



# Keeping In Touch

MAY 2019



*Nancy L. Hargroves*  
2017-2019 NGC President

Dear Members,

May 1, 2019 is the 90th anniversary of National Garden Clubs being formed. A volunteer organization that has been in existence for that many years is doing something right!

The changing world around us will continue to be a challenge for our organization to retain and gain new members – just as it is for all volunteer organizations. People say that they can get all the gardening information they need from the Internet. They can Google how to prune a rose bush or how to make a floral centerpiece for their dining room table. But nothing beats the hands-on experience of actually doing either task. Garden club meetings, workshops and projects give the hands-on experience with people who have done it before. The Internet cannot do that.

As the 2017-2019 NGC administration is ending, and the leadership is being transferred to the next administration, the topic of leadership comes to mind. In addition to membership, I continue to see another challenge for all of our state garden club organizations and individual garden clubs – filling leadership positions. Members seem hesitant to take the roles of officers, but someone has to lead a group for it to continue.



We often visualize our club as a triangle with the President at the top. Instead, try visualizing it as a circle with everyone working together to accomplish the work of the club. The wreath of all of the state flowers is a beautiful way to see this circle for your club. This wreath illustration was created by Myrta Spence of the Cape Fear Garden Club in Wilmington, NC. It is in the NGC book, *Fulfilling the Dream*, by Mary Cochran (published in 2004).



Service to our communities assures the future of our organizations. Please consider serving your club as an officer. Our country, our environment, and future generations depend on the stewardship our members give to their localities.

National Garden Clubs is an organization composed of dedicated members in our state garden clubs who accomplish great things for our communities and our nation. It has been a pleasure to serve as its President.

Happy 90th Anniversary, National Garden Clubs!

*Nancy*

[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

4401 Magnolia Ave.,  
St. Louis, MO 63110-3406  
(314) 776-7574

[headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)

## GAY L. AUSTIN, PRESIDENT-ELECT



Gay L. Austin, President-elect of National Garden Clubs, Inc., is a native of Liberty, Mississippi, now living nearby in the City of McComb. As a youth, living in rural Mississippi, she helped with her mother's flower and vegetable gardens. Currently, she continues to grow and harvest fruits and vegetables for family use, specializing in making jams and jellies to share with friends.

Gay studied art at Newcomb College in New Orleans, Louisiana and later obtained her nursing degree. In her professional career, she worked as an Emergency Room RN, then as the Office Manager of Southwest Mississippi Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Gay joined the McComb Garden Club in 1986 and she continues to participate as an active member. She has served as chairman and officer of most positions in this club, as well as Club President in 1996-1997. Gay also is a member of the Flower Lovers Garden Club in McComb and the Natchez Garden Club, located in Natchez, Mississippi.

On the district, state and regional levels of garden club, she served in many positions, including Chairman of the 2003 NGC Annual Convention, State Flower Show Chairman, State Awards Chairman and President of the MS Flower Show Judges' Council. She was editor of the state garden club publication, *Miss Gardener*, from 2005 – 2009. She also served in many elected office positions, before serving as the State President of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. from 2009 – 2011.

Gay is a National Garden Clubs Master Flower Show Judge, and NGC Flower Show Schools Horticulture Instructor. She is currently on the Executive Committee of both Keep Mississippi Beautiful and the Mississippi Heritage Trust. Since 2006, she has been an active member of the Pike County Master Gardeners, including serving as President. Gay has been a member of the Amite River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 1975.

In addition to Gay's interest in garden clubs, she is passionate about animal rescue. In her spare time, she serves on the board of directors of PALS Rescue, Inc., a local no-kill animal shelter, of which she is past president, along with chairman of the shelter building committee in 2010. She is also an accomplished

multimedia artist with works in a number of private and corporate collections, many of which have been donated through the years for fundraising events. She has been active in many other local groups, including the Pike County Chamber of Commerce, McComb Junior Auxiliary and Pike County Arts Council, serving as board member and President of each.

She and her husband, Will, live in a rural part of Pike County, Mississippi. They have 5 children with spouses and 10 grandchildren, along with 9 dogs and 2 cats, all of which bring great joy to their lives.

