



DEEP SOUTH REGION

Deep South Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

# DEEP SOUTH MATTERS

Published four times a year

Spring, 2014



## From The Desk of the Director

2013 – 2015 Deep South Region Theme “Share the Beauty of Gardening”

Here we are in January with only about three months until the Deep South Convention. The Convention Chairmen and Convention Committee have been working for almost two years on this convention. The members here in Florida are really excited about hosting “Spotlight On the South,” Apr. 12- 14, in beautiful St. Petersburg, Fl. We hope you are planning to come, and will make your reservations soon. The Registration form and schedule are on the Deep South website, [www.dsregion.org](http://www.dsregion.org), along with the hotel information for the St. Petersburg Bayfront Hilton.

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Following the DS Convention, the FFGC State Convention “Florida Center Stage,” Apr. 14-16, will take place along with the State Flower Show, “In the Spotlight.” We hope you will join us for all three acts of “Coming Attractions.”

The following is a capsule of what is waiting for you at “Coming Attractions.” The Deep South Convention, Spotlight on the South,” will start off with a bang on Friday night, Apr. 11, with a barbecue and a “Trashion Fashion Show” featuring two members from each of the six states modeling very creative designs made from recycled materials. Don’t miss this unique and once-in-a-lifetime show.

The next day being Palm Sunday, a non-denominational service will take place at the hotel, and on Sat., the night before, transportation to Mass will be furnished.

The following are some of the terrific programs that will take place: "Achoo, What to Do"(plants and allergies); "Slow Food and Flower Movement"(local food from gardens and farms to kitchen and table); "Proven Winners"(new horticulture to expect this spring) and a design program by Penny Decker. Penny is an exceptionally talented designer with a keen sense of color in both traditional and creative design.

Very informational workshops are on the schedule: Awards, Community Gardens, the NGC President’s Project, the DSM Newsletter, and Mary Keith, “Preserving Your Harvest.”

Along with all of this the following tours will be offered; the Sunken Gardens, which is a shallow lake that was drained in 1903 and now features over 50,000 tropical and subtropical plants, along with waterfalls, a cactus garden, butterfly garden, etc.; the Chihuhly Collection, creative glass sculptures, and art; Morean Center for the Arts, paintings, ceramics, and glass art: & the Salvador Dali Museum, a most comprehensive collection of works by Salvador Dali.

Do come and join us for an exciting, educational, and fun time in beautiful St. Petersburg. We promise it will be a rewarding experience for all who attend. This Director hopes to see you there.

*Gloria Blake*

2013-2015

Deep South Regional Director

### Editor's Welcome

NEWS FLASH – the Deep South is a Deep Freeze! Severe cold weather has afflicted all of the six states of the Deep South Region, as we know. Here in North Florida the temperature hovers between the fifties and the low twenties. We are having more than our share of dark and dreary days. We're often called "The Sunshine State" but, for now, we are anything BUT a place of sunshine!

The fun and excitement of the holiday season is just a pleasant memory, and now it's time to plunge into our Garden Club activities and projects for 2014. Our calendars are filled and we are ready to focus on the tasks and challenges of the New Year. This year NGC is celebrating 85 years of "Making a World of Difference" as our NGC President's theme states it. That's a lot of work, dedication and impacting our communities in numerous positive ways. The friendships we've formed as we've gone along are a precious part of being a Garden Club member.

Excitement is building as we look forward to attending the DSR Convention in 2014 in St. Petersburg. Now is the time to place your ads in the Program Booklet to honor some special person or group in your state. Also, the Convention is the perfect time to have a Life Membership presented to an honoree by our Regional Director, Gloria Blake. You will find information about both in this issue of DSM.

Ron and I have worked to bring together in this issue a variety of topics that will pique your interest. Our DSR Chairmen are doing great things in their areas of responsibility, and it's a pleasure to have updates from some of them to bring to you. We want to hear from you and to hear your ideas and news. If there is something special you'd like to see covered in DSM, let us know.

The New Year - 2014 - is like a gift-wrapped package, filled with exciting things. Now is the time to begin to unwrap it...and to Share the Beauty of Gardening!

*Jan*

Jan Sillik, DSM Editor

Reminder - The deadline for the Summer Issue of DSM is April 15th.

### Regional Directors Schedule



#### 2014

Feb. 5, Mississippi Winter Board Meeting, Jackson, MS  
Mar. 26-28, LA State Convention, Baton Rouge, LA  
Apr. 11-14, DS Convention, St. Petersburg, FL  
Apr. 14-16, FFGC State FS & Convention, St. Petersburg, FL  
Apr. 30-May 3, NGC Convention, Norman, OK

### 'Spotlight on the South'

The Program Book for the 2014 Deep South 2014 Convention offers you an opportunity to honor your Regional, State, District and Club officers; to celebrate your achievements, salute your members and, at the same time, help defray Convention expenses.

