beautiful, user-friendly parks.

For nearly 30 years, members of Touch the Earth Garden Club in Grand Blanc have played an integral role in civic beautification through multiple planting projects. Founded in 1991, garden club members have worked with city officials on the planning and maintenance on a wide variety of community garden projects at a historical museum, city hall and city parks. Efforts include pollinator gardens, two Monarch Watch Waystations, as well as an NGC Blue Star Memorial Marker at nearby Great Lakes National Cemetery. Each spring, members meet to clean up and plant flowers in community gardens and again each fall to put them to bed for the winter. Club members also volunteer

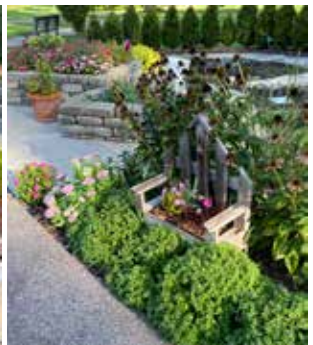
each summer to water, deadhead flowers and maintain the gardens.

The club's main objective is to stimulate the love of gardening, encourage home and community beautification, promote better horticulture practices and encourage all forms of



Interpretive signage for the Monarch Watch Waystation and pollinator garden was provided by the MSU Extension Master Gardener Association. ▲

At Rust Park, raised garden beds were designed and built to provide accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. ▼



A footbridge leads to the native garden, a project made possible by a 2019 NGC native garden grant. ▼



conservation. However, as many members of the garden club may attest, their success at civic beautification is credited to providing ongoing education and encouraging active participation in club endeavors.

Rust Park – A Gathering Place

Over the years, the garden club has earned accolades for its many community beautification efforts on the local and state level, and in 2019, received an NGC grant



▲ Children from a local preschool participate in a “dig and take” activity at the native garden. Students also learned about pollinators at the Monarch Watch Waystation garden.

A monarch visits a butterfly bush in the perennial garden, which is a Monarch Watch Waystation, at the Grand Blanc Heritage Museum. Plant markers were provided by the MSU Extension Master Gardeners Association. ▼



Spring bulb ‘early risers.’ ▼



“...the garden club has earned accolades for its many community beautification efforts on the local and state level...”



▲ ABOVE AND TOP MIDDLE: A bleeding heart blooms in early May



▲ Spring tulips and daffodils.

Garden club members maintain plantings at an NGC Blue Star Memorial Marker at the entrance to the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. Garden club members planted the NGC Plant America narcissus, which offers a burst of color each spring. ▶



Petunias, marigolds and fan flowers bloom in a garden bed at Grand Blanc City Hall. ▼



for native gardens to continue its work at Rust Park, which is a beautiful green space within the city. Situated on 20 acres, the park features



a children's garden, pavilion, a "human sundial", picnic tables, fenced playground, tennis and basketball courts, baseball diamond and walking trails. A popular community destination, the park also hosts fun annual water races on Thread Creek, which runs through the park. The land for the park was donated to the City of Grand Blanc in 1939 by E. Sumner and Mary Rust in honor and memory of their nephew, Lt. William H. Rust, a native of Grand Blanc who was killed in action in 1918 while serving with Company K, 125th Infantry Regiment in France in World War I.

A Garden Showcase

Members of Touch the Earth Garden Club created, and maintain, the tranquil garden setting at the Grand Blanc Heritage Museum. The museum houses historic artifacts and memorabilia

pertinent to the area. Considered a valuable resource for area history and genealogical records, the museum offers interactive exhibits and displays that provide insight into the days of early agriculture in the region through the Victorian era.

Members of Touch the Earth Garden Club play an active role in a variety of civic beautification projects.

