



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

AUGUST-OCTOBER 2009

## GREETINGS from Renee Blaschke, NGC PRESIDENT

2009-2011 THEME - The World Around Us - Love It - Beautify It - Protect It

Summer of 2009 in Texas is on its way to being a record breaker with the heat index and drought conditions we are experiencing. But it appears that worldwide, unusual weather patterns are occurring. Many refer to these changes as Global Warming, others say Climate Change. Still others say nothing has changed. Regardless, each of us must take personal responsibility for our own actions and encourage our family, friends and neighbors to do the same to protect our environment and all it has to offer and provide.

As gardeners we are facing challenging issues struggling to keep our lawns and gardens productive, colorful and pleasing. Even without the necessary rains in many parts of the country, the weeds still appear and seem quite happy in their environment. We walk through nurseries and stand in awe of the beautiful plants with abundant blooms in array of many colors and temptation says "I need you in my garden." However, common sense tells us "No you don't!" Water rationing exists in many of our states and we realize the amount of moisture and care is more than we can provide. Many nurseries are now advocating the importance of using native plants and the nursery industry is increasing their inventories of these plants. As members of the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world, it



is our responsibility and duty as good citizens to set examples for our neighbors and our communities to practice conservation of all of our natural resources. We must look to those native plants that will thrive and produce equal color and add beauty to our landscapes without the necessity of vast amounts of

water and time consuming attention. As conscientious gardeners, we need to bring awareness of the damage being done by use of harmful chemicals for insect, weed and disease control. There are many common household and commercial products available today that will control and or eliminate the problems without poisoning our land, air and water. We must continue to educate the public of the damage that is done by invasive plants. As a designer, I have envied the states that have the kudzu with its tremendous growth patterns and the scotch broom that adds depth and distinction and the ability to shape into "delicious" curves. However, these plants, just two of many, have created devastation to the lands it inhabits. So, to me, this enforces the fact that beauty is not always in the eyes of the beholder!

During the first six weeks of this administration, I have traveled to thirteen states and each state offers a vast array of beautiful plants that tell

me I should take them home. And believe me when I tell you I have been guilty of such action! And ninety-five % of the time, it has proven not to be successful. The old saying of "the grass is always greener on the other side" tempts each of us from time to time. Hopefully, I have learned the hard way that what is beautiful in another state is not adaptable or conditioned for the area of Texas that I call home. I have also learned I do not have to look too far to find another plant, with its own beauty, that will be a better choice for my garden. Life is like that, though, for we are prone to travel to see the sights of the world when there is so much in our own backyard that equal the history, the beauty and the adventure of foreign lands. What can I say but that we are humans and geared to roam! I am one of those that have enjoyed my travels to other parts of the world, and will continue to do so but I am also enjoying the wonders of nature in my current travels in my backyard, the United States.

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In recent travels to parts of the United States that I have previously not visited, I have seen so much beauty that nature provides. I have met many interesting and dedicated members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. I have met the faces behind the names. I am overwhelmed and appreciative of the successful projects and the accomplishments of local garden clubs. I have seen proof that a club does not have to be very large to reach the goals they have set for their clubs. The community service throughout our member clubs is phenomenal. It only takes strong determination and strong will and desire to succeed. More often than not, the local garden club is considered the premier organization in the community.

During this administration, I will promote two major projects that I feel are necessary for the times. First, I encourage you to remember your tenured garden club members who cannot regularly attend monthly meetings but who have been active, dedicated and influential leaders in your club and your community. Remember them with potted daffodils. Bring a ray of sunshine into their day. I am asking clubs to develop mass plantings on the grounds of nursing and assisted living facilities, cemeteries, Blue Star Memorial Sites, public grounds, veteran's homes and/or parks and recreational facilities. Bulk quantities of daffodil bulbs will be available through NGC Member Services and drop shipped to you.

