

Northern Exposure



Newsletter of the New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

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

November 2017

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Having my first NEGC Annual Meeting behind me is a wonderful feeling! Thank you to all who were able to attend the event, listen to what the various state presidents reported about their state, witnessed a great flower show, and were overwhelmed by the pumpkin arrangements and notecards that the maximum security prisoners in Vera Bowen's Garden Time Project had made for us. Having our NGC President, Nancy Hargroves, present was an extra plus. My thanks go out to her for her brief explanation of the turmoil that the regions of NGC have been going through over the last 18 months. My hope is that this helps you have some kind of understanding of all the changes your leaders have had to make.

By now your Plant America Community Projects have been entered into the new and ongoing NGC program that was begun this year. Here's hoping that many clubs in our region are recipients of the monies available to them to help their project reach completion. Also keep in mind several additional programs we have at our fingertips, thanks to NGC. Espoma Company, which produces organic plant foods and potting soils, has partnered with NGC, giving grants up to \$250 (in these plant foods and soils) to 20 NGC garden clubs. Ames Garden Tools, Co, has a program enhancing our PLANT AMERICA project, which provides needed tools to clubs applying for them. Both of these application forms can be found on the NGC website gardenclub.org.

With the holidays on the way, keep in mind some of the gifts you can order from Member Services at NGC headquarters. "The Saved Seed," NGC's second early reader book, is a super gift for the young ones on your list. In addition it introduces those children to the joys of planting and harvesting.

As your club members get settled into the projects open to them, please remember that your regional officers have a bundle of knowledge that they are always willing to share with you. Take advantage of this bonus and pick their brains. And also remember that I would love to visit your clubs and learn from all of you and personally thank you for all that you do for New England Garden Clubs!

Happy Holidays, Susan



National Garden Club Regional Directors at NGC Fall Board meeting. Left to right, Fran Stueck, Central Region; Isabel Olsen, South Central Region; Peggy Olin, Pacific Region; Ann McCormick, Deep South Region; Jackie Watts, Rocky Mountain Region; Regina Brown, Central Atlantic Region; and New England's own director Sue Hinkel.



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Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut President's Report

On behalf of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, I am extremely pleased to report that after an intensive two-year effort chaired by former FGCCT President and Task Force Chair Jane Waugh, our 15-year old website was totally overhauled and redesigned, along with a new logo. We unveiled the new website and logo during our biennial Club Presidents' Day on the 20th of September and they both received an overwhelmingly positive response.

Over 60 club presidents attended the event and heard two-minute presentations from 27 of our Federation Board members that covered their respective duties, programs and projects, while Jane Waugh simultaneously projected the corresponding website image onto a large screen for all to follow along. Thereafter, she walked us through the remaining areas on our new website.

Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut President's Report – cont.

With the summer season officially ending on Friday, September 22nd at 4:02 p.m., and with the autumn season beginning, so did our new website. We proudly launched the new website with a communiqué to our entire club membership. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. We invite you to check it out at www.ctgardenclubs.org.

Another milestone reached in Connecticut was the dedication of two Blue Star Memorial Markers attended by National representative Andrea Little. The Laurel Garden Club of Beacon Falls sponsored the May 7th marker and dedication in Beacon Falls. The Milford Garden Club did likewise on May 28th in Milford.



Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut President's Report –cont.

We continue to sponsor all four NGC schools this year. Landscape Design School was held in March, with the Flower Show and Gardening Schools being held in late September. In April of next year, we'll be offering the Environmental School.

I introduced my President's Theme and Project to our membership during the April Annual Meeting. Aligning with NGC President Nancy Hargrove's theme of "Plant America," my theme is "PLANT CONNECTICUT – BE A CONSERVATION CHAMPION." The goal is supporting a healthy environment for today and for future generations by placing emphasis on conserving water, assisting pollinators and gardening organically. My President's Project offers a contest that encourages clubs to create a Xeriscape garden or a Pollinator friendly garden in a public space. Clubs that have created the most creative and impressive gardens will be recognized in April 2019 with a Conservation Champion Award in each of the four club size categories. Another competition is open to individual garden club members who create a Xeriscape garden on their own properties. The five most impressive gardens will be recognized with a Conservation Champion Award. We anticipate tremendous participation across the state.

Our Awards Meeting/Luncheon was held on October 25th where 41 top silver awards were presented along with the coveted Bronze Medal. In addition, 123 Club Certificates of Achievement, Certificates of Individual Achievement and Tribute Awards across nine different categories were presented to deserving individuals.