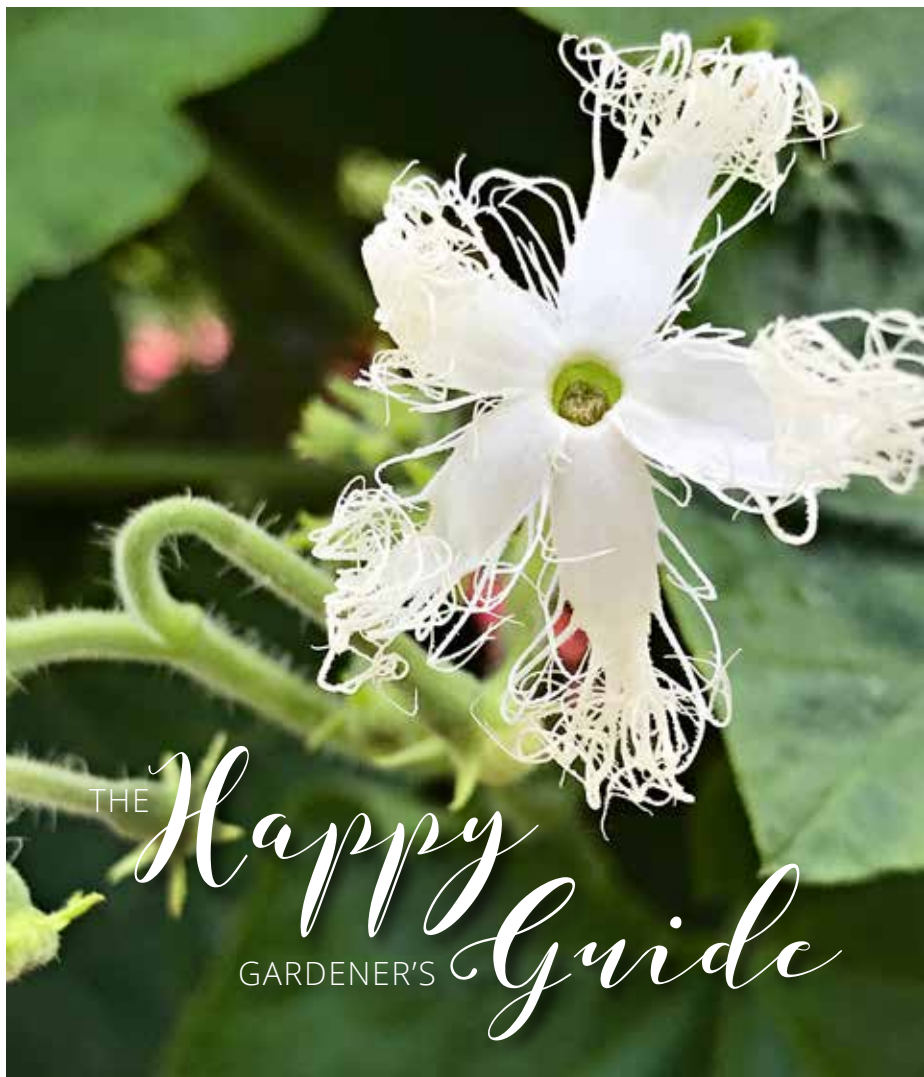
They often work in tandem with other area like-minded organizations, including Keep Genesee County Beautiful, Michigan's first affiliate of Keep America Beautiful; the beautification committee of the City of Grand Blanc; and the Genesee County Master Gardeners of the Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener Program (MGP). The club is a member of Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. ■

Sue Hendrix

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Photos courtesy of Touch the Earth Garden Club



SEED DREAMS

One of my favorite rites of spring is receiving my annual mailing of seed catalogues and making my seed wish list. Visions of red, juicy tomatoes, sunshiny squash, velvety fingers of okra, crunchy crisp

lettuces and balmy basil start to dance about in my head as soon as I hear the clink of the envelope landing in the mailbox. Soon after, the floral dreams begin: wild bee balm, vining sweet peas, sweet violas, passionate



poppies and tiers of sunflowers and vibrant zinnias. Let the parade of annuals march through my perennials and take its place in the sun. My seed dreams will become real seeds and real specimens in good time.

Though this ritual has been performed numerous times, the tingle of expectation continues to head off the winter doldrums, infusing my spirit with fresh thoughts of the coming spring that will warm the earth and let us be busy in the garden once more.

While it's desirable to plant cultivars that have already earned their reliable status, spring also affords the opportunity to dream and invite some newcomers to the garden table. I was in a particularly cheeky, adventurous mood last year when I decided on some options from the Punjab region of India, the Orient and Italy.

Why not try *Apium graveolens* 'Chinese pink celery'? Popular in Northern China, it sounded like an attractive choice, even if its usefulness might be in question. I learned that when started from seed, pink celery looks very delicate, but its looks betray its hardy nature. True

“...pink celery looks very delicate, but its looks betray its hardy nature.”