Secondly, partner with an adult organization within your community and a third partner which **must be** an organized youth group (church, school, scouts, FFA, etc) and collectively designate a blighted or unsightly area within your community and develop it into a community garden with fresh produce provided to food pantry's, soup kitchens, elderly, homeless, etc. We need to instill in our youth the importance of volunteerism within their communities while at the same time teach them gardening skills. You have heard it said many times before that

the youth are our leaders (and garden club members) of tomorrow. Work with and encourage their participation. In taking from an article written by June Wood during her administration, I quote from her an old Chinese proverb "All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today". Our youth are our seeds of today. Let's nurture them with love and care to be flowers of tomorrow.

Our virtual gardening school, **Garden Time**, is off to a great start. Our partnership with **Learn2Grow** is proving itself to be a productive step forward. Those who have taken the online course have given it a "thumbs up" with glowing remarks. Check it out on our newly designed website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

**Plant It Pink**, our partnership with the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research is being well received. The beautiful pink birdhouse, designed by Jon Carloftis, well known garden designer and Louisville Stoneware Company, has almost put the company on overtime to meet the demand of orders.

Remember the "Help Membership Grow" contest. This is the close of the first time contest and the winner with the greatest increase in membership during this past administration will have a beautiful canna named for their state. The winner will be announced at the Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis. The contest continues during this administration and the winner will have a strikingly beautiful daylily named for their state. Since the increase is based on a percentage, small states have the ability to compete with the larger states.

My sincere thanks to each of you who have offered encouragement, support and love as together we work and strive to Love, Beautify and Protect our World. How great it is!

May your summer be one of relaxation, family fun and a time to reflect on your past while together we look to the future with great anticipation and success.

Renee

## PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

July 21-26 Fairbanks Alaska - State Convention  
July 30-31 Washington, D.C. -US Forestry Awards  
Aug 3-9 Texas Design Seminars -  
College Station, TX  
Sept 21-22 New England Region -East Windsor, CT  
Sept 28-Oct 4 St Louis, MO - NGC FBM  
Oct 20-21 Plantsville, CT - Awards Meeting  
Oct 26-27 Central Region - Naperville, IL  
Nov 20-25 Monterrey, MX



### Memoriam -

Joan Bonine's husband has passed away in late May. Joan has served on many NGC committees, she is presently serving on the Golden Circle and Organization Study Committees. Cards can be sent to 527 N. Boardwalk, Henlopen Condo #397, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971-2162

### Deadline for the next issue of KIT - October, 2009

Please send information, articles, etc. to

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## BEAUTIFY BLIGHT - LOVE IS - CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY GARDEN - Jeanne Nelson, Chair

“Beautify Blight...Love Is...Cultivating A Community Garden” is one of our National President’s most important “New Projects”. Our Garden Club endeavor is to organize teams made up of a garden club, an organized group and a youth group to develop a community “vegetable” garden. Teams might include Lions, Rotary, church groups as well as 4H, Scouts, church youth groups, etc.

To this end our project invites all garden clubs to look to their communities to form a team. The goal of the project is to successfully start to rebuild and revitalize a piece of “unsightly” property that can become a viable cultivated community “vegetable” garden. The size of the property should be determined by what is available and easily managed by the three joined groups (garden club, adult and youth organizations).

The first steps of the project, once the property has been determined, should involve the needs of the property. The fertility of the soil, fencing, (that is attractive and protective to garden and workers), determining ground level or raised beds for ease of maintenance, availability of water, and town or ownership agreement to use the proposed property.

The money to establish and maintain this project may be obtained through fund raisers, donations and matching grants from the community at large.

Once the property has been planted, maintaining the garden is a shared responsibility of all those concerned. The final phase is finding a group or groups involved in feeding those less fortunate through soup kitchens, meals served at church kitchens, Meals on Wheels, etc.



### Guide Lines for “ Beautify Blight...Love Is ...Cultivating A Community Garden”

1. A one or two page description of property being used by the 3 team organized group.
2. Pictures of before and progress of garden project.
3. Project may be one (1) or two (2) year endeavor; so stated in description.
4. Deadline to be submitted.....January 20, 2010.
5. Beautify Blight Chairperson to receive all Books of Evidence (1 or 2 pages and a few photos).
6. Certificates will be awarded by National President.