Led by Judges Council member Cathy Ritch, the "Beyond Beginning" floral design workshops continue this year and are very well received and successful. Many club members who participated in these workshops stepped up and exhibited at the Connecticut Flower Show.

Our most ambitious event and fund raiser is the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. It's held each year in February in the prestigious Connecticut Convention Center in downtown Hartford. The theme in 2018 is "Breath of Spring." Over 70 garden clubs are actively involved, serving on various committees. There is no better way to get over the long and dreary winter months than with an event that offers an enticing and beautiful glimpse of things to come in the spring.

Inge Venus
President, Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.



New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs President's Report

The New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs is "on a roll"! Namely all our Executive Board positions are filled this term, although they did have to recycle me from my 2006-2009 presidency to do it! Some of our board members are veterans and continue to add their wisdom and experience to the success of our organization and others are "newbies," with many questions to keep us on our toes as well as their own fresh ideas! We are learning so much from each other as we go into the fourth month of the term. (I refer to them as my "Dream Board")!

Our Executive Board recently formed an ad hoc committee to research the "growing" problem of Invasives, Japanese Knotweed in particular. We are working with our Department of Transportation and Cooperative Extension to create our own fact sheet to distribute to the membership and the public, identifying the culprits and providing links to helpful resources in an attempt to curb their spread. This was a request of one of our members and we were happy to respond.

As for projects and activities, our clubs continue to astound me with their innovativeness! For example, one club planted several thousand annuals over a four day period at the request of a local commercial entity, Storyland, receiving a donation of \$2,500 toward their Scholarship Fund for their labors. Another recently wrote a history book for their club going back to 1935, packed full of wonderful photos and narratives. This is a 171 page book and it is being sold to their members as well as the public to recoup their publication cost. What a wonderful gift of history to leave for generations to follow!

In addition to our member clubs' ongoing and ever-important activities, they are re-designing public planting areas using native plants, creating Monarch Waystations, and more. And in keeping with our mission to provide education to our members and the public alike, our clubs are hosting a myriad of innovative educational programs across the state such as "How to Live with Bears in the Backyard," "Wings of the Night—Bats and Owls," "Damsels and Dragon Flies," Tablescaping, Agro-forestry and Gardening for the Five Senses. And in regard to civic responsibility, the majority of our clubs are once again in the process of collecting hundreds of pairs of warm new pajamas and nature-related books from within their communities to donate to family shelters on November 15th.

NH Federation of Garden Clubs President' Report– cont.

Each and every one of our members has something to contribute to our mission and we do our best to encourage them to do so. To recycle a phrase promoted by one of our state garden clubs, *"Some of us are experts, many are not, some will teach, all will learn!"*

PLANT NEW HAMPSHIRE...Plant Today for Tomorrow

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New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs President Joyce Kimball with her NGC commendation as the 2017-19 New Hampshire President. All state presidents who become president after the NGC Annual Convention receive this at the NGC Fall Board Meeting. This is Joyce's second term as New Hampshire's President.



Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc. President's Report

It seems like yesterday when I was installed as President of GCFM. When I started to prepare this short summary I realized why. We had two big events at State level happen since June. But really, just like you, the greatest amount of my time has been spent on planning meetings, attending meetings and reporting on meetings. Fortunately, I do these with several really great people who work well together.

The past few months were highlighted by a couple of significant projects, one new and the other ongoing.

This past August, GCFM co-hosted a Native Plant Symposium in support of my President's Project about using native plants in home gardens. It was an all-day event held in the south central part of the state and was enthusiastically well attended. We had seven speakers from throughout the state to cover a diverse range of information from endangered species, how to remove invasives, propagation of wildflowers and native plants, planting on Public property, to preservation of natural areas. The day was closed by an optional field trip to a private garden. We applied for and received a NGC Operation Wildflower Grant. Former Regional Director Nancy Atwell and GCFM Second Vice President Harriet Robinson, organized the symposium using the NGC model and we are now beginning to plan another symposium at another location and during another season. I am pleased we were able to one, use a NGC program, and, two, have synergy with a like-minded organization, the McLaughlin Garden and Homestead in South Paris, Maine.

Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc. President's Report – cont.

The Blue Star Marker Program is a high priority of the GCFM. This September, after several months of working with numerous city and state officials in the central part of the state, we were able to get the Blue Star Marker in the city of Bangor moved to a better, more desirable and much more visible location. It was an honor to attend the ceremony, having served in the U.S. Navy for several years, and I truly appreciate the dedication our members demonstrate to honor members of the armed forces.