▲ The easy-to-grow Chinese Pink Celery completes the nutritional rainbow.

to form, it branched into a sturdy clump of pink stems nearly a foot tall. When harvested and cooked in a stir-fry of veggies,

pink celery offers a distinctive, robust flavor. Although its fiber does not lend toward it being a snack food, it stays exceptionally fresh in a refrigerator drawer. Even just a few heads of pink celery can deliver months of seasonings for stir-fry dishes. Besides, how much fun is it to ask a friend or stranger, “Did you know celery comes in pink?”

The Rocky Ford Cantaloupe™, world-famous since 1887, is readily available in my area and I seldom grow my own. But would I consider a small, green, white and orange-striped melon from the Punjab region of India? Curiosity got the better of me and I dove into new territory with glee. Could I get the beautiful *Cucumis melo* 'Kajari melon' to grow in a far different landscape than the fertile lands of Punjab? The answer is a resounding “yes!” In addition to its striking appearance, the fruit is considerate enough to alert the grower exactly when it is ready to be picked – when it's fully ripe, touch it gently and it will fall from the vine. It is most helpful to let the fruit itself declare its ripeness! This was a revelation, as I've often been amiss in determining the right time for the optimum enjoyment of a melon. The melon's pale green flesh is soft and the taste is similar to honeydew, but much sweeter.



The Kajari is an heirloom melon grown in the Punjab region of India. ▶

Its wonderful fruity fragrance rivals any popular perfume.

The Nardello family brought the seeds for this excellent sweet pepper to the United States when they emigrated from Italy in 1887. Today, this pepper is included in the Ark of Taste, an international catalogue of endangered heritage food maintained by the Slow Food Foundation. Many chefs favor this sweet Italian frying pepper for its mild, fruity contribution to whatever veggies are in the sauté pan. For gardeners like me who struggle to get peppers to thrive, the *Capsicum annum* 'Jimmy Nardello' is an answer to a garden prayer. The classic "sports car red" pepper has the appearance of a hot chili pepper, but has a mild, spicy flavor. Are you up to the Jimmy Nardello pepper challenge? Think of the

fun factor of videotaping yourself calmly chomping on several of these and sharing the astonishing sight to your friends or grandchildren?

Saving my best experimental dream until last, let me introduce you to the *Trichosanthes cucumerina* 'Chinese Python' snake bean. It is the largest and thickest of its variety, growing up to 60 inches in length and 1.5 inches thick. Southeast Asia is the usual habitat for this prolific vine that bears loads of elongated vegetables. Technically, this curious specimen is in the squash family, but its python-like appearance belies its proper biology.

There is hardly a more entertaining vegetable for the garden! Regarding care and maintenance, the snake bean requires a strong trellis and occasional trimming to keep it in place. Since I



The snake bean quickly fills out a trellis with foliage. Its tiny blossoms, shaped like frilly stars, attract pollinators.



The Jimmy Nardello pepper is dependable to grow and delicious in flavor.

desired an optimal-sized python, I trimmed out slower-growing ones and still was rewarded with a wheelbarrow full of four-to-six foot long beans! With COVID-19 restrictions limiting visitors to my garden, I didn't get to share with others the fun of growing this bean; however, the perfectly harmless bean "snakes" hanging from the archway trellis always elicited a smile from me.

Maybe the best part of "dream seeding" the garden with newcomers from distant lands is not only the wonders they bring to the table, but the fun connections to people and places far away. ■

Charlotte A. Swanson

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Photos by Charlotte A. Swanson



The Espoma Company began production in 1929 with its first product, Espoma Organic, a proprietary blend of natural materials available near the company's location in Millville, New Jersey. The ingredients in Espoma Organic were blended and bagged using shovels, wheelbarrows and scales – tasks accomplished through the painstaking efforts and hard work of scores of dedicated employees.

With product in hand, Espoma founder H.G. Sanders set out on the road selling in the New York, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. markets. This successful strategy helped the company survive the economic hard times brought on by the

Great Depression and the years that followed. However, growth was slow and the work hard. During this time, Sanders anticipated the need for a new type of plant food specifically designed for hollies and other acid-loving plants. His pioneering spirit and industry insights led to the testing of several plant food formulations with local nurseries. The result was Holly-tone® – the first organically balanced fertilizer developed and formulated to fulfill the requirements of acid-loving plants.

Today, Holly-tone is considered by professional and amateur gardeners to be the number-one plant food for all acid loving plants. In addition to this

brand leader, Espoma offers over 70 popular organic products and manufactures over 50-million pounds of organic fertilizer per year, making it a leading provider of organic fertilizers for the retail lawn and garden industries.