Many years ago, an NGC officer spoke at a garden club meeting. Her words "the service you give to others is the legacy you leave behind," have inspired Gay and strengthened her commitment to her family, her community, her state and National Garden Clubs.

### President Gay Austin's Travel Schedule

- April 4 – 7 Kansas State Convention, Wichita, KS
- April 8 – 10 Indiana State Convention, LaPorte, IN
- April 11 – 14 SCR Convention, Oklahoma City, OK
- April 29-May 3 National Garden Clubs Convention, Biloxi, MS
- May 16 – 19 Wisconsin State Convention, Madison, WI
- May 31 – June 2 Nevada State Convention, Las Vegas, NV
- June 5 – 7 Michigan State Convention, Traverse City, MI
- June 7 – 9 Colorado State Convention, Colorado Springs, CO
- June 9- 13 Oregon State Convention, Klamath Falls, OR
- June 19 – 22 Montana State Convention, Billings, MT
- July 21 – 24 Headquarters Summer Meeting, St. Louis, MO

## MARY WARSHAUER



Mary Warshauer, the 2017 - 2019 NGC Second Vice President, is a lifelong gardening and floral design enthusiast who is dedicated to championing initiatives promoting civic and environmental education.

Through her work at NGC, Mary aspires to bring awareness to the education of future gardeners, arming the next generation with the necessary tools to develop creative new ways to sustain our world.

Born in Patuxent River, Maryland to a military family, Mary quickly learned to adapt to new communities, cultures and climates. As a perpetual “new kid in school,” local organizations became a bedrock of support, instilling in Mary a lifelong passion for community service-oriented projects.

That passion led Mary to first join the Garden Club of Fair Haven in 1987. She would continue to serve in various positions on the district, state and regional levels on her way to joining NGC. In that time, she has served in a variety of positions including CAR Director, NGC Water Quality & Conservation Chairman, Blue Star Memorial Highway Chairman and most recently as Third Vice President. An NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge, Mary served as the President of the Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc. from 2009 to 2011.

In addition to her work with NGC, Mary supports several local philanthropic organizations, such as the Children’s Psychiatric Center Mental Health Services, Visiting Nurses Association, Clean Ocean Action, and serves on the Rutgers Gardens Advisory board.

Mary holds a Bachelor of Science in Child Development/Elementary Education from Florida State University. Mary and her husband Jim have three grown children and currently reside in Rumson, New Jersey.

## BRENDA MOORE



Brenda Moore has been a member of a garden club, Woodland Oaks Garden Club, in Oak Hill, West Virginia since she moved there in 1994. She is a past club and state president. Born in Morgantown, WV, she grew up in Fort Washington, Maryland. She is a West Virginia University alumnus. Her degree is in Family Resources. She has been employed by the Fayette County Board of Education and the Fayette County Public Library system from which she is retired.

Having served as National Garden Clubs’ Third Vice President in 2017-2019, she chaired the Organizational Study and the Award of Excellence committees. She has served as chairman of the Membership committee and is passionate about bringing in younger members and more diversity into our membership. She feels to accomplish this that NGC needs to make some practical changes. Brenda co-authored NGC’s youth book, *The Frightened Frog*, and authored *The Saved Seed*. She will be installed as a four-star member at the 2019 NGC Convention, having completed all four of NGC schools: Gardening School, Environmental School, Flower Show School and Landscape Design School. Brenda will be the first four-star member in her state. Her gardening passions include planting edible gardens, native plants and protecting pollinators. Her husband affectionately calls her a fanatic when it comes to recycling, upcycling, frugality/minimalism and stewardship of our earth.

She and her husband Ron have a daughter, Rebekah married to Andy Smith, and a son, Andy married to Emily. Her seven grandsons, Ethan, Micah, Ben, Noah, Caleb, Josh, and Asher like to help her dig in her garden as do her dogs, Brownie and Baxley.

Brenda feels the most important asset of NGC is its members – their varied personalities, their gardening knowledge, their volunteerism, and their support. She is honored to represent and serve them.

## DONNA ROUCH



Donna was raised on a farm in eastern Nebraska where she learned about life and responsibility. Her family raised a large vegetable garden with a huge potato patch and orchard. As a small child, her first gardening chore was to pick potato bugs off potato leaves. The farm was self-sustaining and visiting the grocery store was only for items such as sugar, spices and coffee.