Rates for ads are, as follows:

- Full page 7.5" high x 4.5" wide, black & white, inside program page - \$125.00
- Half page 3.75" high x 4.5" wide, black & white, inside program page - \$ 75.00
- Quarter page 1.75" high x 4.5" wide, black & white, inside program page - \$ 45.00

Checks made payable to: 'DS Regional Convention 2014'  
Deadline for ads: Monday, February 10, 2014

All ads must be camera-ready, black & white only, and must meet the exact measurements given above. Full page ads must use vertical orientation. Half page and Quarter page ads must use horizontal orientation.

Submit camera ready ad and payment to:

Joleen King, DS 2014 Ad Chair  
1016 SE Kitching Cove, Port St Lucie FL 34952  
772-337-0223 - [strking@reagan.com](mailto:strking@reagan.com)

To submit electronically (preferred) in MS Word or JPEG format, email to Joleen King at [STRKING@REAGAN.COM](mailto:STRKING@REAGAN.COM)

Committee reserves the right to refuse and refund any ad that does not meet the stated printing requirements.

## Regional Roundup

### Alabama Trece Chancellor

As President of the Garden Club of Alabama I am proud of our members for focusing on our theme "Sowing Seeds of Service." It was evident as we received more applications for awards this year. It's encouraging and rewarding for all to see so many first time applicants.



January is a busy month with an awards meeting and a Board of Directors meeting. All 8 districts were represented at the awards meeting to help the Awards Chairman finalize awards and get them ready to send to the DSR and NGC Chairmen.

We are eagerly looking forward to our State Convention to be held in March at one of Alabama's beautiful state parks, Lake Guntersville State Park. We will have the honor of our NGC President Linda Nelson being our special guest and speaker at our awards banquet.

### Florida Sue Angle

As Florida closed the year on its 500<sup>th</sup> birthday, in 2014 Florida Federation of Garden Clubs will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> year as a gardening organization, continuing its commitment to educate our members and the public. Our Spring Symposia will be March 4-5 in Pensacola; Gardening Study School Course 2 will be March 18-19 in Winter Park and Course 2 March 11-12 in Fort Lauderdale. Flower Show School Course IV will be March 24-26 in Jacksonville, Course I May 20-22 in Gulf Breeze. The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Tropical Short Course, a Tri-Refresher, is scheduled for January 29-30 in West Palm Beach.



Through our underwater gardening project with the Coral Restoration Foundation, we continue to "Save our Coral Reefs, one Garden at a time."

**PLEASE JOIN US** with Special Guest, NGC President Linda Nelson, in St. Petersburg following the Deep South Convention (April 12-14) for our State Flower Show (April 14-16), and our 88th Annual State Convention through April 16<sup>th</sup> --- Special Dinner Show with entertainment open to all on April 14; Convention Speakers: Gardening Experts Dennis Cathcart and Felder Rushing; Floral Designers Anthony Swick and Ian Prosser, designer for 3 Presidential Inaugurations.

Information and Registration: [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org). Y'all Come!!!

### Georgia Suzanne Wheeler

The members of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. are looking forward to spring and an ease in the cold weather. We do believe, however, that there is nothing like getting together to help thaw us out. The State Board of Directors attended the Winter Board Meeting in Americus. At the Board Dinner, Annette Wise, founder of the Rosalyn Carter Butterfly Trail, spoke about that project and a project she is working on for educating Georgia's school children about the importance of protecting pollinators.



The North Georgia Native Plant Symposium was held at our Headquarters House in Athens in January. The South Georgia Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium will be held in Tifton on March 26. Both of these are wonderful events- fun and educational!

Course II of Gardening Studies School will be held in Plains on February 24-26. Course I was a huge success. All of the attendees took home plants, which all gardeners love to do.

On February 27 our Historic Preservation Committee is sponsoring a fund- raising lecture in Savannah. The Lunch and Learn will feature J. Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

## Regional Roundup

The GCG mini-convention will be held in Macon in May. "Gardening Southern Style" will offer two workshops, a tour of some area butterfly gardens, the Awards Banquet, the State Life Luncheon, and, of course a business meeting. Our honored guest will be NGC President, Linda Nelson.

GCG members are continuing to "Scatter Joy as We Bloom and Grow."