The evolution of Espoma's once-modest manufacturing facility to the capabilities of the modern, state-of-the-art operation in Millville today is a reflection of the company's growth and success through hands-on family ownership, quality products and dedicated workforce. This time-honored spirit will continue to provide the impetus for Espoma well into the 21st century.

Visit espoma.com

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environmental, gardening and landscape design SCHOOLS

Courses for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools are being held via Zoom video conferencing until they can be held in an in-person classroom setting. Some state chairmen are planning “hybrid” courses where the event is in the classroom with some of the instructors presenting their topics live and/or via Zoom. This course format is a wonderful opportunity to learn from some of the best experts and instructors at a minimum to no cost. We are adding to our national list of highly recommended instructors who are willing to teach by Zoom. Students and consultants enjoy the opportunity to learn in a safe environment.

Students and consultants, especially those living out-of-state of the event, should inform their state school chairman of their attendance. Students completing their 4th course need to complete Form 6, the Consultant Accreditation Application, along with their registration form for the event. Consultants seeking refresher credit should complete and



Please visit NGC Schools
Course Calendars at
www.gardenclub.org

Dear Readers of The National Gardener,

As my six-year tenure as your NGC Gardening Schools chairman comes to a close, I want to express my thanks and commend the NGC gardening consultants and authors who have so willingly contributed to the educational content of this publication:

- Charlotte Swanson, a gardening consultant who completed all four GSS courses in Nebraska five years ago, has been a consistent and

valued columnist. She penned “The Happy Gardener’s Guide” articles in each TNG magazine, which offered her unique insights into gardening. Thank you Charlotte!

- Our NGC gardening committee led the way to develop guidelines for NGC Environmental Schools, Gardening Schools and Landscape Design Schools in the use of the Zoom video conferencing virtual platform. We formed a Zoom Beta Advisory group in June, 2020, which

submit Form 7, Consultant Refresher Application, with the registration form to verify their eligibility to receive credit before the course starts. Please note: consultants may receive ONE refresher credit in a calendar year for each of the schools in which they are a consultant.

Upon completion of Form 5, Course Roster and Summary, by local chairman and/or state event chairman following each course, the rosters of all of the attending students and consultants will be sent to all of the state chairmen. The state chairmen will verify and sign Form 6, Consultant Application(s), and Form 7, Refresher Application(s), for the students and consultants in their state. The applications will be sent electronically to the appropriate accrediting chairmen to approve and then forward to the NGC Schools secretary for recording in the NGC Schools database.

The biggest concern with Zoom courses is keeping student and consultant records accurate and updated in a timely manner. We have had students completing all four courses by attending out-of-state events. The state chairmen involved were unable

continued on page 36...

published a Zoom Course Kit to enable NGC Schools to continue virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Last year, three Zoom Beta gardening courses were held in summer and an environmental course offered in September. In winter, we encouraged Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. to share its Zoom technology expertise with NGC members in the United States and International Affiliates.

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We hope that you will continue to take advantage of all methods of NGC-sponsored educational activities using Zoom, as well as in classroom venues. Education is the key to NGC member retention and growth!

Happy Gardening! ■

Barbara Hadsell

Chairman, Gardening Schools
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...continued from page 35

to verify attendance because the state chairmen had NO knowledge or documentation (rosters) to verify student/consultant attendance. State chairmen and accrediting chairmen have received guidelines for the processing of paperwork for Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Schools courses to manage these new complexities. ■

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flower show SCHOOLS

The writing of this article for the spring The National Gardener comes at the end of January, when we continue to hope that our future will improve over the next several months. Clubs are planning flower shows to take bloom during the spring, summer and fall. Safety and social distancing will be in place as local requirements are followed.

A Sample Standard Flower Show schedule is available for clubs to use as a tool when preparing a plan for a flower show. This schedule is available through state Judges Councils or clubs may contact the NGC Flower Show Schools Committee directly. The two Small Standard Flower Show model schedules, associated with the Stimulus Package,

have been updated and are available on the FSS main page on the NGC website gardenclub.org



Courses for Flower Show Schools and Symposiums are scheduled for the coming months. Please view the latest information on the FSS main page of the NGC website. Click on the words **Flower Show School Courses** or **Symposium Courses**.