She attended a one-room country school from first to eighth grade with a total enrollment of ten students. From that small school, she attended Omaha South High School, the largest high school in Nebraska. Quite a culture shock for a country girl!

Donna graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983 from University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1993 from Creighton University. She was employed as a Hospital Pharmacy Director, as a Pharmacy Manager with a home infusion company, and as an adjunct professor in pharmacology at Nebraska Methodist College.

She met her husband in college and they have two sons and five grandchildren.

She has been active as a volunteer for her church and many other organizations but her involvement with garden clubs has given her the most pleasure. She has served as club and Nebraska State President, District Director and Region Awards Chair. For NGC, she has chaired the Membership and Website Search Committees and served on the Nominating and Communications-Non-Print Committees. Donna has completed Landscape Design, Gardening and Flower Show Schools and is currently enrolled in Environmental School.

Donna is honored to serve as NGCs' **Third Vice President** in 2019-2021. She believes change is inevitable. Charles Darwin stated, "It is not the strongest that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." Let us work together to be responsive to changes that allow NGC to grow.

## LYNETTE JEFFRES



When Lynette became a garden club member nearly 20 years ago, she never dreamed that she would serve three terms as state president or that she'd be serving the organization on the national level. Not realizing the true scope of NGC for several years, Lynette continues to be amazed at the impact we have as a collective group. As the daughter of Wyoming farmers/ranchers, she loves all things green and growing.

Professional and community service experiences have prepared Lynette to serve as the **Treasurer** of National Garden Clubs, Inc. A graduate of the University of Wyoming with a BS in Agricultural Business with a minor in Farm & Ranch Management, she's turned her agriculture background, knowledge of accounting, and customer service experience into a thriving accounting practice. Each step along that professional and life path has enhanced her skills and knowledge base. Ten years as the staff accountant for the CWC Foundation provided her with a solid understanding of all facets of non-profit accounting. With the help of fellow officers, she was able to quickly secure the 501(c)3 status for the Rocky Mountain Region.

"Serving my community through volunteerism was ingrained in me as a young child through the modeling of my parents and nine years as a member of 4-H and later Block & Bridle Club at UW. I am in my third term as a member of the Fremont County School District 25's Board of Trustees and am currently serving as chair of the board. My involvement in the community reaches from garden club, to cattlemen, to Fremont County Jr. Livestock Sale Board, and beyond.

I look forward to continuing to grow and expand my garden club horizons during this administration."

## DONNA DONNELLY



A native of Staten Island, New York, Donna moved to Elloree, South Carolina in 2001 when her husband retired. She is the mother of three grown and married sons, and Mimi to four grandchildren, with two more on the way!

When Donna moved to the Southern Hemisphere, she joined the local garden club and held several chairmanship positions before becoming President in 2004. She subsequently volunteered for chairmanships on the state level and became the West Low Country District Director in 2007. This led to moving up the ladder of The Garden Club of South Carolina, holding every Vice President's office, including a brief stretch as Treasurer, and serving as President of The Garden Club of South Carolina from 2017-2019. Donna has also served on the South Atlantic Region Board since 2009, holding several chairmanships and has been elected as the Historian for 2019-2021. Donna will also serve as the NGC **Recording Secretary** during this term.

Donna is a Master Flower Show Judge and was the GCSC State Symposium Chairman. She is a Master Landscape Design Consultant. She is a member of the Dimension in Art Study Club (DIA), Creative Flower Arrangers of America (CFAA), and NGC Flower Arrangers (NFA).

She holds an AA Degree in Nursing and a Registered Nursing Degree from New York State. She practiced nursing for thirty-eight years, specializing and certified in Labor & Delivery and Neonatal Nursing.

Donna is a parishioner of St. Ann Catholic Church. She is a member of the SC Nurses Association, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Staten Island Historical Society Women's Auxiliary, and Elloree Heritage Museum.