Chairperson: Jeanne T. Nelson  
143 So. Harrison Ave.  
Congers, NY 10920-2229  
845-268-6220  
jtnelson@optonline.net

## MEMBERSHIP - MAKE MEMBERSHIP BLOOM CONTEST - Adrienne Langan, Contest Chair

### Make Membership Bloom

To stem the tide of declining membership and bring about a surge of new members, National Garden Clubs is once again sponsoring an exciting state-wide Membership Contest whereby the state with the greatest percentage increase in members will have a new Daylily cultivar named in its honor.

This new National Garden Clubs Membership Contest will run from June 1, 2009 until March 31, 2010. The winner will be announced at the 2010 Convention. Members from the winning state, as well as those from across the country, may order directly from the grower at a cost of \$15 (including shipping charges) as long as supplies last. Daylilies will be shipped by the grower at the appropriate planting time.

This Daylily, being grown by Dr. Jack Roberson of American Daylily & Perennial Company, has a striking 5-inch pale pink bloom with a dramatic cardinal red eye, as well as cardinal red picotee edges on 25 – 27 inch scapes. It is an extremely healthy and hardy repeat bloomer with evergreen foliage, and is sure to be an exciting addition to our gardens.

Encourage your club to participate in activities to make membership bloom!

## MEMBER SERVICES - GOLDEN DAYS - Carole Iuso, Chair

### MUCH TO CELEBRATE!!!

Member Services has been busy lately. We are very excited about our wonderful new additions!!

The President's Project, "**Golden Days**" will promote planting daffodils throughout our country.

To promote this project, NGC has arranged to have two special "Golden Days - Daffodil" offerings created especially for NGC. An American Company, Colorblends, will be the supplier for these selections. To order for fall delivery, please call Colorblends directly at 1-888-847-8637 or visit their website [colorblends.com](http://colorblends.com). You may also visit the NGC website to view pictures of these beautiful daffodil collections.

The two offerings are: **Master Blend** ~ This hybridizer's blend offers a selection of at least 50 tall and mid-sized varieties. You will be introduced to colors and forms you have never seen before. These daffodils are selected from a hybridizer's private collection. Order while supplies last!

**Golden Harvest** ~ This variety is bright yellow, vigorous and long lasting.

Prices for each offering: ( Order in multiples of 50)

50 bulbs	\$50.00
100 bulbs	\$96.00
500 bulbs	\$470.00

Add 10% of order total for shipping east of Miss (\$8.00 min.). Add 15% of order total for shipping west of Miss. (\$12.00 min.) Sorry, no shipments to Alaska or Hawaii. Each bulb is 10cm and will produce 2 - 3 flowers.

Members and friends will be able to order daffodils at wholesale prices. Forty percent (40%) of the purchase price of these daffodil selections goes to support the projects of NGC. (If your club would like to have a PDF of the color flyer, please contact me.)

**Native Plant Earrings** have just arrived. Price per pair is \$12.00 and the price for 24 or more pairs is \$9.00 per pair.

**Pierced earring adaptors** have also arrived. These adaptors will allow you to convert any pair of pierced earrings to clip earrings. Price for two pair \$6.00

**Member Services Stimulus Coupon:** Please visit the NGC website for the stimulus offering on our 2009 Vision of Beauty Calendar. Don't miss this great coupon!!!

The new **2010 Vision of Beauty Calendar** is being reprinted and is scheduled for delivery the beginning of August. Visit our website to download an order form. Prices range from \$3.50 to \$5.95.

The new Member Services Catalog will arrive in late August. Everyone at Member Services thanks you for your wonderful support and looks forward to serving you and your garden club's needs.

## CALENDAR COMMITTEE Jan Warshauer, Chair

### 2010 VISION OF BEAUTY

Address correction for submission of photos for the *2011 Vision of Beauty*

Jan Warshauer, Calendar Chair  
PO Box 680363  
3663 Oak Wood Ct.  
Park City, UT 84068

"Due to the poor quality of the photos in the 2010 Vision of Beauty Calendar, the printer will reprint this edition of the calendar. Headquarters has stopped the sale of the calendar until the new shipment arrives. There will be a statement in the next TNG."