Clubs are meeting in small groups or through virtual platforms to keep the garden club connection alive. Remember to share photos and information with the NGC social media committee. The NGC FSS Committee also is virtually connected and addressing questions from NGC members. Spring will renew us all in spirit and connection.

My best to you as we bloom! ■

Jan Warshauer

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**Please visit NGC Schools
Course Calendars at
www.gardenclub.org**



gardening on the bay

Last year was a challenging year for garden clubs across the nation. Local and regional restrictions to stem the spread of the coronavirus dramatically changed how garden clubs go about their activities and projects. As a result, members of Moriches Bay Garden Club in Center Moriches on Long Island, New York, put the majority of their scheduled

programs on hold, and focused instead on outdoor gardening opportunities in their community.

The first project on the list was the Remembrance Garden at the John W. Masury estate, which is on two acres of waterfront property in Center Moriches in Suffolk County. Masury rose to fame during the Second Industrial Revolution – a period of rapid standardization and industrialization in the late 19th century. His many innovations and inventions in the manufacturing of paint, including the metal paint can and dripless lid – still sold today in local hardware stores – revolutionized the industry. In 1898, construction was completed on Masury's stately Colonial Revival-style mansion



Members of Moriches Bay Garden Club are active volunteers in their community, performing a variety of gardening activities, including maintenance and upkeep, at a number of important historic and area sites including garden areas at The Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Manorville, New York, and the community garden at Crystal Beach Community Park, a waterfront community, which features a private beach and marina.

◀ Maintenance-friendly plants surround the pergola in the Remembrance Garden on the grounds of the historic John W. Masury estate in Center Moriches, New York. The historic garden was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Members of Moriches Bay Garden Club refurbished and continue to maintain the garden.

and outbuildings. The estate, originally situated on 200 sprawling acres, served as the family's summer escape from the heat of New York City. The Masurys hosted lavish parties in the famous ballroom in the recreation wing of the home, including formal dances for servicemen during World War II. In 1938, the Great New England Hurricane – one of the most powerful and deadly tropical cyclones recorded in history – leveled the mansion, but the historic ballroom adjacent to the main house was spared. What remained of the estate house had long been dismantled, but volunteers brought the



damaged ballroom back to its original splendor, and it remains in use for meetings and special events. The garden club has hosted standard flower shows at the popular area landmark.

In the 1950s, a developer envisioned and built Holiday Beach, a vibrant, waterfront community on the property. In 1957, the Holiday Beach Property Owners Association purchased the ballroom building for use as the association's clubhouse. It

was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, and also is listed on state and town registers for historic sites.

A Garden Restoration

In October 2012, the gardens and grounds of the estate were impacted significantly by Hurricane Sandy, which affected 24 states and most of the Eastern seaboard. In March 2013, members of the Moriches Garden Club took on the extraordinary task of refurbishing the flooded garden by



◀ The historic ballroom at the John W. Masury estate.



installing maintenance-friendly plants that would tolerate saltwater spray, sun, wind and deer. The iconic pergola and brick walkway managed to withstand the forces from the hurricane and provided a template for choosing the right plants. Seaside gardens fare best if plants with thin leaves and compact growing habits are used. The garden club selected six varieties of sedum as the main perennial. Sedum's tough, waxy leaves repel saltwater spray and limit dehydration. Iris, lavender, catmint, hedge roses,

Another project that was completed outdoors by members of Moriches Bay Garden Club was the installation of an NGC Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in Center Moriches. The club facilitated the installation as part of an Eagle Scout project by a member of a local Boy Scout troop. Members offered additional support for the project by hosting a bake sale fundraiser and donated the proceeds, as well as purchased and planted the five blue star junipers, at the base of the marker.

alysium and herbs were chosen for their deer-resistance qualities. Spirea, original to the site and one of the few plantings that weathered the storm, were moved to frame the four posts of the pergola. Daffodils were planted for a burst of spring color.

A \$1,000 donation from the Cornwall Garden Club provided the purchase of flats of petunias to fill in garden areas. However, as many gardeners will attest, even the most "deer resistant" plants attract deer, which were attracted to the newly planted sedum. Club members have been replacing those areas with coreopsis and additional herbs. The garden is now a lovely destination to enjoy the fragrances of the herbs and flowers and calming water view. ■

Maureen Pollack

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Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.

