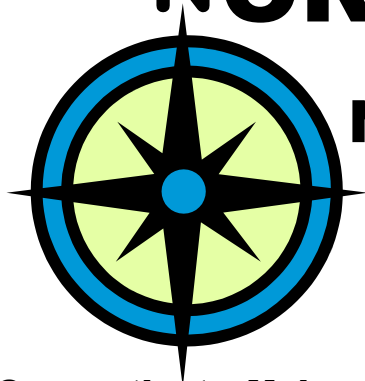


NORTHERN EXPOSURE



Newsletter of the New England Region of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Connecticut – Maine – Massachusetts - New Hampshire - Rhode Island - Vermont

April 2015

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As my term as your director winds down I just want to say how much I enjoyed representing you, coming to your events and meeting so many members. It has been a busy but wonderful two years. I want to thank all of you for your help and encouragement during my term. At the NER Luncheon during the NGC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, I will be handing the gavel to Vera Bowen. Most of you know and love Vera, who is so capable, kind and is a credit to our region. Our speaker during the luncheon will be our very own Cathy Felton. Her new topic, "Spectacular Gardening in New England," will be a starting point for our gardening season, which lies just beneath the piles of snow.

For those who are still on the fence about attending the NGC convention, please do join us. It promises to be an exciting convention, with great tours. Sandra Robinson will be installed as our national president, along with our state presidents (those who will have been installed in their states). The deadline to register is April 15; deadline for the hotel is April 19. Details are in *The National Gardener* and on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org.

You all may have heard by now that NGC is proposing an increase in dues. Each state will have to add 50 cents for each member, if voted in the affirmative at the convention business meeting. President Linda Nelson has explained this necessity. Cuts have already been made as far as possible. Our restricted funds cannot be used except for what were originally intended. We are not getting as much income due to decline in membership nationally and sales in Member Services are way down. When we realize that dues have not been increased for 20 years, it may be said that the time has come. This is never a popular subject, but I thought the explanation given by our president might be helpful.

Our states were served by hard-working, enthusiastic presidents with good and creative ideas. I wish to thank them for their service. So many worthy projects have been done in each state. I hope the fruits of our labor will be honored at the Awards Banquet.

Thanks again for a wonderful two years.

Maria

Maria Nahom
NER Director 2013-2015

When you receive this newsletter, please feel free to forward it to anyone you believe would be interested in reading it. It is the property of the New England Region of the National Garden Club but we hope that you will freely share it with other garden club members and the general public.

Nancy Atwell, NER Newsletter Editor

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Presidents' Reports

NHFGC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Hampshire, as well as all of our New England States, endured record breaking snowstorms and cold temperatures this past winter! In my fall message, I had mentioned the importance of snow in our gardens and how beneficial it can be for insulation, hydration and protection. I take that back! I should have said in moderation! Hopefully, our gardens and landscapes will have survived and soon the snowdrops and crocus will show their pretty little heads above the melting snow.

My 2013-2015 term of office will come to an end this May so this will be my last President's message for the Northern Exposure. I can't believe how fast two years can fly by! We are planning our Annual Meeting and Installation of new officers on May 27th at the beautiful Eagle Mountain

NHFGC President's Report – continued

House in Jackson, NH. I have so enjoyed serving in this capacity and am very proud of our amazing NHFGC. New Hampshire embraced my theme "Bee Aware, Bee Concerned and Bee a Friend to Pollinators" with open arms. All of our 20 clubs planted for pollinators and had programs detailing the importance of Mason Bees, Butterflies and our declining Honey Bees. Most of our clubs do not meet in January and February, although committees begin planning future programs as well as plant sales, garden clean ups and Flower Shows.

This year, NHFGC is hosting the NER Annual Meeting, which will be held on October 21st-22nd at the Portsmouth Harbor and Event Center in Portsmouth, NH. Details and registration information is available on the NER Website, as well as in this edition of the Northern Exposure.

The 2015 NHFGC Symposium will be held on September 2nd-4th at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH. Registration and information are available on the NER Website and this issue of the Northern Exposure. NHFGC has put a lot of effort into organizing these events and hope many of you will attend. The venues are lovely and the programs and speakers are outstanding.