And we look toward the future. The Maine Flower Show is going to take place during the end of March at Thompson's Point, Portland. We have been an exhibitor during the past few years and enjoy a lot of visibility during the course of the show. It is a fine venue to get our name and mission in front of a large number of attendees who share similar interests and brings new members. It is always tantalizing to see the beautiful displays and learn the latest in the industry as spring is beginning to try to emerge.

Thank you.

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Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont President's Report

In 2002 Burlington garden club won a matching \$1000.00 grant from Shell through NGC, to assist in creating a garden on a 100 acre farm property owned by the City of South Burlington.

The idea was to develop a garden the community could enjoy and also learn about organic gardening practice, heirloom seed varieties and All American Proven Winners of both perennial flowers and vegetables.

One member of the club spearheaded the projects and has worked weekly in the garden ever since.

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont President's Report – cont.

Now called "The Garden Park" The Grandpa and Grandma's garden which was part of the original design has morphed into being part of a large children's garden. Ten raised garden beds grow heirloom varieties of vegetables grown from seed, from which harvested the harvested produce is donated to the local food shelf, which receives an average 800-1000 pounds of fresh vegetables a year.

The club started a summer youth program, "Growing Young Gardeners," developing a comprehensive curriculum to include composting, best garden practices, garden critters, battling weeds and much more. Eight to ten youngsters ages 3 to 10 have helped plant the vegetables and have taken ownership of their plantings, eagerly watching everything grow, and eventually harvesting for the local food shelf.

Disaster struck in 2017 in the form of a woodchuck family deciding they would take over. The children who a month previously, helped plant the garden, were devastated as all the sprouted plants that were doing very well were literally eaten to the ground.

Four woodchucks subsequently were trapped, with one persistent woodchuck avoiding all removal strategies. The children did help replant the vegetable garden but the food shelf did not receive as much fresh vegetables this year. Plans have been made to erect a new specially designed animal proof fence. This said, funding will be needed to pay for the new fence, the garden club is helping match funds and also applying for an NGC grant, and all hope for better times next year.

This speaks of how one member of a garden club can make a difference with leadership, talent, incredible dedication, providing education, fun and delicious tasting food for the local food shelf.

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Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont President Caroline Frey with her NGC commendation as the 2017-19 Vermont President. All state presidents who become president after the NGC Annual Convention receive this at the NGC Fall Board Meeting.



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs President's Report

As Second Vice President and First Vice President I was not particularly valuable to our organization - this has become clearer in hindsight. Particularly when I look to my current board where every member is going above and beyond their job descriptions to support many new initiatives.

It's already clear that our clubs are working and they are working hard. I have no President's Project. I am here to work for the clubs, increase visibility, streamline, and generally make things easier- getting them the support they need and then getting out of the way is what I'm trying to do.

- We have increased publicity and communication, especially by using social media, and providing tech support.
- We have themed round table discussions after monthly business meetings run by state chairman to brainstorm together.
- We offer an annual free Education Day for members with multiple programs covering design, environment, and horticulture. On a state level we can attract and afford speakers that are prohibitive for a smaller group.
- Our generous Judges' Council offers a series of design classes for beginner and advanced designers. Attendees are welcome from any club and pay a nominal fee for materials. These classes are selling out as soon as the schedule is announced.
- We held a fundraiser in partnership with Newport Polo that was fun AND easy.
- This is a big one and I'm saving the best for last: keep meetings short.



It's been a lot of housekeeping. It's not sexy but it is necessary. For a President without a project I can assure you that I'm working my butt off trying to bring more appreciation and respect to what Rhode Island clubs are already doing.

Blakely Szosz
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President, Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc.

I wracked my brain in thinking of what I'd report to you today. Sue said "NO numbers" so — no numbers. Time line? Dull, and frankly, I haven't been at this job long enough to make that compelling. So, I've settled on 'hopes and aspirations,' sprinkled with a great deal of thanks.

I'll bore all of you again with my tale of a short runway, in which I wasn't supposed to be standing before you, officially, for another two years. I prepared in earnest, planning that I would be the page marker and that Caroline would join me, in some capacity, on the other end. Sadly, Caroline Nijenberg has made her end with the Garden Clubs on this side of the rainbow. Caroline died on Sunday, October 15th. I've been set adrift. And she is, already, terribly missed. Thankfully, and this is where the 'thanks' comes in, I have been helped along by a strong group of gals who I turn to constantly for advice and solace. You know who you are and, I couldn't do it without you.