## BONNIE BORNE



Bonnie joined the Batesville Garden Club in 1977 and served as president for four years. After serving on the board of directors of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. for 14 years, she served as state president during the years 1999-2001. The theme was "Anticipating a New Millennium of Garden Treasures." In 2003, she served as Director of the Deep South Region and selected "Tomorrow's Visions and Yesterday's Treasures," as the theme, and the project was "Volunteers with 20/20 Vision!"

Over the past 42 years as a Garden Club member, Bonnie has an abundance of treasured memories. She obtained her certification as a Master Flower Show Judge and has served as Flower Show Chairman numerous times and has a passion for writing schedules. She was also honored to judge at the Philadelphia Flower Show in 2014.

At one time during her long term as an avid clubber, she belonged to four garden clubs and gave programs over a four-state radius. She organized the Windstone Garden Club, agreeing to be president for a year to get the members started, however, served for six years. Currently, she is working with a neighbor to organize a men's club in Memphis.

On a personal note, Bonnie has two sons, five grandchildren, and NOW – a one-year-old great-granddaughter Lily.

Four years ago, Bonnie retired her Real Estate Appraisal License, for some relaxation and golden time. Retirement did not mean sitting on the porch and rocking, as anticipated. She is busier now than ever, except without pay -- serving as President of Windstone HOA, a member of the Forever Young Senior organization in DeSoto County, giving programs to garden clubs and civic organizations, volunteering for the Extension Service, and at church. Bonnie will serve as NGCs' **Corresponding Secretary**.

## ANDREA T. LITTLE



Andrea was born and raised in Massachusetts and attended 16 years of Catholic schools majoring in Business Administration and Management. She met and married Bruce, her husband of 48 years, at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina. She thus started her career for the United States Marine Corps as a civil servant in Base Administration for the Marine Corps Exchange

System and as a MCAS El Toro, California Equal Opportunity Employment counselor, serving the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. After Marine Corps transfers and corporate relocations totaling 17 moves, Andrea was able to finally start her history with garden clubs in Gainesville, Florida by attending a Parliamentary Law Unit Study Group where she met a member of the Gainesville Garden Club. Since then, Andrea has traveled extensively all over the world for and with garden clubs for business and pleasure. She has held garden club leadership positions in Florida and Massachusetts which includes Parliamentarian for both Florida and Massachusetts at the local, state and region levels. She is a 45-year member of NAP and has held state offices of recording and corresponding secretary.

Andrea is an accomplished Master Flower Show Judge and Floral Designer with designs published in Design Dimensions (CFAA), Concepts (AFA), and Florida Vision of Beauty calendars. She exhibited at WAFA in Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, Boston and Newport Flower Shows, and judged at the 2014 – 2017 Philadelphia Flower Shows. She has presented floral design demonstrations and workshops in several states.

Andrea considers being appointed NGC Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chairman at the 2013 National Convention by President Nelson as one of the highest honors in her garden club career, serving for six years. Her love and devotion to our Armed Forces are never-ending, ensuring that our Military Service Personnel are never forgotten. You will always know that Andrea is in the building by hearing SEMPER FI – SEMPER FIDELIS – ALWAYS FAITHFUL – which clearly defines her devotion to all projects and assignments. It will continue to be her heartfelt statement as she assumes the position of 2019-2021 NGC **Historian**.

## JOAN H. CORBISIERO, PRP



Joan Corbisiero discovered the parliamentary world after a lifetime of activity in not-for-profit organizations, sparked primarily by her passion for horticulture. However, Joan put down her trowel for a 704-page gold book when she became an RP in 2008 and a PRP in 2009. She is currently a member of the three local parliamentary units or chapters on Long Island, New York, is Secretary of the Parliamentarians of Greater New York Association, Treasurer of the Lee Demeter Registered Parliamentarian Unit, and Secretary of the New York Association of Parliamentarians.

Joan was President of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc. from 1991-1993 and President of the National Chrysanthemum Society from 1989-1991. She was an Accredited NGC Master Judge (but has now gone Emeritus), a New York State Accredited Master Horticulture Judge, and is still a Permanent Master Judge of the National Chrysanthemum Society, serving as Co-chairman of their Judges Schools and Credentials Committee.

Joan has served as NGC **Parliamentarian** since 2007, has worked with municipal organizations, unions, and membership as well as professional societies serving as meeting/convention parliamentarian and bylaw consultant. She also provides Board Training workshops, scripts for presiding officers, and is a frequent presenter at parliamentary seminars.