I am looking forward to the NGC Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, this coming May. It is such a wonderful experience to see all of the great friends that I have made over the years and the hopes of making new ones! It has been a privilege serving as NHFGC President.

Hugs and Bee Happy,

Michelle Mensinger
NHFGC State President



Michelle is dreaming of this Spring Garden at her house

**While this is the Reality of
Michelle's Winter Garden**



Greetings from Vermont

It's difficult to believe that I won't be saying that again as FGCV President. The time has flown by and the new team/administration will be taking over on June 1, 2015, following the FGCV Annual Meeting. By that time the new National team/administration will already have been installed. That installation happens in May at the NGC Annual Convention in Louisville, KY.

The past 2 years have been fun (many new friends that I enjoy being with), adventurous (for our Member Clubs, the FGCV and me), rewarding (watching and helping Members grow and get involved), frustrating (that I don't have enough time to accomplish all I had hoped), and many other emotions along the way. They have also provided such a wonderful list of opportunities, I wouldn't know where to start if forced to make the list. We've accomplished a lot of "firsts" for the state. The biggest "first" began in the previous administration when it was voted and passed that the FGCV eliminate the Spring meetings and replace it with Spring District Meetings, at the President's discretion.

This administration built upon that groundwork and actually conducted Spring District Meetings last April, and has scheduled the three District Meetings for this coming April. These District Meetings were/are kept very casual. We are a small state and we've kept these District Meetings to FGCV Board members living within each respective District. They are held in a location as close to central as possible for that District and at a venue without costs, (i.e., churches, private homes, schools, etc.) We have a pot luck lunch following the meeting. Everyone brings a dish to share. We are encouraging our in-coming Member Club Presidents to join us at this April's meetings. Personally, I find that attendees seem more relaxed and willing to get involved in conversations and they provide a broader spectrum of ideas and possible solutions to various issues. This creates a wonderful win-win situation.

This coming April's meetings will provide opportunities to discuss *How to 'Set-Up'* our successors so they succeed in their term goals and ambitions, tips on how to recruit, where is the money going, making your voice count, and an evaluation of Spring District Meetings for recommendation to the in-coming President.

At last April's District Meetings I announced a state-wide project to track and monitor community volunteer hours by each of our 17 Member Clubs. As of this writing I have received reports from 4 of those Member Clubs. The dollar value of their combined community volunteer hours totals \$68,305.41. How fortunate these communities are that they have a Garden Club in their community. I know these numbers will rise considerably once I receive more reports. Great Job!

FGCV held its semi-annual State Flower Show this week as part of the Vermont Flower Show in Essex Junction, VT. A special thank you to all judges who traveled great distances in this never ending winter to help judge the show. Although all reports are not yet in, we were told that we earned enough points to qualify for an award. The entire show is beautiful and definitely provides a taste of Spring. Thank you to everyone that participated in any way to make this such a success.

It has been a rewarding journey and I thank everyone for their contributions. I will continue to be involved in other capacities throughout the organization. It is however time to pass the gavel on and move forward.

Thank you all,

Rita B. Langlais
FGCV President
2013-2015



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Club President's Report

All of New England breathed a collective sigh of relief as everyone flipped the calendar page to March, the month of the Vernal Equinox, the return of Daylight Savings Time, and the promise of warmer weather. We are now encouraged with thoughts of the disappearance of the blanket of snow covering our gardens as we contemplate spring.

Before we think about sunny days ahead, it is appropriate to recognize the events and people who made our historically cold and snowy winter not only bearable, but fulfilling. The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs celebrated the winter holidays at our annual holiday luncheon, with a delicious menu, an entertaining and informative program by Bill Graham, "Balsam and Bling," and a chance to enjoy fellowship with our many Federation friends. We were especially honored that our special guest, NGC President Linda Nelson, flew here from Washington (state) just to be with us. It was also an opportunity to see and purchase our second, new-and-improved, 12-month garden calendar. Proceeds of the sale are designated for our Habitat for Humanity budget to replenish our funds for purchasing the trees and shrubs which will be planted at a HFH home in Bristol this spring.