Jan Warshauer, Calendar Chairman

## TOUR MEXICO CITY - Guyneth Priem, Tour Chair

### Mexico City Flower Show and Tour

Our friends in Mexico City have asked NGC Judges to Judge their 2010 Flower Show. It is being put on by the two oldest and largest clubs in Mexico City.

We have put together a tour and kept expenses at a minimum. Fly Continental from Houston to Mexico City, March 17th, judge the Flower Show the 18th, do some sight seeing, shopping, etc., on the 21st we will fly to Acapulco. We will visit the Botanical Garden (beautiful). Esther Salinas Garden Club did it all. You will love the setting and view! Then back home again on the 23rd. Everything for the low price of \$1,444.00, including air r/t from Houston, Hotel and daily breakfast. Send deposit of \$300. to either Deana or Guyneth. Contact Deana Roberts 713/666-3838 or Guyneth Priem 713/664-5831 for more information.

Enrich your garden club by adding new members. (Compost is to plants as new members are to a garden club.) A new membership contest is underway with a prize of a gorgeous daylily that could be named for your state. Learn more from the Fall Issue of The National Gardener.

## NGC AWARDS

Bobbie Verser, Chair

It is evident that many state Awards Chairmen and state Presidents are already hard at work making plans for wonderful projects and events that will be eligible for NGC awards. Planning ahead is so very important, and it appears that many of you are working together in your states. This is great!

**State Presidents**, remember that you have been asked to be “detectives”. If you hear of something that would be eligible for an award, please pass the information on to your Awards Chair.

Now a quick word or two to **Awards Chairmen** “Reach Out!” - If you sit back and wait for books of evidence and applications to come to you, your state may not have nearly as many entries as others. When you hear of an activity, event, publication, etc. that qualifies for an NGC award, reach out and contact the club president to be sure that they are aware of the NGC award number and the steps to take for entering. Deadlines are important!

**The NGC Listing of Awards for 2009-2011 will be on the NGC Website and in *The National Gardener*, 2009, fall issue. Keep this issue of *The National Gardener* in a safe place and refer to it often.**

Best of luck to all of you. Please contact members of the Awards Committee if help is needed.

Bobbie Verser - 2949BV@Rittermail.com

## SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY

OWL -Elaine Dates, Chair

National Garden Clubs announced at their Annual Meeting in Texas that out of over 17,000 posters The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl winners for 2009 were:

- 1st Grade - Vijeya Revankar of the Nassau Bay GC in Texas
- 2nd Grade - Vaibhavi Patankar of the West Valley GC of California
- 3rd Grade - Helen Sun of the Flemington GC of New Jersey
- 4th Grade - Austin Hilton of the Concord GC of Georgia
- 5th Grade - Kylee Vaughan of the Muskogee GC of Oklahoma

Each of the students will receive a \$100.00 Savings Bond and the Grand Prize Winner, Helen Sun, will be honored with a ceremony at the USDA Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Look for these winning posters on NGC's website soon. You will also find the forms for the 2010 contest. The Forest Service also awarded a trophy to the state chair with the most participants in the contest and this year that was Ronna Precure of Arkansas. Schools are forming curricula now and summer camps are organizing activities, it is not too early to leave materials.

Congratulations to every garden club member who took the time to introduce the world of conservation and protection to students. You all are winners!

## HORTICULTURE

Cathy Felton, Chair

NGC Presidential Plants

How many members know about NGC Presidential plants? Do you have Narcissus 'Deen Day' planted in your garden? How about Hosta 'Barbara May' or Iris 'Barbara May'? Did you know that there was a Gladiolus named 'Kitty Larkin'? The Horticulture Committee would like to hear from all NGC members who have any NGC Presidential plants? Send all your answers to: **Cathy Felton, 42 Wm. Fairfield Dr., Wenham, MA 01984 or [camafelton@comcast.net](mailto:camafelton@comcast.net)**

1. Do you have (or did you have) any NGC Presidential plants in your garden?
  - a. If yes, how long have you had the plant(s)? Are they successful?
2. Did you get your plant at a NGC meeting?
3. Did you buy your plant from a nursery, garden center or plant society?