Reference: <http://www.thetideofmoriches.com/moriches-bay-garden-club/>

Photos by Maureen Pollack



Sharon Ott, Moriches Bay Garden Club, and granddaughter Skylar, volunteer at the Remembrance Garden at the John W. Masury estate. The garden club received a \$1,000 grant from Cornwall Garden Club in Cornwall, New York, to help in the efforts to refurbish the garden following its devastation by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.



THE BEAUTY OF BULBS

Versatile in landscaping and garden design, bulbs earn their keep

BY BRUCE CRAWFORD

As we walk through our landscapes and gardens this spring and summer, let's imagine what we could add to enhance our displays.

Flowering bulbs are an important addition to any landscape or garden, and contribute a wide variety of bloom color, flowering time, plant height and shape to any design. Oddly, bulbs may not be an item many gardeners contemplate adding to their garden or landscaping come autumn.

Most likely, it may be their appearance on

garden center shelves that fails to inspire us with the lack of color or floral appeal. This is unfortunate, since hardy bulbs are great "tools" for adding bursts of color throughout the spring, summer and into autumn.

The Dirt on Geophytes

To be proper, this group of plants should be termed geophytes, rather than bulbs. Unknown by most, a true bulb is merely one category found within geophytes. Of course, that will probably never happen, since from a marketing standpoint, there is nothing truly memorable about the word geophyte. The word literally means 'earth plant', as geo is from the Greek *gea* for Earth and *phyto* for plant. It was coined by Danish botanist and ecologist Christen Raunkiaer (1860–1938) when he developed a classification system based upon the

“...a true bulb is merely one category found within geophytes.”

◀ **Allium sphaerocephalon 'Drumstick Flower Leek'** adds interest and movement to the landscape at Wave Hill, a popular public garden and cultural center in the Bronx, New York City.

location of dormant buds in relation to the ground. His most well-known division is probably epiphyte, or plants dwelling far above the ground, including orchids and bromeliads. Geophytes are storage organs containing carbohydrates, nutrients and an appropriate amount of water that will allow the plant to endure extended periods when the weather is unsuitable for active growth. They allow a plant to endure from one season to the next – and for enthusiasts of the long-running TV game show Jeopardy! – this process is called perennation. Geophytes are native to regions of the world where there is a short window when the climate is ideal for the production of foliage, flowers and finally seed. The remainder of the year it is too hot, dry or cold for the plants to actively grow, so they simply lie dormant, waiting until the conditions are once again appropriate for active growth.

Geophytes are divided into several

classifications. The true bulb consists of layers of modified leaves, or leaf stalks that are attached at their base to a modified stem called a basal plate. It is from the basal plate that the roots develop. A typical and familiar example is an onion; when it is cut in half, the rings are the layers of modified leaves. The outer layers are called scales, which contain the necessary “food” to sustain the bulb during dormancy and early growth. The very outermost scales become dry and form a papery covering called a tunic. At the center are developed, albeit embryonic flowers, leaves and stem(s), waiting to shoot skyward once the conditions are proper. Examples of bulbs include Galanthus ‘Snowdrops’, Narcissus ‘Daffodil’, Allium ‘Flowering Onion’ and Tulipa ‘Tulip’.

Other major forms of geophytes are corms and stem tubers, both of which employ modified stems for perennation. Corms resemble true bulbs, with eyes or growing points developing at the top and a basal plate below for root production. The dried bases of the leaves once again form an outer layer, or tunic. When a corm is cut in half, the tissue is solid and lacks the rings typifying a bulb. An example includes Crocus. A stem tuber is also a modified stem, but it lacks a basal plate and a tunic. The roots, shoots and leaves grow from small growing points or eyes that can appear on the top or bottom of the tuber. Examples include Cyclamen and Eranthis ‘Winter Aconite’.

Other geophytes include tuberous roots. Tuberous roots are enlarged storage elements that resemble tubers, but are actually swollen roots, not stems.



◀ The vigorous *Allium sphaerocephalon* can grow up to 18 inches tall. Its long-lasting flowers are popular to use in fresh and dried cut flower arrangements.

During active growth, they produce a fibrous root system for water and nutrient absorption and new flowering stems. Buds for new growth form at the junction of the stem of the previous year, and on the top of the tuberous root. An example is Dahlia.

To further complicate matters, geophytes are often divided into “major bulbs,” and “minor bulbs.” Major bulbs have an underground structure with a diameter of one inch or larger, such as many tulips and daffodils. Minor bulbs have underground structures smaller than one inch, such as Galanthus and Crocus. Minor bulbs also have the advantage of being more freely self-seeding and naturalizing.