Our annual standard flower show, "The Spirit of Adventure," a bright star of the Rhode Island Flower and Garden Show, was a real challenge this year. Designers were thwarted by the unavailability of ordered flowers, horticulture entries were expected to be scant, especially arboreal specimens, and the hard work of preparing staging was all the more difficult as a handful of members cleaned, painted, and assembled it all, with travel conditions preventing many from getting to the Convention Center in Providence. Quite a number of our designers graciously agreed to create more than one design. As they say, "the show must go on!" and it certainly did, one of the best we've had. We were particularly thrilled with an amazing 140 horticulture entries and their excellent condition, the Youth Division's decorated sailboats and a superb effort in our Men's Challenge Class. New this year was our Photography Division, with 47 entries, of which 12 award winners were displayed within the show. All were of such excellent quality that the remaining photos were exhibited at the show's entrance. In addition to RIFGC members, Bonni Dineen's Curbs & Cobblestones Garden Club in Lowell, MA, made an impressive contribution to this division and we thank them for their entries.

This year we will celebrate the 85th anniversary of RIFGC with a trip to Costa Rica in March and a flower show featuring RI artists in the fall. We congratulate and applaud Vera Bowen, who will take on the Directorship of the New England Region. When we next turn the calendar page to April, we will find ourselves with a new RIFGC president, Cathy Moore, new officers and a new board, to be installed at our 2015 annual meeting. An outstanding program of floral design, as well as a lovely luncheon and availability of exciting vendors will be available.

I have enjoyed my term as the RIFGC president very much, look forward to my continued presence on the board and enthusiastically anticipate continuing the wonderful friendships that I have been fortunate to form with other members of the NER board.

Sandi Tinyk
President, Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs



Promoting, Preserving, Protecting with the Gardeners of the Garden Club Federation of Maine

Winter has never been my favorite season. In fact I tell all those who will listen that I chose to live in Maine for the wonderful seasons of Spring, Summer and Fall – DEFINITELY NOT WINTER! This year I can say that I have had enough of winter to last me for the next 3 years. But that may not be the case. I'm trying to stop "whining" and concentrate on the delightful garden catalogs and all the exciting new plants for 2015. As the old saying goes "this too shall pass." Winter I hope will soon just be a bad memory.

Scheduling meetings for everyone has been a challenge in January and February. If you had the same problems, you are probably trying to play catch up. Thank goodness we have email so at least many things can be resolved. It has been very sad for many of our garden clubs who have had to cancel interesting programs, but they hope to re-schedule speakers in the future.

In January, I announced that the new website of GCFM would be launched the first of February. With the weather we had many delays. We have our new website launched now! Please be sure to visit it: www.mainegardenclubs.org. The company we contracted to build the new website has been and is great to work with. The website committee members now admit that it was much more work than expected, but we are delighted with the results. With new ventures there are always little things that need to be resolved and improved upon. We feel that over the next couple of months all of those will be taken care of.

I can hardly believe that the end of this President's term is fast approaching. Before the final "curtain" there are still many exciting events. District Meetings with installations, Garden Club annual meetings with Club Presidents being installed, the NGC Convention in Louisville and on June 17 & 18 the GCFM State Convention in Kennebunkport, Maine. The annual meeting to be held on the 18th will include the installation of Suzanne Bushnell as the new GCFM President. She is very excited about moving up and has many plans for the 2015-2017 term. We welcome her into the Presidency and wish her the very best.

In March the Camden Garden Club begins their year-long celebration of 100 years as a Garden Club. Camden was also a founding member of the Garden Club Federation of Maine in 1931. What a long and rich history the Club has established! Clubs organized and Federated in the 1930s and 1940s will also be celebrating their Garden Club history this year. We are very proud of what so many gardeners have done to make the state of Maine GROW!

It has been an honor and a privilege along with hours of enjoyment serving as President of the Garden Club Federation of Maine for the past two terms. I feel fortunate to have been able to work with the garden club members of Maine, National and the New England Region. I look forward to continuing these relationships and have no plans to disappear. So I look forward to seeing you at future garden club meetings and events.