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## FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™

In Florida, landscapes that are designed to conserve natural resources are called Florida Friendly Landscaping™. In view of climate vulnerability, Florida has enacted statutes that set standards for quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, and are drought tolerant. The governing statute is 373.185 found here, [www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/373.185](http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/373.185). The Department of Environmental Protection has **discontinued** the use of Xeriscaping in statutes and adopted Florida Friendly Landscaping™.

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program targets homeowners, builders, developers, and commercial horticulture professionals. This program helps one to identify and use low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable management practices that ultimately will save time, money, and energy. By selecting the appropriate plants and efficient irrigation systems, a balance can be achieved to fit your aesthetic needs as well as reduce resource use. This program is operated through the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation & Ecology.

Through the nine principles described here, this program helps residential and commercial properties to become a Florida-friendly yard. Ultimately, these Florida-friendly yards help urban environments to reduce their water and energy consumption, to reduce pollutants that enter waterways, and to conserve biodiversity.

These nine principles are:

- Right Plant, Right Place
- Water Efficiently
- Fertilize Appropriately
- Mulch
- Attract Wildlife
- Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
- Recycle
- Prevent Stormwater Runoff
- Protect the Waterfront

Broward County, certifies yards that adhere to the above nine principles through their NatureScape Broward program. Homeowners can be certified and

receive a sign identifying the property as a Florida Friendly Landscape™. However, this program is not enough if we don't practice what we preach. Many garden club members in Florida have adopted these landscaping standards and principles, but to be true "champions" in this serious issue, all NGC members need to be front and center and unified in this issue to make an impact. Spread the word with the scientific facts that have been cited in this document. The time is now to be a "champion."

-Inger Jones

Gardening School Accrediting Chairman, DS&RM  
Regions

## ENVIRONMENTAL, GARDENING, AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

As I write this note the final draft of the Handbook for Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools has been approved by the ES, GS, and LDS Policies Committee.

It will be posted by mid-April. There will also be a separate forms unit to be posted with each school web page to help make your use of forms easier. Please go to the website ([gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)) and find these two postings. This is effective for all three schools now (LD School also has new curriculum effective July 1.)

State Chairmen of the three schools are to begin using the forms now. Download and **save** the blank forms on your computer, they are fillable. *After* saving the newly filled forms again, send them (email) to appropriate NGC Chairmen (as listed on the forms and in the Handbook).

When the Handbook is available, just download onto your computer. You will be able to select the section you are interested in, and print just what you need.

NO PRINT COPY AVAILABLE

-Pat Rupiper

Policies for ES, GS, and LDS Committee Chairman

**A REMINDER THAT NGC SCHOOLS, MULTIPLE  
REFRESHERS, AND SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULES  
ARE NOW LISTED ON THE [NGC WEBSITE](http://www.ngc.org).**

## PLANT NATIVE TO YOUR AREA

Native plants attract birds and butterflies, along with other wildlife to your yard. Native plantings provide food and shelter for wildlife. Once established, native plants require little care as they'll crowd out weeds and won't need much watering.

Check your noxious weed list as some noxious weeds are native, and you don't want them invading your native plantings.

When purchasing native plants, make sure they're chemical free. Avoid using chemicals on all areas that are planted to attract wildlife. Pesticides will kill caterpillars and beneficial insects, along with other creatures, such as toads and frogs, that benefit our gardens. Herbicides will kill the plants that are eaten by the creatures we're trying to attract.

-Marian M. McNabb  
Land Conservation Chairman

## PENNY PINES

Congratulations NGC members for your **TREEmendous** support of the Penny Pines program!

For the calendar year 2018, our combined efforts resulted in sending \$72,828 to our National Forests. That translates into 1,071 Penny Pines Plantations. There are approximately 200 trees planted in one Penny Pines Plantation so that means we have helped supply 214,200 trees that are indigenous (not only pines trees) to areas that have been damaged by fires, insects or natural catastrophes.

Donations came from 44 of our 50 states. I am pleased to announce that the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is the state that submitted the most Penny Pines Plantations.