The GCFM Fall Conference was last Wednesday. It was nice, and, mostly successful. However, in looking at the overall result, I still wonder if we couldn't have done better. Could we have been more engaging? Could we have been more relevant? Could we have offered that 'something.' I'm not sure what just now, that would have made the meeting a more compelling 'take'? This is where 'hopes and aspirations' comes in.

We have gained a handful of Clubs in the past year for which I am truly grateful. At the same time however we have lost one, and there are more on the precipice. We need to become more relevant. We need to be more technologically engaging. We need to understand the changing needs and desires of a potential new member.

To that end, I have established a technology review committee to research the building of a new website. We are attempting to broaden our base with new programming and ideas to reach out to the greater community possibly pairing with other groups to strengthen our membership base. I hope to foster more involvement in Civic Projects at a time when it's so easy to retreat.

As I said in my acceptance speech in June, the reason we do what we do and, mostly, LOVE what we do, despite our low wages, is the feeling that it brings to us and to the greater whole. We spark joy. I hope to move that into something tangible for the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts.

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Annual NEGC Meeting October 30-31, 2017



The first Annual Meeting of the New England Garden Clubs, Inc. was held on October 30th and 31st in Warwick, RI. Following a small standard flower show Monday, "The House That Love Built," several blue ribbon winners explained their entries, sharing personal tidbits about the process. This was a unique program that was thoroughly enjoyed.

It was business as usual the next morning at which time the new NEGC Bylaws were presented by Andrea Little, our NEGC Parliamentarian. There were quite a few pertinent questions asked by members, such as "Why is there a Symposium Committee when NEGC doesn't conduct these any more?" Andrea's reply was that we are still connected to NGC by the fact that we have NEGC officers on the NGC board. The Bylaws were passed by the majority and they will be circulated to all the club presidents.

Our NGC President, Nancy Hargroves, gave our morning program. She talked about the reason for the change in the eight NGC regions, and then she gave her "Pumpkins, Witches and Turkeys" program. Following lunch, Suzanne Bushnell, Awards Chairman, presented the NEGC awards.

Some very special items were the table arrangements which were made by the prisoners at the maximum security prison in RI where Vera Bowen's program "Garden Time" takes place. In addition, these men, who have had no training, designed note cards which were given to the state presidents and to Nancy Hargroves, our NGC President.

Director Susan Hinkel reported that we have changed our logo to signify our region's new name. Very shortly the present website domain name will be changed as well. All references to NGC in our Bylaws, logo, website, etc. have to be removed.

A very successful Symposium followed the NEGC Annual Meeting over the next several days.

NEW ENGLAND GARDEN CLUBS ANNUAL MEETING



NEGC Executive Board

Right to left: Treasurer Stephen Dates, Secretary Sue Redden, Parliamentarian Andrea Little and NEGC Director Sue Hinkel



Lynne Merrill's blue ribbon



Maria Nahom's blue ribbon



NGC President Nancy Hargroves and NEGC Secretary Sue Redden, right to left.



Becky Linney's Best in Show



Halloween!



Ronnie Schoelzel's blue ribbon hort



Trish Manfredi's educational winner



One of the cards the prisoners drew

NH FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS HOLDS 84TH FALL MEETING

BRIDGEWATER, NH - Nearly 100 members, a record attendance for a Fall Meeting, attended the 84th Fall Meeting of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. held in the "Red Barn" of The Inn on Newfound Lake on September 27. National Garden Clubs President Nancy Hargroves was the special guest.

The meeting was hosted by the District 1 clubs of Ashland, Littleton, Mountain and New Hampton. In addition to the semi-annual business meeting and buffet luncheon held during this event, attendees enjoyed a Container Gardening program entitled "Witches, Turkeys and Reindeer," a PowerPoint presentation by President Hargroves demonstrating how to "morph" both simple and more elaborate containers from fall to winter and into the holidays by merely swapping out a plant or decoration or two. President Hargrove's program was very well received.

Attendees also enjoyed a presentation by several local garden clubs entitled "Sharing Our Successes" where each club described one of their recent projects or activities that was particularly successful for them. During the meeting educational displays were on view offering information about water conservation, gardening with children and the annual US Forest Service and NGC sponsored Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

At one point during the meeting, the U.S. Forest Service's Woodsy Owl made a surprise appearance to everyone's delight. Woodsy, unlike his "pal/icon" Smokey Bear, the national symbol for fire prevention, is the U.S Forest Service's icon for conservation of the environment. Woody's motto "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land" reminds us all to take an active role in recycling, reusing and reducing waste, planting and caring for trees, and encourages us

NHFGC 84TH FALL MEETING – cont.

to use our resources "wisely" and not to litter. Woodsy also stresses "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute."