As I look forward to Spring I am reminded of this quote from Henry VanDyke: "The first day of spring is one thing and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." I try to remember this and be patient as the days move closer to spring!

Happy Gardening to each of you!!

Kathleen Marty
President, Garden Club Federation of Maine



Kathleen's Winter Garden

***"Bee Kind to Pollinators:
Plant Natives
Create Backyard Habitats"***

Our Connecticut State Theme to help pollinators was chosen over 3 years ago. We designed two contests to Plant Native Trees and to Certify Habitats with the National Wildlife Federation. Since that time we have been so gratified to see all the "buzz" surrounding this issue. A bee made the cover of *Time* magazine. Two years ago National Garden Clubs, Inc. affiliated with Crown Bees and launched their BeeGap program as well as efforts to help Monarch butterflies. Our New England regional theme revolves around wildlife.

Meanwhile, Connecticut clubs have responded to the call by planting hundreds of native trees and creating dozens of habitats. Together we have changed the landscape of the state to benefit pollinators and all our wildlife. By careful planting and foregoing pesticides we are enriching the soil, diversifying the environment and providing food and shelter for animals – insects, birds and mammals whose natural environments have been shrinking. The wilderness, which we thought of as out there, is now our own backyards.

"Bee Kind to Pollinators: Plant Natives, Create Backyard Habitats" - continued



To promote this state project, we have had well-researched articles in every newsletter on pollinators by a trained entomologist, articles on native plants and charming articles by our habitat advocate based on her own yard and wildlife.

We have had educational exhibits on our theme at every state meeting and flower show. Our latest state show, "Ports of Call" in Hartford in February, featured not only superb designs, horticulture and photography but also exhibits on bees, monarchs, native plants, the national theme "Choices Matter" and invasive and forestry stewardship.

Connecticut also offers all 4 NGC study schools and many of the courses feature these subjects within the curriculum or they have been added as special topics.

So we are absolutely thrilled to hear that the National Wildlife Federation is launching its own new "Gardens for Wildlife" program to help pollinators. They are requesting their network of 185,000 certified habitats and over 1.5 million people to provide food and shelter especially for monarch butterflies and other pollinators by

planting milkweed and nectar plants.

At our Annual Meeting at Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT, on April 15 we will install a new President, Jane Waugh and usher in a new administration. I thank everyone in CT and my friends around the region and beyond for all the care and consideration you have shown me on my visits and a very special thanks to the many clubs who have embraced our state theme with many varied programs and activities to help wildlife.

Jacqueline Connell
FGCCT President



The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

It is time to recall the goals I set for my presidency, and to see where we are now. I have been able to enjoy the two years because of the support, dedication and involvement of so many wonderful people. Indeed, the best part of the job is the chance to meet garden club people.

As incoming state president, my mantra was to "stop predicting rain and start building an ark." It is easy to cite problems, but more productive to focus on solutions. The outstanding women who have accepted some daunting projects have excelled in initiative, accountability and thoroughness in accomplishing their jobs, giving huge amounts of their time to the Federation.

The identified 'ark building' began with a return to basics. We adhere more knowledgeably to our bylaws; we have restored awareness of the benefits of parliamentary procedure; and we have implemented some standing rules for smoother, more effective functioning of our Board of Directors.

We have just completed a year-long major undertaking with a *Second Edition of the Guidelines for Garden Club Presidents and Board of Directors* now in place.

The project to create an electronic form of our newsletter was accomplished last summer with a free e-*Mayflower* now available to every club member in our 183 Massachusetts garden clubs. By asking for input from everyone, this transition occurred with only a few blips.

In response to club requests for leadership training, we made a major hit with morning break-out sessions at our Fall Conference and Annual Meeting; these have provided information on such topics as finances, fundraising, meetings and parliamentary procedure, awards, and communications in the electronic era.

We have recognized the need to get information out to give a more accurate sense of what garden clubs are all about and how they can enhance the quality of life. To accomplish this, we have updated a pamphlet on who and what we are. These are available for public information and new-member recruiting efforts.

Since The GCFM is affiliated with several other similar organizations in the state, another goal was to interact with them for mutual benefit. We are now on closer, more productive terms with several of these affiliates through meetings with their leaders and participation in collaborative opportunities.