Please keep up your **TREEmendous** support of the Penny Pines program. Download the donation form from the NGC website under "Ongoing Projects" and then select Penny Pines. Be part of the effort to keep our National Forests beautiful by donating \$68 or multiples of \$68 to NGC's Penny Pines Program.

-Janice Clem  
Penny Pines Chairman

## MEMBERSHIP

B. R. Ambedkar stated, "An idea needs propagation as much as a plant needs watering. Otherwise, both will wither and die." As you all are aware, National Garden Clubs, Inc. and its members have a myriad of ideas that have developed into many goals to protect our love of gardening, our spirit of design and our compassion for "Mother Earth."

NGC values innovation and values its members. It is through our members that great ideas are formed. As members, you are encouraged to speak up with new ideas. NGC will listen, and your voice matters. I understand that at times you may think your idea is nonsensical and people will think you are a dunderhead. That is what the public around Kitty Hawk thought of the Wright brothers. No one in the United States would invest in such a preposterous invention as the airplane. When countries in Europe began investing, the Wright brothers were no longer dunderheads but geniuses!

Increasing new members is an ongoing challenge. What attracts potential members to a garden club? The Membership Committee has spoken about several possible answers to the acquisition question. Advertise garden club membership in places where potential members congregate such as plant nurseries, arboretums, botanical gardens, flower shows, and other events. Advertise in newspapers, radio, television, social media or offer discount memberships at garden club events or donate memberships as auction items for charity events. Once a person becomes a member, it is important to retain the member year after year. For example, greet and announce new member's names at several meetings after they join, give a small gift and a club yearbook, assign a garden buddy to the new member, have permanent name tags, get the new member involved in an activity, call them before every meeting and offer to drive them to the meeting, send them a birthday card, care about them, show them respect, remember to keep meetings short and provide educational or enjoyable activities.

*(continued on next page)*

What are your ideas to increase and to retain garden club membership? For example, Florida Membership Chair, “Florida Jane” suggested gathering membership strategies from all the states and disperse them to all clubs.

So, think out of the box. Be carefree and throw ideas out for all to hear and then see what happens. As people analyze the new idea, a great idea may develop! Remember a lot of great ideas sound absurd at first, and then they develop into something wonderful. But the idea can’t develop unless you tell us about it.

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” Audrey Hepburn

We encourage each of you to help NGC and all its members improve membership acquisition and retention of new members.

-Donna Rouch  
Membership Chairman

## PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

Eighty-two garden clubs won a **PLANT AMERICA** Grant this year, 134% more winners than the 35 clubs in 2018. Many of the applications included all phases of the project. For instance, new and restored gardens covered cleanup of the site, a planting plan/design, soil preparation, installation of plants, labeling/signage, and a schedule for long-term maintenance. The locations of these projects were hospitals, cemeteries, museums, veterans’ parks, historic properties, and schools. In many projects, school children were active participants, helping with the cleanup or planting. Then, after completion, educational programs, tours, and workshops were planned as well as an assortment of local classes on horticulture, nature, conservation and the history of the site or facility. Budgets represented not only the grant money and what the club expected to donate from its treasury, but specifics on the amount contributed by community partners like the

town government, parks, libraries, garden centers, and knowledgeable professionals ranging from horticulturists and naturalists to municipal planners. It is important for future grant applicants to note that detailed accounting of all proposed income and expenses is required.

One application was for the expansion of an existing 7,000 square foot vegetable garden. The additional space would allow the club to install raised beds, support trellises and cages to grow a broader range of produce. The garden currently, through the planting, nurturing, and harvesting by 20 club members supplies 1500 pounds of vegetables each season to a local food pantry. The club has calculated that their produce feeds 700 families.

Nearly all applications were for community gardens. A program in one school, where 47% of the population is below the poverty level, spoke to different NGC objectives. Recent state law had mandated compliance with litter control. Based on the book, “Wartville Wizard,” the club is initiating a school program of litter awareness and prevention. Copies of “Wartville Wizard” will be donated to the individual schools and the public library. This small 20-member club is producing a PowerPoint presentation for grades 1-6. The club is purchasing club-identified, lidded trash cans and garbage bags for four schools to simplify the students’ adherence to the new law. Following a series of cleanup days at the schools, participating students will receive “I AM A SUCKER FOR LITTER CONTROL” stickers and a sucker treat. Later in the spring, an award for the cleanest campus will be presented to the most deserving school.