Geophytes typically, although not always, grow in regions with very little summer rainfall. Drainage is usually good to excellent, with most soils having a neutral to alkaline pH. Geophytes are very adaptable, but to grow their best, these conditions should be duplicated wherever possible. Many of the early spring bloomers can be grown – and with luck, naturalized – in shrub borders or mixed borders beneath leggy, and still slumbering, deciduous shrubs. The timing is perfect, since before the shrubs leaf out, adequate sunlight reaches the ground for the geophytes to develop new underground structures for the following year. Once the shrubs leaf out, the bulbs go dormant! Plus, the area beneath shrubs is usually dry come summer, creating the proper conditions for many geophytes to thrive. Narcissus is best grown in areas with full sun, since

its foliage does not become dormant until mid-to-late June. In New Jersey, for example, Narcissus is among the easiest major bulbs to grow, as it is native to regions of Spain and Southern France, which have climatic conditions similar to our state.

Lay the Groundwork for Early Risers

Before planting bulbs, it’s helpful to draw up a plan. A simple sketch will not only provide an approximate idea on how many bulbs to purchase, but also a record of which bulbs – their particular blooming habits, height and color – are planted. There are endless opportunities to plant bulbs in landscaping, including around deciduous shrubs and trees, on steep slopes, as ground cover, as well as in borders, perennial beds, rock gardens or containers. Bulbs also are turf-friendly – a great way to naturalize the lawn.

- Most bulbs generally are inexpensive in cost, which is beneficial to the budget, as it generally is recommended that bulbs be planted in large sweeps, or mass plantings, to achieve the best possible impact in landscaping and gardens. In fact, minor bulbs should be planted in numbers of no less than 200 to 300 per area, with the ideal placement of four or five bulbs in a 6-inch diameter hole to achieve the best impact!
- As a rule of thumb, all geophytes should be planted to a depth equaling three times the diameter of the structure. If they are planted too shallow, they will produce new corms

“...all geophytes would be planted to a depth equaling three times the diameter of the structure.”

or bulbs too small to produce flowers, resulting in the primary complaint of “my bulbs produce only green foliage and no flowers”.

- Most geophytes can be easily transplanted in spring while still in leaf or planted in late summer through mid-fall as a dormant structure. Do not remove the foliage until after it has completely withered and dried. Although it becomes unsightly, the carbohydrates produced from these leaves directly support the development of a large and healthy geophyte for a good flower display the following year.
- Flowers of most minor bulbs result in viable seeds, with many species producing seeds that include a small, white lipid-rich appendage called an elaiosome. Ants are attracted to this appendage, which usually has aromatic compounds and is rich in lipids. Ants will carry off the seed and either consume the elaiosome or feed it to the



▲ When planted in large clusters, the giant snowdrop creates a dramatic effect in landscapes, especially at the base of a tree.

developing young, discarding the seed once the elaiosome is devoured. In this manner, the seeds are distributed far and wide and the plants naturalize!

The choices are overwhelming, but of the minor bulbs, some of my “raves and faves” include the genera *Galanthus*, *Eranthis* and *Crocus*. All three prefer well-drained soils and full sun while in

leaf, but since the foliage normally goes dormant in early to mid-May, they are ideal for planting in drifts under shade trees, among shrubs and even in turf. All naturalize readily and as an added bonus – both *Galanthus* and *Eranthis* have proven to be deer resistant!

Galanthus, ‘Snowdrop’, is a true bulb and harbinger of spring, named in 1735 by noted Swedish botanist Carl

Linnaeus (1717-1778). Flowers appear in late February and March. Two readily available forms are the common snowdrop, *G. nivalis* and the giant snowdrop, *G. elwesii*. *G. nivalis* was named by Linnaeus, with the species epithet coming from the Latin meaning “of the snow”. It grows to 8 inches tall, with 1-inch diameter flowers. The common snowdrop also has a double-flowered selection called *flora plena*, in which the extra petals promote a more plump appearance. As the common name implies, the giant snowdrop is

slightly larger, with flowers opening to 2 inches in diameter and stretching 10-to-12 inches high. Also known as ‘Elwes’s Snowdrop’, the plant honors British botanist and entomologist John Elwes (1846-1922).