In order to entice more people to serve on the Federation board, I have worked to encourage a congenial, inclusive, respectful atmosphere at all meetings. In this world of busy people, we need to maintain as pleasant and stress-free an atmosphere as possible through diplomacy, friendship, availability and consideration for each person. This attracts happy people who enjoy the pleasure of doing things for others.

There remains an ongoing need for better communication within our extensive membership. We have expanded and refined our various pathways, but we are still dealing with real people in real time. In this case, while the ark has been built, we still need to get all the passengers on board.

As president, I hope that my leadership has made some difference in addressing needs, resolving problems and strengthening the foundations for the next administration. However, the great reward for my term in office is the large circle of friends and acquaintances I have acquired. Garden club people are the best!

Best wishes to everyone, and plant nasturtiums. They are a happy flower.

Marisa McCoy
President, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.



First New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs Symposium Scheduled for September 2, 3 and 4

We are inviting all members to attend the First New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Symposium on September 2, 3, 4, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel Manchester, 700 Elm St., Manchester, NH 03101, telephone 603-625-1000.

Our three instructors Penny Decker speaking on *Explosion of Color* and *Here Comes the Judge*, Pam Braun *Dazzling Dahlias* and *Up in the Air* (Bromeliads) and Arabella Dane *It's Magic*, (Photography) will present interesting, informative lectures, and PowerPoint programs.

The hotel is accessible from Route 93 for ease to those arriving by car. For those arriving by air the hotel has free shuttle service to the Manchester-Boston Airport. You need not be a Flower Show Judge to attend. All lectures are open to all garden club members and to the public, upon payment of fees. All are welcomed.

See the NER Website, Symposiums and the NHFGC Website, home page Calendar Public Invited to Club Events to access the registration brochure or contact Registrar Eleanor Morrison 603-744-8271, email emorrison2@metrocast.com for additional information.

Mary Ellen Sienkiewicz
2015 NHFGC Symposium Chairman

HUMMINGBIRD

EMERALD GREEN
RUBY RED
EXQUISITE JEWEL
IN THE FLOWER BED

WHIRRING AND BUZZING
THROUGHOUT THE SKY
BRINGING JOY
TO HUMAN EYE

ON TINY WINGS
THE LITTLE BIRD SING

PLAYFUL CHASING
HEART- A- RACING

I AM FREE
AS ALL CAN SEE

TO POLLINATE BLOOMS
JUST LIKE THE BEE

Michelle Mensinger
NER Bird and Butterfly Chairman



OCTOBER 20-21 - 2015 NEW ENGLAND REGION ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE ! Portsmouth, New Hampshire

You are invited to step away from your usual routines for a few days to enjoy the beautiful and electrifying atmosphere of picturesque Portsmouth, New Hampshire, joining many of your New England garden club members for a day and a half of fun, food and flowers!

This event is open to *a//*NER members — any member of our six state federations, and their guests. The event will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 20th & 21st at the Portsmouth Harbor Events & Conference Center located at 22 Portwalk Place (100 Deer Street) and will consist of a day and a half of garden club-related activities. Members are welcome to drive to Portsmouth just for the day on Wednesday for the annual meeting itself if they prefer or, ideally, are encouraged to take advantage of the very special hotel rate we are able to offer our members. Arriving on Tuesday will allow you to enjoy the afternoon and evening events we have planned and you have the option of coming a day early and/or staying an extra day following the meeting with the same guaranteed room rate, giving you extra time to enjoy all that Portsmouth has to offer — and we assure you there is plenty!

Our hotel, an upscale Hampton Inn located just across the way at 23 Portwalk Place, features double bedrooms with queen-size beds, room refrigerators, microwaves and free WiFi. All guest rooms include a complimentary hot breakfast buffet daily. Bring your bathing suit and your workout clothes as there is a salt water pool and a fully equipped gym located in the lower level of the hotel for you to enjoy during your stay. Why not bring a guest?

Our meeting venue and hotel are both part of the new “Portsmouth Cluster” that stands grandly amid a grouping of three newly constructed hotels and a bevy of lovely boutiques, coffee bars and eateries nestled right in the heart of Portsmouth where meeting attendees and hotel guests can easily walk to virtually anything they might want to visit while in Portsmouth.