### Louisiana Yvette Hebert

Louisiana has been "humming" with activities! Just in my short tenure as President since April 2013, there have been four Blue Star Memorial Markers dedicated: One in Harahan, LA, one in Metairie, LA along Veterans Memorial Boulevard and two in Westwego, LA along Highway 90 at Louisiana Street and at Victory Drive. Dedicating two at one time was quite a feat, but Joe and Cindy Baucum along with their merry band of "Hummers" made it happen! Louisiana now has eighty-seven Blue Star Memorial Markers.



Live Oak Society Chairman Coleen P. Landry has already registered one hundred fourteen live oaks bringing our total to 7,252. A special thank-you goes to Coleen who is ever on the trail of a new tree to become registered. If anyone has a live oak they would like to register Coleen can be reached at [CPL70600@aol.com](mailto:CPL70600@aol.com). Information is also available on our website [lgcfinc.org](http://lgcfinc.org).

As I traveled the state in October to the District Meetings, I pondered how marvelous it is that we are such a diverse state. I was overwhelmed at the wonderful programs that each district had and at how each district had its own footprint in the environment. Programs ranged from hearing about "Raising Cane on the Bayou" (literally, how to raise sugar cane), making designs using bromeliads, continuing the restoration of "The LeBranche Wetlands" and using "Louisiana Super Plants."

"Managing Storm Water, Using Native Plants" was a program presented by one of Louisiana's graduate Landscape Architects, who was a scholarship winner from years past. This was near and dear to us because we got to

see the fruits of the scholarship program. Without the garden clubs scholarship program this graduate would not have been able to stay in school. How proud we should be of this outstanding scholarship program!

Another program, "The Care and Handling of Old Trees," included a presentation on moving "Mr. Al" to a new location. "Mr. Al" is a 150 year old live oak tree weighing 40 tons that was in jeopardy of being bulldozed to make way for a service road. A garden club member lived very near to the tree and began to take immediate action to see how "Mr. Al" could be spared. This member and local officials along with the highway department and many experts came up with a way to save "Mr. Al." "Mr. Al" was moved three years ago on a huge flatbed truck and is being taken care of by the presenter of this program. "Mr. Al" is still surviving among the myriad of overpasses along Highway 90 for all to see. If you want to see the move, go to "You Tube" for "Berard Moves Mr. Al" video. It is quite amazing!

We invite you to take advantage of our upcoming educational opportunities:

**Landscape Design School**, Course IV, Baton Rouge, LA, January 29-30, 2014, Baton Rouge Garden Center

**Gardening Study School**, Course I, Lafayette, LA, January 9-10, 2014, Ira Nelson Center

The LGCF Convention on March 27-28, 2014 will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA. There will be a pre-convention tour on March 26. We are truly looking forward to a visit from Deep South Regional Director Gloria Blake. You may get further information and registration at [lgcfinc.org](http://lgcfinc.org). Until next time in "Nature's World Where Everything Belongs"...

#### Winged Jewel

With wings spun of silver and hearts of gold,  
These tiny creatures our hearts behold.  
With angelic features and colors so bright,  
Make even the heaviest heart seem light.  
The magical way they flit through the sky,  
They appear, then, vanish, in the blink of an eye.  
They're sending a message for us to retrieve,  
Anything's possible for those who believe!

Christopher Griffiths

Submitted by Yvette Hebert  
President, LGCF, Inc.

## Regional Roundup

### Mississippi

#### Mary Lynn Powers

The holidays have come and gone but ol' man winter has made an appearance to be reckoned with here in the south. Personally, I'm looking for the yellow daffodils that will bloom in March in Mississippi. I might even be warm by then!



At the October Board Dinner which followed our meeting, we had the wonderful opportunity to meet our three state scholarship winners and our national scholarship winner. At that meeting, we also chose to name one of the scholarships in memory of Imogene Triplett, who for many, many years was our state treasurer and also served as scholarship chairman. The next day we all attended the Landscape Symposium at MS State, which is the longest running symposium of its kind in the United States.

The Ocean Springs Garden Club, the Charleston Garden Club and the Spring Lake Garden Club all had wonderful Blue Star Memorial Marker celebrations and dedications. I think that gets our statewide total up to about 40 Markers, which is something of which to be very proud. Next month we will be hosting our Deep South Regional Director, Gloria Blake, at our Winter Board of Directors meeting. We are looking forward to her visit. I'm ready for Spring! This cold winter is something that makes me wonder if there really is something called "global warming"!