Submitted by Joyce Kimball, BGC Publicity Chairman

NGC President Nancy Hargroves poses with "Woodsy Owl" during the Federation's Fall Meeting held at the Inn on Newfound Lake in Bridgewater, NH on September 27th.



NHFGC 84TH FALL MEETING – cont.



Approximately 20 members joined NHFGC President Joyce Kimball and District 1 Director Fern Doucette to host a dinner for National Garden Clubs President Nancy Hargroves in the Inn on Newfound Lake's dining room the evening prior to the NH Fall Meeting. Seated l-r, Joyce Kimball, Nancy Hargroves, NHFGC 1st VP Susan Miner, Fern Doucette and 2nd VP J. D. McFarlane.

IMPORTANT. . . PLEASE NOTE

National Garden Club Award #44, "PUBLICITY PRESS BOOK," has been removed from the listing of available awards for members, clubs and states and regions, effective with the publication of the "NGC AWARDS 2017-2019" (page 18) which is now available on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org . (ID User Name: *member* / Password: *Pumpkin*) under "Awards." The rationale for eliminating this award was many clubs are having great difficulty getting their publicity articles published in their local

NGC Award #MP-1 GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP – cont.

newspapers, etc. due to the reduction of pages and column space available within today's print media outlets for garden club news, announcements, etc.

The former **NGC Publicity Press Book Award #44** has been replaced with **NGC Award #MP-1 GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP** - A Certificate of Merit and \$100.00 will be awarded to the Overall Winner *"for the most innovative activity or activities, or most outstanding effort, to increase public visibility; to increase club membership, or to make the public aware of the mission and activities of garden clubs; including membership brochures, leaflets, or any other publication used, as well as any publicity received."* Printed materials, materials for electronic publication and publicity may be attached in their entirety to the application and are not counted as part of the three-page limit. Award #MP-1(A) represents Single member garden clubs in one of the four club size categories (i,ii,iii,iv). NGC wants to make members aware of this award's existence because it is a new publicity award their clubs can now apply for and it includes a monetary award of \$100.

Personally I was disappointed to learn that the Publicity Press Book award was being phased out, however it is probably a "sign of the times" as we continue to become a more paperless society. It should be noted that fewer and fewer Publicity Press Books were submitted for judging over the past several years, supporting NGC's decision to discontinue Award #44. I would encourage clubs that have routinely prepared a Publicity Press Book in the past to continue to do so as press books can be a wonderful "year-at-a-glance" history book for your club.

Thank you for your understanding and I hope you will take advantage of this new opportunity and submit your club's printed and electronic publicity items to National Garden Clubs to apply for NGC Award #MP-1 this year. It's been a great ride!

Sincerely,
Joyce Kimball
Former NHFGC/NER Publicity Press Book Chairman
www.joyceakimball@comcast.net

NER Smokey Bear /Woodsy Owl Poster Chairman Announces the 2018 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Children from first through fifth grades are invited to participate in the 2018 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles.

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!

Contest rules – cont.

Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for fire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey's message, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!" encourages personal responsibility for fire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, trash fires, and matches.

LEND A HAND - FOR THE LAND!

Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, planting and caring for trees, using resources wisely, and not littering.

CONTEST PRIZES

- The National Grand Prize Winner of the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest will be honored with a Recognition Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Round-trip airfare and accommodations for four will be provided.
- A \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds, sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. will be awarded to each of the First Place national winners in all five grades.

POSTER RULES

1. All poster entries must be sponsored by a local garden club affiliated with NGC.
2. Posters must feature Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and must not feature both together.
3. Smokey Bear posters must be based upon and include Smokey's fire prevention message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires! Woodsy Owl posters must be based upon and include Woodsy's conservation message: Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!
4. Posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires or conserving natural resources.
5. Each entry is 11 x 17 inches in size.
6. Materials that can be used include: crayons, markers, poster paints, water colors, etc.
7. No three-dimensional posters, computer scanned, or electronically generated images will be accepted!
8. The artist's name, grade level, school, school address, teacher's name, city, and state must be printed on the back of the poster in the lower right corner. Each poster must also show the name of the sponsoring local garden club and contact email. (Do not use a dark marker for this information as it may show through on the front of the poster.)
9. Posters are to be completed by individual student from first to fifth grade.
10. The local garden club chairman must submit the poster entries to his or her state chairman no later than January 8, 2018.