Reading through applications from all over the USA, from large clubs and small, makes one realize what a significant program Plant America has become. In two short years, over 115 projects have received nearly \$100,000. Many of these would not exist without the inspiration of National Garden Clubs and its donors. Grassroots creativity and implementation along with national encouragement and support – a winning combination!

-Ellen M. Spencer  
**PLANT AMERICA** Community Grants Committee

## WATER FOR GUATEMALA

“Took my breath away!!!” That was the subject line in the email I got from Sister Jan Gregorcich after she received a \$9,377.28 donation from National Garden Clubs, Inc. in August 2018. Sister Jan continued in her email, “This will get us so much closer to finishing the project in Quiejel, Guatemala.” Sister Jan is the Executive Director of Global Partners Running Waters, a charitable organization dedicated to providing clean, running water to remote villages in Guatemala.

Who donated this miracle money? YOU! The donations you make at the individual, club, district, and state levels to NGC’s International Disasters/World Gardening directly benefit Global Partners Running Waters through its ongoing partnership with NGC. Global Partners is a supported ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. I encourage you to learn more about the work of this organization. You can visit any of its social media platforms:

Website: [www.globalpartnersrunningwaters.org](http://www.globalpartnersrunningwaters.org)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gprwaters/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/gprwaters>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GPRWaters/>



Quiejel Water Project pictured on this page  
supplied by Global Partners Running Waters



If you would like to learn from Sister Jan herself about how she realized her dream of bringing water to the people of Guatemala, watch this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtEN222SS6eCflthNCZehjQ/featured>

Contributing is simple. Just visit the Global Partners page on the NGC website: <http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/global-partners.aspx>. It has all the information you need, including my contact information.

Oh, and that project in Quiejel that Sister Jan hoped would be helped along by NGC’s donation? It finished on February 5th! As part of her thank you message to NGC, Sister Jan wrote, “May NGC be blessed for remembering those who have so much less than we do!”

-Cynthia Kozakewich  
International Disasters/World Gardening Chairman

## PLANT AMERICA GRANT AWARDED TO THE GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

Madonna Learning Center is a small independent school and training center for children and adults with special needs. The Germantown Garden Club in Germantown, Tennessee has a long history with Madonna students reading about gardening, planting flowers and making floral arrangements. The club helped to design a garden for the children and adults who will benefit from improved motor skills, enhanced creativity, increased social skills, and improved self-confidence. The ultimate goal will be for the student to grow vegetables and flowers at home.



Recently, the club received notice that they won a **PLANT AMERICA** Grant of \$1000. Shortly after that, they learned the project had won a \$250 **Espoma** grant. With the help of Espoma Representative Bonnie Satterthwaite, the club choose organic potting soil and fertilizer products for the vegetable containers.



This month members of Germantown Garden Club gathered at Madonna to incorporate the bags of potting soil into the raised beds, containers, and in the herb garden area of the student garden. The garden is now off to a great start, and members are ready to help the students to plant their nurtured seedlings they started in the classroom. •

*We invite you to explore the NGC information available on the Internet and promote your club, state, region and NGC on social media.*



Click on any of the icons above for direct links to NGC Social Media

Would your club like to add Blue or Gold Star Memorial Marker photographs to the **NGC Blue Star Memorial Project of NGC**

**Facebook Page?**

Please contact Carol Norquist  
[norquist@alaska.ne](mailto:norquist@alaska.ne)

**National Garden Week**

**June 2 - 8, 2019**

Phyllis White, KIT Editor, [gardens@bresnan.net](mailto:gardens@bresnan.net)  
Jan Sillik, Assistant Editor, [gluegunjan@aol.com](mailto:gluegunjan@aol.com)

Joyce Bulington, Gerry St. Peters and  
Gerianne Holzman, Editorial Review

**Submissions for KIT are due June 1, 2019  
to**

**Gerianne Holzman, KIT Editor**  
[geriannewgcf@gmail.com](mailto:geriannewgcf@gmail.com)