Please include your town/city and state with your information. Also the growing conditions in your garden (sun, shade, clay soil, sandy soil, etc.)

An article will be written about the NGC Presidential plants in the future. We hope to include the survey results too!

## The World Association of Flower Arrangers USA -2009 Excursion Botanicus Sharon Yantis, Publicity/Public Relations Chair

Flower arrangers from around the world will be in the U.S. for a workshop and seminars October 9-19, 2009. The Wafa delegates from each of the 30-member countries, were chosen by their country to represent them at this international conference. In addition to Chicago, delegates will tour the Brandywine Valley and Washington DC.

The United States is designated as host country for 2009-2011 which culminates with the 10th World Flower Show, in June 2011 in Boston. The National Flower Arrangers, Creative Floral Arrangers of the Americas and the Assembly of Flower Arrangers all in the US have joined talents to arrange this extravaganza featuring more than 600 excellent

floral designers.

Visitors are invited to view the creative designs of US designers free of charge during the Chicago and Washington DC scheduled dates. For a schedule of activities and registration, please go to Wafa USA Website: [www.WafaUSA.org](http://www.WafaUSA.org).

**One Voice — a whisper ... Two Voices — a dialogue ...  
Three Voices — a discussion ... Four Voices — a  
ground swell for action**

"It all begins with just one voice, but with more voices, it becomes a roar that cannot be ignored. As Garden Club members, we have the potential and the power to make positive changes happen in our communities and our environment. The efforts we make working together can change the world for everyone." (KIT November 2007)

Opportunities to have our voice heard are limitless as the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress attempts to work on pending legislation. Their time for action shortens as their dates to meet as a body decrease with the summer month's schedule. The recesses and at-home work days provide excellent opportunities to make appointments with members of the House and Senate. There is information on the NGC website in the Legislation *HOW TO SERIES* on talking with our Congressional Representatives. The user friendly link is: <http://www.gardenclub.org/Resources/Legislation.aspx>. Congress observes all National Holidays and normally is not in session on weekends. Summer recess dates (at-home work days) differ slightly for the House and Senate. Senate Dates: Aug. 10–Sept 7. House dates: Aug. 3 – Sept. 7. For an appointment call their office and ask to speak with their Staff Scheduler or the person responsible for making appointments.

Although there are hundreds of pieces of legislation currently before Congress, a few important WATER related bills have our major attention for this issue of KIT.

**S. 787. The Clean Water Restoration Act**, was introduced by Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to restore protections for waterways throughout the country that impact the drinking water of more than 100 million Americans. Feingold's Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) would ensure protections for rivers, streams and wetlands, which were long protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA), but are now in jeopardy of losing protections as a result of two recent Supreme Court cases. Since those decisions more and more waters continue to be stripped of protections previously provided by the CWA, which became law in 1972. The CWRA is additionally co-sponsored by twenty-four Senators.

The current good news from Capitol Hill on the status of the CWRA is – On June 18<sup>th</sup>, in a packed hearing room, the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) passed an amended version of S. 787 by a vote of 12-7. Prior to the vote a number of amendments to weaken the bill were introduced. All were soundly defeated. Although these were kept out of the bill, some before hand compromises were made. The substitute bill however contained many of the important provisions in the original

bill as introduced by Sen. Feingold. This was great news. The bill will now move to the Senate floor for a vote. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> no date for a Senate vote was scheduled. A follow-up message will be prepared as soon as vote date information becomes available.

**Current Action Needed: Make phone calls, write letters and send emails to your Senators sharing the importance of their casting a YES vote for CWRA when it comes before the Senate. Direct Communication is the only way your Senators will know that you strongly believe passage is needed to strengthen the Clean Water Act of 1972. Be ready to make additional phone calls when we believe the final vote by the Senate is expected.**

**On June 18<sup>th</sup> three additional water related bills were passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee** and will move at some date to the Senate floor for a vote.