Tuesday will be our social evening featuring a cocktail reception honoring Vera Bowen of Rhode Island, our 2015-2017 New England Region Director, and welcoming our special guest Sandra Robinson, 2015-2017 National Garden Clubs, Inc. President who will be joining us from her home state of Kentucky. There will be time for us all to socialize before a plated dinner, followed by a historical floral program presented by the Curator of Portsmouth’s Strawberry Banke that we know you will all enjoy. The NER business meeting will be held the next day followed by a pictorial program showcasing Cecilia Thaxter’s Gardens on the Isle of Shoals, presented and narrated by acclaimed author, photographer and noted Portsmouth historian Peter E. Randall. There will of course also be educational displays to view, local and favorite vendors to shop and raffles prizes to win!

More details and registration materials will be included in the July edition of *Northern Exposure* and on the NER website in the very near future.

So please mark your calendars for October 20th & 21st. We look forward to welcoming you for a pleasurable stay in “Deliciously Dine-able; Easily Stroll-able; Utterly Shop-able Portsmouth, New Hampshire” for the 2015 New England Region Annual Meeting! Thank you.

Joyce Kimball
2015 NER Annual Meeting Chairman





Spohr Gardens
45 Fells Rd.
Falmouth, MA 02540
508-548-0623



With winter on the wane, our thoughts turn to the coming season of beaches, boats and blossoms. If your spring and summer plans include a visit to Cape Cod, don't miss Spohr Gardens, a beautifully maintained, six-acre, Cape Cod woodland garden located on Oyster Pond in Falmouth, MA. This magnificent site is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day of the year. Spring brings thousands of daffodils, never more splendid than during their annual Daffodil Days, the last two Saturdays in April from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event was started in 2004 as a means of encouraging people to visit the Gardens. After the daffodils, the garden is resplendent with tulips, azaleas, magnolias, flowering crab apples and rhododendrons that are over 40 years old, lilies and climbing hydrangeas. Also to be found are old millstones lining some of the paths, bronze church bells among the blooms and ships' anchors stationed along the water front. Take time to relax at the pond, where songbirds provide a musical background. Or stroll the many pathways and trails.

Spohr Gardens - continued



Margaret and Charles D. Spohr began creating this wondrous setting around their home in the 1950s and welcomed the ever-growing number of visitors who had heard of its beauty. Charles Spohr died in 1997 and Margaret Spohr followed in 2001. At that time the Gardens were left to the Margaret K. Spohr and Charles D. Spohr Charitable Trust.

Mahoney Garden Center
958 East Falmouth Hwy
East Falmouth, MA 02536
Phone: (508) 548-4842

While in the area, be sure to stop at Mahoney Garden Center, a family-run home and garden center which, in addition to a wide array of locally-grown annuals and perennials, offers seminars and workshops on such topics as starting plants from seed, winter birding, container arrangements and caring for orchids and succulents. Visit their shops for exceptional lightweight pottery, containers composed of lightweight fiberglass and clay composite.



Sandi Tinyk
NER Historic and Public Gardens
Chairman



NER Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Winners



**Evelyn Hladky Grade 1
Wallingford Garden Club**



**Molly McDermott Grade 2
Curbs and Cobblestones Garden Club**

NER Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Winners



**Jack Buchanan Grade 3
Curbs and Cobblestones Garden Club**

**Sophie Kahn
Hampden Garden
Club**



NER Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Winners

Ayli Munro
Bar Harbor Garden Club



NEW ENGLAND REGION 2015 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Results

On Saturday, February 21, 2015 a panel of three judges, facilitated by this chair, reviewed the state entries for the 2015 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

The NER poster committee enjoyed 100% participation with all six New England Region states entering posters.

An estimated total of 2,758 posters were received by the states from the local clubs and a combined total of 841 posters were received by the state chairmen. They were: Rhode Island - 10, Vermont – 6, New Hampshire - 272, Connecticut – 1,548, Massachusetts – 548, Maine – 374.