### Tennessee

#### Ann McCormick

The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs is very fortunate to have a headquarters building, the Ivan Racheff House and Gardens in Knoxville. The house is a circa 1902 craftsman style house with 3 acres of gardens. The house was given to TFGC in 1970 by Mr. Ivan



Racheff, who owned the adjacent steel mill, but who believed that nature and industry could exist side by side. While he lived in Chicago, Mr. Racheff maintained an upstairs apartment at his Knoxville home. He had his office, held conferences and entertained downstairs. Many of his recipes are included in the Racheff Cookbook, which is one of Racheff's fundraisers. Mr. Racheff was also an avid gardener.

There is much upkeep and expense in maintaining this fine old home and gardens. The Board of Governors do an outstanding job on a limited budget. Some of their accomplishments over the years are the establishment of a Memorial Wall in 1977, having Racheff placed on the list of National Register of Historical Places in 2002, a Blue Star Memorial Marker and earning a Level I Arboretum Certification in 2003. The gardens include a Children's Garden, a Wildflower Garden, a Fern Garden, and a "Plant It Pink" Garden.

Supported partly by donations from Amersteel and from TFGC member contributions, the Board of Governors sponsors several events annually. Each year there is a Wildflower and Craft Sale in April, with proceeds going to the upkeep of the Wildflower Garden, and a Bulb and Craft Sale in October with proceeds used to purchase 4,000-5,000 bulbs which are then planted in the garden. In addition, there is a gift shop and an elegant Greens Tea held in December. Members work very hard making wreaths, arrangements, baked goods and much more for this event.

Racheff is available for tours, meetings and special events. For further information, call 865-522-5210 or visit our website at [www.trfconline.org](http://www.trfconline.org).

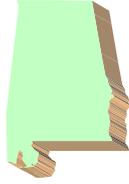
#### Plant for the Future

- G** – Great is a garden club that maintains its membership
- R** – Resourceful by using your libraries and public buildings to invite potential members
- O** – Opportunity to ask guests, friends or neighbors to your garden club.
- W** – Work to maintain your garden club's membership.

From The National Gardener

## Calendar of Events

### Alabama



- March 18-21, 2014 – Alabama State Convention, Guntersville State Park, Guntersville, AL
- August 6, 2014 – GCA Board of Directors meeting, Arrowhead Country Club, Montgomery

### Florida



- March 4-5, 2014 – Spring Symposium, Pensacola, FL
- March 11-12, 2014 – Gardening Study School Course IV, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- March 18-19, 2014 – Gardening Study School Course II, - Winter Park, FL
- March 24-28, 2014 – Flower Show School Course IV, Jacksonville, FL
- April 12-14, 2014 – Deep South Region Convention “Spotlight on the South”
- April 14-16, 2014 – FFGC State Flower Show “In the Spotlight”
- April 14-16, 2014 – FFGC State Convention – “Florida Center Stage”
- May 20-22, 2014 – Flower Show School Course I, Gulf Breeze, FL
- June 17-19 2014 – FFGC/UF Short Course Tri-Refresher, Gainesville – Jeanice Gage, Chairman, 352-332-1596
- Sept 22-24, 2014 – Flower Show School Course I, Ft. Myers, FL
- Oct 26-28, 2014 – Fall Symposium, District VII, Orlando-Altamonte Springs

### Louisiana



- March 26, 2014 – LGCF State Convention Pre-Tour
- March 27-28, 2014 – LGCF State Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA
- June 3-6, 2014 - Environmental Schools III & IV, Jean Lafitte, LA
- July 21-22, 2014 – LGCF Summer Board, Embassy Suites, Baton Rouge
- Mar 31-Apr 2, 2014 – Flower Show Judges School, Course II, New Orleans City Park, Botanical Garden. Call Carrie Martin to register 985-893-3285, Cell 985-373-4960

### Tennessee



- March 18-20, 2014 - Flower Show School I, Memphis Botanic Garden, Barbara Armstrong, B2armstrong@yahoo.com
- March 24-26, 2014 Flower Show School I, Ed Jones Auditorium, Nashville, TN, Kathy Rychen, kathyrychen@comcast.net
- April 1-2, 2014 – TFGC 87th Annual Convention, Marriott, Chattanooga, TN
- Aug 25-27, 2014 – District II FSS Course II