Contest rules – cont.

11. The state garden club chairman must submit the five winning posters from his/her state to the NEGC Chairman, Bonni L. Dinneen, 279 Wentworth Avenue, Lowell, MA 01852 by February 3, 2018.

12. Since Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl are official icons protected by law, the colors of their clothing **MUST BE** accurate. Check the colors on the Web site:

www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation



POSTER TIPS

1. A good poster has a bold and simple design.
2. Its message is delivered both in the picture and in the slogan.
3. Its message is easily understood.
4. Posters will be judged 20 percent each for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message.

Bonni L. Dinneen

NEGC Smokey Bear /Woodsy Owl Poster Chairman



Blue Star Report

It has been an honor and a great pleasure to serve as the Rhode Island Blue Star Chairman and New England Region Chairman for several years and now New England Garden Clubs ~ I think the Blue Star Chairmanship is one of the most gratifying and rewarding programs of National Garden Clubs. What could be nicer than honoring the men and women who have served our country in the past, those who are presently serving and those who will serve in the future?

Since World War I, a Blue Star Banner displayed in the window of a home told others that a family member was serving in the Armed Services. Also known as the Service Flag, the blue stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold star representing the sacrifice.

National Garden Club started the Blue Star Program after World War II; proudly RI was the very first state to dedicate a Blue Star Memorial in 1950. So our New England states have been active in the program from the very beginning.

Rhode Island ~ 1 Highway , 2 Memorial , 9 By-way
Connecticut ~ 2 Highway, 7 memorial, 2 By-way plus 2 in process
Massachusetts ~ 6 Highway, 2 Memorial, 17 By-way, 1 Gold Star
New Hampshire ~ Originally 4 Highway, now 2 are missing and are being sought
Vermont ~ 3 Highway, one recently found in major construction
Maine ~ 29 Markers

Total in New England ~ 85 Blue Star Memorial Markers

The process for dedicating a Blue Star Marker is relatively easy, however it does take time. Once a garden Club approves to have a Blue Star Memorial Marker Decide on a location and contact authority for permission (i.e. highway department or local government)

Contact State Blue Star Chair for forms and instructions and check NGC website under continuing programs

Other local organizations who are interested in civic development may be contacted to help finance, plant and maintain the surrounding garden (i.e. nurserymen's association, highway department, Lions Club, veterans groups, cities and towns)

Allow at least 2 months to have marker made

It would be wonderful if each of our garden clubs dedicated a Blue Star Marker to honor those who have served our country in the Armed Services. Many of us have relatives who have served our country; fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. This very special group, who have protected our freedom, deserve to be honored in each of our communities.

Candace Morgenstern
NEGC Blue Star Chairman

Susan Hinkel Honored at Hildene

NEGC Director Susan Hinkel has many talents and interests. One of her favorite places to volunteer is at the Hildene mansion located in Manchester, Vermont, near her Danby home. Hildene is a Lincoln Family Home, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only child of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to survive to adulthood. Robert became the Chairman of the Pullman Company, the largest manufacturing corporation at the turn of the 20th century and built a beautiful Georgian Revival mansion in 1905 on a hill side in the village of Manchester. The mansion they named Hildene was home to only Lincoln descendants until 1975, longer than any other Lincoln residence. Sue has volunteered as a Tuesday "Flower Lady" for the past 25 years. She, along with the other Friday "Flower Ladies" bring in flowers from their own gardens, making floral arrangements for all the mansion's 18 rooms every week from May until late September. Sue has volunteered in a number of other ways at the mansion over the years, but being one of the Hildene "Flower Ladies" is by far her favorite thing to do.



Sue was notified by the Hildene Board of Directors in February that she had been chosen, along with eight other volunteers, to participate in the "Hildene Friends Walk" the following August. Hildene's "Friends" are customarily large donors to Hildene and to be singled out for her volunteerism over the years rather than monetary donations was extra meaningful. In August, there was a lovely induction ceremony held at Hildene, honoring Sue and the other new inductees. Previous inductees from over the past several decades were also honored for their extraordinary contributions of time and efforts toward making and keeping Hildene beautiful and the special place that it is.

Submitted by Joyce Kimball



Hildene, as seen from the gardens, is on the U. S. National Register of Historic Places, 1005 Hildene Rd., Manchester, VT 05252. For further information: www.hildene.org

Report on Possible NEGC Scholarship

The NCGC would like to establish a scholarship to be regional in a competitive format. At a meeting on July 31, 2017, a number of NE representatives got together to determine how to describe and provide funds for their own scholarship.