**S. 878. The Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2009** (aka the Beach Reauthorization bill). This bill requires rigorous beach water quality testing and public notification standard so that beach goers are timely informed about the safety of their beaches. In addition the legislation would broaden the scope to include pollution source tracking and prevention efforts to help avoid beach closures in the first place.

**S. 937. The Sewage Overflow and Community Right to Know Act.** The bill would require communities to be notified within 24 hours of a sewage overflow discharge into their local waterways in an effort to prevent the number of human illnesses caused by contact with untreated sewage.

**S. 933 Contaminated Sediment Remediation Reauthorization Act** (Great Lakes Legacy Act). This bill would increase the level of funding for cleanup of contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes region by threefold.

**Members of the Government Action Committee are:** Susan Robinson, [rerob@mac.com](mailto:rerob@mac.com), representing the New England, Deep South and Pacific Regions; Dottie Sivess, [dotsivess@yahoo.com](mailto:dotsivess@yahoo.com), representing the South Central, South Atlantic and Rocky Mountain Regions; and Wanda Davis, [wsdavis2@verizon.net](mailto:wsdavis2@verizon.net), representing the Central Atlantic and Central Regions. These ladies will be working directly with Region and State appointed Government Action and Legislation Chairmen.

"We Live in the House We All Build"

Marion Hilliard NGC Government Action Education Chair  
[marionh@bellsouth.net](mailto:marionh@bellsouth.net)

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

### NEW ENGLAND REGION KATHLEEN M. THOMAS

New England Region's theme is "The Future Starts Today" and our first meeting will be held July 29th at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Wellesley. NER will help facilitate states' involvement with programs to improve blighted areas, working with volunteers and businesses creating beauty where there was none. I have been involved with a project where, in six hours, 35 volunteers transformed a rundown urban YWCA into a cheerful retreat.

The Annual Meeting September 21-22 will be hosted by Connecticut. Starting the meeting is a trip to the Hartford Science Center where the FGC of CN created a Children's Garden. States will participate in a design challenge "Trash Can Creative" and our three southern states will present a program on how recycling equates rewards. The New England Wild Flower Society will present a program on their new propagating facility at Nasami Farm.

I look forward to two productive and exciting years promoting the mission for NGC and the NER project "Be Responsible Stewards of the Land".

### CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION CARMINE DE VITO

Our Central Atlantic Region is busy working on the different projects that our NGC President Renee Blaschke challenged us with in Houston. My theme: "Because of You and What You Do, Makes Our World A Better Place" will fit in nicely with our president's projects. I am also very interested in increasing 'Membership' among our seven states and will make it a top priority for my administration. Membership is important to remain successful! We all had a chance to join a garden club by a special friend who invited us to their garden club. Now is the time to be that special friend to someone else --we need to simply reach out.

The CAR is looking forward to attending the Fall Conference in Tarrytown, New York October 30 through November 1. Lynne Arnold and Jeanne Beryl Metz chairman and co-chairman of the conference - 'Half Moon Over the Hudson' are planning a great fall conference.

### SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION CAROLYN GOLDEN PATTERSON

The five states in the South Atlantic Region are busy making plans to fulfill the vision of our NGC President Renee Blaschke; Each have chairmen for the "Beautify Blight", "Golden Days", and "Plant It Pink" Projects and several are offering awards for the best efforts with these. The Region will also be giving \$25 awards to the club(s) that have the most outstanding projects fulfilling the objectives. In addition this director is offering a \$50 award during the second year of her term to a club in each state of the region that has done the most to promote and implement the SAR's "Good Soil" Project. A \$100 Award will be given to the state that has the best promotion and implementation of this project.

The regional theme is "Color Our World - Pass On Our Gardening Heritage". The NGC President's Projects give ample opportunity for the use of color as we pass on to our children our love of designing, planting, growing, and arranging the fruits of our labors.