The judging panel viewed 23 of the possible 30 posters without knowledge of the entries' state, garden club, student's name, or school. The Committee selected the 5 winning posters to represent NER in the national contest, in accordance with the NGC and U.S Forestry guidelines.

As noted in the contest rules, NER offered the First Place winners, in each grade level 1 to 5, a \$25 cash award_ accompanied by a NER Certificate of Participation, with winners to be announced at the NER Annual Meeting in May. Further, a Certificate of Participation is also awarded to every State's entries from Grades 1-5.

I am happy to report the following are the winning Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters, Grades 1 to 5, which will represent the New England Region and will advance to National Garden Club/ U.S. Forestry Competition:

Grade 1: Evelyn Hladky, Wallingford GC - Wallingford, CT State Chair Ingeborg Venus

Grade 2: Molly McDermott, Curbs & Cobblestones GC - Lowell, MA State Chair Bonni L. Dinneen

Grade 3: Jack Buchanan, Curbs & Cobblestones GC - Lowell, MA State Chair Bonni L. Dinneen

Grade 4: Sophie Kahn, Hampden GC – Hampden, ME State Chair Margot Haertel

Grade 5: Ayli Grace Munro, Bar Harbor GC – Bar Harbor,VT State Chair Pat Kent

Finally, a special heartfelt thank you to the state chairmen Rochelle Kieron, RI; Fern M. Doucette, NH; Pat Kent, VT; Ingeborg Venus, CT; and, Margot Haertel, ME, who year after year have participated in this event always with enthusiasm. These chairmen work diligently with the local clubs to make the NER a leader in the overall statistics for the National Garden Clubs in partnership with the U.S. Forestry Service.

Poster Contest Results – continued

Congratulations to all and a sincere thank you to the clubs that gave their time and effort in promoting this worthwhile youth activity.

Posters can be viewed on the NER website.

Bonni L. Dinneen
NER SB/WO State Chairman

NEW ENGLAND REGION AWARDS : June1, 2014-May 31, 2015 **AWARD #27 - New Award**

THE MARIA J. NAHOM TABLE DESIGN AWARD



Established in 2015 by Maria J Nahom, Regional Director 2013-2015. Awarded to the best Table Design exhibited in a Standard or Small-Standard Flower Show.

A Certificate and \$75.00 will be awarded annually to the winner.

Requirements:

Table Design must have been created during the NER Awards Year June 1st – May 31st.

A photo of the design, minus ribbons or people, to be sent to the State Judges' Council Chairman by **August 1st** each year.

Please include a 'Post-it' note with:

- Name and date of show where design was exhibited
- Class title
- Plant material used
- Designer's name and garden club.

Judging:

A panel of three accredited judges chosen by each state's Judges' Council Chairman will select their state's winning exhibit. A photograph of the winning exhibit in each state, the required information and an NER Application form must be sent to the New England Region Awards Chair/s by **September 1st**. The NER Judges' Council Chairman and two other accredited judges will select the NER winner. The scale of points for Designs listed in the current *Handbook for Flower Shows* and any updates listed in the *National Gardener Magazine*, will be used in judging.

STATE AWARDS CHAIRMEN: please make sure that your clubs and districts know about this new award.

Sue Redden
NER Awards Chairman

New England Native Plants for Pollinators

There are many native species in New England that attract pollinators. Here are few spring blooming plants that attract birds, butterflies and bees.

Common Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*) is an herbaceous perennial ground cover. This plant blooms late spring and attracts many birds, bees and butterflies, in particular the Brown Elfin butterfly in the southern New England states. The blossoms are white with a tinge of pink. The plant enjoys full sun to part shade and requires low maintenance.



Shadblow Serviceberry (*Amelanchier Canadensis*) is one of the first native trees to bloom each spring with showy, fragrant white flowers that appear before the leaves. The flowers attract many bees and butterflies in all the New England states. It prefers full sun or light shade and a moist, well drained acidic soil. Keep in mind this is considered to be a small tree and can get 15 – 25 feet tall. Flavorful berries can be used in jams and robins love them too!