Since every state university in New England is a land grant college that means those universities would be dedicated to a number of majors in fields of study related to horticulture and the environmental sciences. These state universities are just a sample of accredited educational centers who would have the requirements for applicants. In addition, the school could be a two-year college with the necessary course load.

Our student scholarship recipient could be a college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate. *That student must be a United States citizen and a New England resident. Each state Awards Chairman (if agreed upon) would review and select one candidate to participate in the scholarship competition.* While need would be a consideration, the scholarship would be more performance based. A letter of intent, letters of recommendation and performance records are some components necessary when judged by three committee members.

We are still determining a due date as a deadline for applications as well as the source for our funding. The scholarship would be timeline: named after Elaine Dates and would be for \$1500 annually. Following is a suggested timeline:

Applications due to state representatives??	February 15, 20—
Reviewed by committee three member panel	Early March, 20—
Notification of recipient/recipients	April, 20—
Scholarship monies disbursed to appropriate financial officer	August 1, 20—

Lynne Merrill

NEGC AWARDS 2017

A total of 29 awards were handed out to the six New England State federations at the first Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on October 31st. Publicity Press Book Awards were also announced by Publicity Press Book Chairman Joyce Kimball with those Awards previously given out at the Region Breakfast at the NGC Convention in Richmond, VA. NGC President Nancy Hargroves and NEGC Director Susan Hinkel joined NEGC Awards Chairman Suzanne Bushnell at the podium to make the presentations. Awards won by each State are listed below:

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT

Virginia F. Thurston Landscape Design Award: *Mystic Garden Club*

Nancy H. Atwell Award: *North Haven Garden Club*

Jeanne Marie Parks Award (Individual): *Trish Manfredi*

NEGC AWARDS 2017 – cont.

Jeanne Marie Parks Award (State): *Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut for Jane Waugh's President's Project*

Maria J. Nahom Table Design Award: *Marilyn Burkhart*

Yearbook Award Class 1, Under 20 Members: *Daytime Gardeners of North Haven*

GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MAINE

Cornelia Williamson Watson Award for Historic Preservation: *Garden Club of Wiscasset*

Mary Stone Garden Therapy Award: *Bath Garden Club*

Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award (Club): *St. Mary's Garden Club*

Virginia GrandPre Wildlife Gardening Award: *Brewer Garden and Bird Club*

Lina F. Wagner Perennial Garden Award: *Lisa Colburn*

National Gardening Association Award: *Kennebec Valley Garden Club*

Yearbook Award Class 2, 20-29 Members: *Orrington Garden Club*

GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

Laura Wetmore Conservation Award: *Weston Garden Club*

Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Schedule Award (District): *Central South and Central North Districts*

Deanna J. Mozzochi Creative Design Award: *Ginger King*

Maureen Colton Award (District): *Southeastern District*

Yearbook Award Class 3, 30-44 Members: *Norwood Evening Garden Club*

Publicity Press Book Medium Club: *Greenleaf Garden Club*

NEW HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Sears Civic Beautification Award: *Atkinson Garden Club*

Mary Stone Garden Therapy Award (Honorable Mention): *Old Homestead Garden Club*

Excellence in Teamwork Award: *Atkinson Garden Club*

Yearbook Award Class 4, 45-69 Members: *Derry Garden Club*

Publicity Press Book Large Club: *Derry Garden Club*

Publicity Press Book Extra Large Club: *Opechee Garden Club*

RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Marie Lewis Conservation of Natural Resources: *Barrington Garden Club*

Maureen Colton Award (Club): *Barrington Garden Club*

Pamela C. Hebert Garden of Youth Award: *Sogkonate Garden Club*

Yearbook Award Class 5, 70-99 Members: *Edgewood Garden Club*

Yearbook Award Class 6, 100-299: *Barrington Garden Club*

Publicity Press Book Small Club: *Hameho Garden Club*

NEGC AWARDS 2017 – cont.