Eranthis hyemalis, ‘Winter Aconite’, is in the buttercup family and true to its family roots, has bright buttercup yellow flowers in late February and early March. *Eranthis* comes from the Greek “er,” meaning spring, and “anthis” for flower, while the species epithet comes from the Latin “hyems” for winter. Clearly, the



name salutes its season to flower! The flowers appear to sit atop the whirl of foliage, much like a frog perched upon a lily pad. The plants are 4-to-6 inches tall while in bloom and stretch up to 6-to-10 inches after bloom. Introduced from Smyrna, Turkey, in 1892, and in reference to the ancient region of Southeast Asia called Cilicia, *Eranthis cilicica* is another species



◀
To ensure optimum hydration before planting in autumn, soak winter aconite tubers in water for 2-to-4 hours. For successful transplanting, divide an existing clump while it is still in leaf.

The National Gardener Schedule

WINTER

January, February, March
Articles and Advertising
due: November 1

◀ **The blooms of Tom's crocus emerge in early March and range in color from nearly white to lavender-blue.**

that is well worth planting. Compared to its better-known cousin, it blooms one to two weeks later, as well as has smaller leaf segments, larger flowers and purplish-red flower stems. It is great to use both species in the landscaping or garden as they extend the splash of bright color into late winter!

Of the many available selections of crocus, *Crocus tommasinianus*, 'Tom's Crocus', is a much underutilized species that naturalizes readily in the landscape or garden. The species epithet honors Muzio G. Spirito de Tommasini (1794-1879), a mayor of Trieste, Italy, and botanist who discovered the plants growing on the limestone hills of Dalmatia, a region in Croatia. For landscapers, it also is one of the best species for seeding and naturalizing lawns, or for placement under trees.

▶
Crowned with a tessellated orange style, both the inside and outside petals of Bieberstein's crocus are laced with dark blue veins, or nectar guides, which guide pollinators to their rewards.



Due to its slender foliage, it also blends well with turf. Seeds are produced close to the ground, which prevents them from being removed if they are mown before they split open.

A great crocus for the autumn landscaping and garden is *Crocus speciosus* 'Bieberstein's Crocus'. The common name stems from its author – Friedrich August Marschall von Bieberstein (1768-1826), whose military excursions as secretary and aide-de-camp to the Russian General Count Kochovoski allowed him to study and collect plant specimens throughout the Caucasus and Crimea. The open flower – which appears from October into November – measures 2 inches in full bloom and features a light blue base that gradually transitions to darker blue near the tips.

SPRING

April, May, June
Articles and Advertising
due: February 1

SUMMER

July, August, September
Articles and Advertising
due: May 1

FALL

October, November,
December
Articles and Advertising
due: August 1



The sudden appearance of flowers on the surprise (or resurrection) lily after foliage has faded gives rise to the common names.

Of the major bulbs, most gardeners and landscapers have been exposed to the bevy of narcissus, tulips and flowering onion or *Allium* that are on the market. However, one plant that is widely available in catalogues, yet rarely appears in private or public plantings, is *Lycoris squamigera*, or the 'Surprise' or 'Resurrection' lily.

A member of the amaryllis family, the strap-like foliage is reminiscent to narcissus, appearing in the spring and going dormant in mid-June. In late July into August, 2-foot tall stems magically appear, with a whirl of three-to-eight pink trumpet-shaped flowers atop the stems. The flowers typically have a wash or overtone of blue in the trumpet throats, making it fun to combine them with other pink or blue summer bloomers.

Clearly, there are many additional selections of bulbs that add richness and depth to the landscaping and garden that shrubs and perennials simply cannot achieve. As autumn approaches, I urge avid gardeners to examine bulb catalogues or peruse the shelves of a local garden center to discover the many unique and inexpensive plants that

provide an enormous amount of eye appeal to the landscaping and garden! ■

Photos by Bruce Crawford

Bruce Crawford is a longtime proponent of unusual and fun plants. For nearly 25 years, he led his own design-build garden design business that specialized in plantings for year-round interest. One of his outstanding projects was featured in *Fine Gardening*, the popular industry magazine. From 2005 to 2020, Crawford served as director of the 180-acre Rutgers Gardens, the botanical garden of Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey in New Brunswick. As an instructor in the landscape architecture program at Rutgers University since 1987, he also is the state program leader for home and public horticulture at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Crawford lectures frequently to various groups and for continuing education programs.

He has yet to find a plant he does not like!

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