### DEEP SOUTH REGION MARY SUE COLVIN

The theme selected for the Deep South Region is "Together as One - Our Hands and Hearts are P.O.W.E.R" (Protecting Our World's Environment and Resources). Garden club members in the DSR definitely have the power to make a difference in our region as we educate and motivate our fellow club members, our community members and our youth to **think, act and live greener**.

The Deep South Region's Unified Project is "Protecting Our World - Living Green - Living Clean." Garden club members of the DSR have always recognized the seriousness of protecting the environment and our natural resources - but it is no longer a serious matter - it is now a critical matter. We must concentrate on living green and living clean in every aspect of our lives - and we must bring this message and include practical solutions for environmental issues to our communities.

G. R. I. T. S. (Gardeners Residing in the South) are going green and clean as we join our hands and hearts together as one in 2009 - 2011.

### CENTRAL REGION JOAN A. HOOD

The Central Region is planning a meeting of its Executive Board members on July 13 at National Headquarters in St. Louis. This meeting is designed to establish a footing upon which the Board will function for the next two years. Plans are well under way now for the CR Convention to be held in Naperville, Illinois, October 25, 26 and 27, 2009. Julie Hansen is chairing this event which should prove to be exciting for all CR members to attend. More information will be forthcoming in the near future. Our National President will be attending this event.

A theme of "The Future is Now" will be used by this administration to help further the goals of our National President Renee Blaschke. We shall ask our states to encourage our youth to "Beautify Blight" and our "Golden Days" chairman, Cathy Moore, is already feeding information to the seven state presidents in the region. The next two years will be a challenge financially but we are hoping to present a budget which will reflect the state of our Central Region's economy.

### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION MARY ANN MORENO

Greetings from South Central Region, our four States: Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, have taken our new National President Renee Blaschke's goals of "Beautify Blight" and "Golden Days" to heart. Nancy Voyles from Arkansas is our SCR Chairman who is working with all four states on various projects to clean up and plant neglected areas, establish community gardens at schools, hospitals and Nursing facilities and get communities and organizations involved with Garden Clubs. Suzy Andrego from New Mexico is our experienced Daffodil expert and grower. Many daffodil bulbs will be planted in all SCR States under her direction.

Our 2007-2009 \$1000 SCR Scholarship given in honor of Past Director Linda Whetsell, was awarded to William Towle, a Junior attending the University of Arkansas. SCR members look forward to the challenge of Reuse - Reduce - Recycle "To Protect our Beautiful World".

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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION  
SANDRA DENNIS**

The Rocky Mountain Region is finally enjoying the late arrival of “summer in the Rockies” A number of our eight states have been blessed with unusually frequent spring rain making the plains and high prairies very green and reservoirs reaching the full level. This follows many years of drought so while we tire of the cloudy days, the moisture has been a great relief for our trees and other vegetation. Of course, with spring rain has come several bad hail storms, thus many gardens are having to regrow following severe ‘hail-pruning’ or late planting.

Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming had state conventions in May or June with NGC President Renee attending as special guest, and annual conventions in Utah, No. Dakota, & So. Dakota have also been held. Nebraska and Kansas had April conventions, thus, our state presidents for the 2009-2011 terms are all installed and beginning to focus on National, Regional, and local projects.

**PACIFIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
SANDRA FORD**

Las Vegas was a fun town for a convention where I was installed by Barbara May on April 2nd. Presidents of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska were installed by Renee Blaschke during June and July. In June at California’s convention the highlight was a design program and workshop by Tony Todesco. Washington treated National President Renee Blaschke to a summer carnival with a historical costume fashion show. Her next stop was visiting Idaho for the first time. A tour of two secret gardens made her envious of the large variety of flowers and plants gardeners grow there. In Wyoming a new state president was installed.

Many of the states in this region depend heavily on our butterflies and bees as pollinators. While the northern part of the region has received some needed rain and snowfall this year, our bird population is enjoying a better year. Most of our songbirds will be heading south for the winter which is suffering from another drought season. All gardeners are encouraged to do as much as they can to protect and feed these precious creatures. We can make a difference with just food and water during their migration.