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT

Jeanne Marie Parks Award (Individual – Honorable Mention): *Suzanne Savage*

Joyce Kimball Container Gardening Award: *Rutland Garden Club*



NEGC Awards Group Photo

NGC MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR -- BLANCHE GARONE

Each year the NGC honors one member from each of its eight regions with an award called the *NGC Member Award of Honor*. The members are selected by their individual state federations and then go on to compete amongst other nominees from the region. This year we're pleased to announce that Blanche Garone, a 20 year member of the Derry Garden Club, New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., was selected to represent our region as the honoree. Blanche has held numerous positions at both the club and State level. She's a past president of the Derry Garden Club, a former District IV Director, Co-chairman of the Club's Youth Activities Committee, served as Chairman of the Judges Council Flower Show in 2015, and has been a flower show judge since 2013. She's also exhibited at regional flower shows including the Boston Flower Show, Art in Bloom at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and numerous symposia and state fairs. As the region's honoree, Blanche was given a pin and certificate from the NGC at the Convention in Richmond, VA in May. At this year's NEGC Awards Luncheon in Rhode Island, Joyce Kimball accepted a certificate on Blanche's behalf as the region's Member Award of Honor.

NEGC Calendar

Deadline for the February 2018 issue of Northern Exposure is **January 31**
– please e-mail articles or questions to editor Nancy Atwell at
atwelln@aol.com

State Garden Club Meetings

November 14 – Garden Club Federation of Maine Fall Conference, Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME. Heather McCargo from the Wild Seed Project will speak about landscaping with native plants. For more information contact Judith Tarbox at jtarbox@earthlink.net

November 15 – Board Meeting at CAES, for more information contact Inge Venus at ihvplanet@cox.net.

March 14, 2018 – Board Meeting at CAES, for more information contact Inge Venus at ihvplanet@cox.net.

April 18, 2018 – 89th Annual Meeting at CAES, for more information contact Nan Merolla at ncmerolla@aol.com.

April 23, 2018 – Garden Club Federation of Maine Board Meeting, Viles House, 71 Stone St., Augusta, Maine. Coffee at 9 a.m., meeting at 9:30 a.m.

May 16, 2018 – Board Meeting, for more information contact Inge Venus at ihvplanet@cox.net.

June 4, 2018 – Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Annual Meeting

June 18-20, 2018 – Garden Club Federation of Maine Annual Convention, Sebasco Estates, ME. Marta MacDowell, author of *All the Presidents' Gardens* and *Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired the Classic Children's Tales*, will speak.

Environmental Schools

April 2-4, 2018 – Environmental School Course I at Kellogg's Environmental Center, Derby, for more information contact Jeanette Barrows at jeanette.barrows@gmail.com.

Flower Shows

February 22-25, 2018 – 37th CT Flower Show, Hartford Convention Center, for more information contact Cathy Ritch at cathy.ritch.ct@gmail.com.

Flower Show Schools, Design Workshops and Symposiums

November 15 – Garden Club Federation of Maine Design Workshop 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish House, Falmouth, Maine. Flower show judge Candi Oliver will lead the workshop on a design interpreting a work of art. For more information contact Marilyn Traiser at mkt@maine.rr.com

December 1 – Before Beyond Beginning Design Workshop at CAES for more information contact Cathy Ritch at cathy.ritch.ct@gmail.com.

December 15 – Garden Club Federation of Maine Design Workshop 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish House, Falmouth, Maine. Flower show judge Sandy Blake Leonard will lead the workshop on pot au fleur. For more information contact Marilyn Traiser at mkt@maine.rr.com

April 6, 2018 – Before Beyond Beginning Design Workshop at CAES, for more information contact Cathy Ritch at cathy.ritch.ct@gmail.com.

May 4, 2018 – Before Beyond Beginning Design Workshop at CAES, for more information contact Cathy Ritch at cathy.ritch.ct@gmail.com.

Garden Study Schools

October 1-2, 2018 - Gardening School Course I at The Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. For more information contact Katherine Patrick at kmpatrick@snet.net.

Judges Council Meetings

November 13 – Judges Council Meeting at CAES, for more information contact Trish Manfredi at ptmanfredi@cox.net.

December 13 - GCFM Judges Council meets at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish House after Design Group in the morning. For more information contact Marilyn Traiser at mkt@maine.rr.com

April 17, 2018 – Judges Council Meeting at CAES, for more information contact Trish Manfredi at ptmanfredi@cox.net.

May 15, 2018 – Judges Council Meeting at CAES, for more information contact Trish Manfredi at ptmanfredi@cox.net.

Landscape Design Schools

March 20-22, 2018 – Landscape Design School Course IV at CAES, for more information contact Susan Laursen at sklaursen@aol.com.

Tours

December 6-8 – Bus Tour to Boston and Newport, Rhode Island, for more information contact Donna Desimone at d.desimone1@cox.net.

Please note: CAES stands for Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