Flowering big-bracted dogwood (*Benthamida florida*) blooms in late spring and particularly attracts Spring Azure Butterflies. These butterflies are in all the New England States, but not seen as often in Northern Maine. This tree is sizeable for most homeowners, growing 12 to 20 feet in height. It has a striking seasonal interest beginning with biscuit shaped buds held on the end of stems while the foliage buds are nearly hidden. The beauty of the fruit nearly matches the blooms.

New England Native Plants - continued



Eastern Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) is a beautiful woodland plant that blooms in the late spring and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Watch for Columbine Dusky Wing butterflies, particularly in Southern New England.



Anemone meadow-rue (*Thalictrum thalictroides*) blooms late spring to early summer. This slender spring flower is easily cultivated in wildflower gardens. It is similar to Wood Anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*) except for the numerous flowers and rounded leaflets. Flowers attract many varieties of bees.

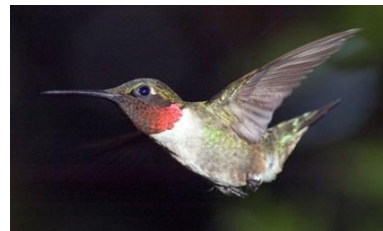


New England Native Plants - continued

Red Chokeberry (*aronia arbutifolia*) is a deciduous shrub with hybrids growing 2' to 4' tall. The cluster of small, white flowers appear in mid-spring and attract many bees. The small bright red fruit in late summer and autumn are attractive to birds. It prefers sun to part shade and tolerates both wet and dry soils.



Coastal Sweet Pepperbush (*clethra alnifolia*) is a vase shaped shrub with white bottle brush spikes that are very fragrant. It is an important nectar source for hummingbirds and butterflies. Brown capsules form later to feed the birds. This unique shrub will flower in shade, has good fall color and a tidy winter appearance.



Please don't dig these plants from the wild for your garden. If your local garden center cannot supply them for you, look online. There are many websites where I found these plants or seeds available for purchase, such as Park Seed, Jackson & Perkins and Diane's Heirloom Seeds.

Carol J. Smith
NER Native & Invasive Plant Chairman



NER Calendar

Deadline for submissions for the July Northern Exposure is June 10, 2015 – please e-mail articles or questions to editor Nancy Atwell at atwelln@aol.com

International, National and Regional Events

May 15-17 – National Garden Club Convention, Louisville, Kentucky, Crown Plaza.

October 20-21 - New England Region Annual Meeting, Portsmouth Harbor Events Conference Center, Portsmouth, NH. See article in this issue. Registration form will be in July issue and will soon be online at the www.ngcner.org under "Meetings."

Environmental Studies Schools

October 6-8 - Environmental Studies School, Course I at Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, CT.

Flower Show Schools and Symposiums

April 29 - May 1, 2015 - Flower Show School Course 2, MA.

September 30-October 2 - Flower Show School, Course II at CT Agriculture Experiment Station, New Haven, CT.

Gardening Study School

April 9-10, 2015 - Gardening Study School, MA.

October 13-15 - Gardening Study School, Course II at CT Agriculture Experiment Station, New Haven, CT.

Garden Tours

July 16 – Camden Garden Club (Maine) Annual House and Garden Tour. For more information: www.camdengardenclub.com

July 24 – Boothbay Region Garden Club Annual Home and Garden Tour, For more information: www.boothbayregiongardenclub.org

State Garden Club Meetings

April 2 – Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Northern District Meeting, Holy Cross Church, Morrisville, VT.

NER Calendar State Garden Club Meetings – continued

April 11 (Saturday) – Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Central District Meeting, at Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT.

April 15 – Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Annual Meeting Aqua Turf.

May 20 – Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m. CAES, New Haven.

June 1 – Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Annual Meeting / New Officer Installations, Manchester Country Club, Manchester, VT.

June 2-3 – Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Annual Meeting and Installation.

June 17 & 18 - Garden Club Federation of Maine Convention, Annual Meeting and Installation, “Sands of Thyme by the Sea” at the Colony Hotel, Kennebunkport. FMI: www.mainegardenclubs.org

July 15 - Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., TBD.
April 16 (Thursday) – Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Southern District Meeting, at the home of District Director, Carol Munson.

October 5 – Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Fall Board Meeting, Details TBA