### Georgia



- The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. is sponsoring two NGC Schools Gardening Study School
  - Class II – February 25-27, 2014 in Plains, GA
  - Class III – April 22-24, 2014 in Plains, GA
  - Class IV – June 24-26, 2014 in Plains, GA
  - Contact person is Rebecca McNeill, 229-924-3093, [rrdmcneill@live.com](mailto:rrdmcneill@live.com)
- Environmental Studies School
  - Class II – June 2-3, 2014 in Valdosta, GA
  - Class III – November 3-4, 2014 in Tifton, GA
  - Contact person is Virginia Pennington Smith, 229-387-0537, [vpennington@mchsi.com](mailto:vpennington@mchsi.com)
- Feb 27, 2014 – Historic Preservation Event- Lecture by Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon - Savannah
- March 26, 2014 – South Georgia Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium - Tifton
- May 15, 2014 – Founders Memorial Garden, 75th Anniversary Celebration – Athens
- May 14-15, 2014 – GCG State Mini-Convention, Macon
- July 13-15, 2014 – Wild and Wonderful Youth Camp, Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Mansfield
- July 20-22, 2014 – Flower Show Judges Symposium, Athens

### Mississippi



- February 5, 2014 – Winter Board Meeting – Jackson, MS
- April 23-24, 2014 – GCM State Convention – Columbus, MS
- May 13-15, 2014 – Landscape Design School II, Louisville
- June 7, 2014 – GCM State Flower Show, Hattiesburg Convention Center, Hattiesburg, MS

## Features

### Improved Cultivars For Your Garden

It is always exciting to receive plant catalogs starting at the first of each year. And each spring so many interesting new plants are introduced in garden centers. But most people just don't understand the "behind the scenes" story which is part of getting those new improved cultivars and varieties into the marketplace.

At the NGC Seattle Convention, attendees enjoyed a talk by one of the preeminent people responsible for the introduction of new plants. John Gaydos from Proven Winners spoke to the group about product development and variety testing. At the Deep South Convention in Murfreesboro, TN, in 2012, Don Shadow of Shadow Nurseries spoke about how his nursery and others grow many of the new plants which will be offered to the public in the future. Without such people who make it their business to offer us improved and more interesting plants, we would not have such wonderful choices for our gardens.

What is currently going on in the plant world when it comes to new introductions? First of all there are the hybridizers, either professional or amateur who usually specialize in cross breeding new cultivars. Prominent among them are the members of plant societies. What they are attempting for the most part is the development of improved characteristics. One big example is the work previously done with African Violets over many years. Starting with a simple single species with round leaves and blue single flowers, we now have an extraordinary list of cultivars with so much variation of leaf or bloom color and form it would be very difficult to list them all. Plant societies are often the organizations which keep track of new introductions and they are important in helping members share hybridizing experiences. Members of plant societies also often share plants in order to test them for their potential as something which would be of interest to the public.

Next in line are the commercial growers, like Don Shadow, who receive plants from the hybridizers and test them further. Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs spoke at a American Daffodil Society convention of how new daffodil cultivars he had developed were sometimes selected by the large commercial growers in the Netherlands for

further sale. In order for a new daffodil to make it on the list of what is grown in the Netherlands, it must be superior in all respects. It must be easy to grow, have unique and interesting characteristics and must, most of all, have a bulb which multiplies very well. You can be sure that any bulb sold by the big commercial daffodil growers is definitely going to be something which will do well in your garden.

It is fascinating to learn how plant selections are made. Just as one of the most important improvements in African violet cultivars was the selection of blooms which do not drop off even after they faded, new plants must jump through a lot of hoops before they make the grade. Blooms must last a long time, drop off cleanly and not inhibit follow up bloom. Plants must survive heat and cold. They must have strong stems which do not drag down on the ground. The specifications are endless.

John Gaydos of Proven Winners spoke of how they select new plants to introduce. They not only want something which is superior in color of bloom and foliage than what came before, but also there must be an improvement in growth habit, often continuous bloom, and have satisfactory performance in many different climates. They have test gardens in various parts of the country, so they will know how their prospective new introductions will be able to hold up no matter where they happen to be sold. The plant introductions can be the work of many years. Even then there must be enough stock plants to be able to supply the market. Nowadays, a very large amount of new plants are propagated through tissue culture in order to meet the demand. Don Shadow does a lot of grafting for shrubs in order to speed up the process of propagation. A very sturdy and common plant of the same genus will often be used as root stock onto which will be grafted small pieces of a new introduction.

You can be sure that most of what you finally see as new at garden centers or in a catalog is going to probably be special. So if you are like me, I will eagerly await the new plant catalogs or go on line to see what is happening or be the first to see what newly arrives at my local garden center. I can hardly wait.

Pam Braun  
DSR Improved Cultivar Chairman



## Features

### Deep South Region Life Membership

Giving someone a Deep South Life Membership provides an excellent means of honoring those who have made a valuable contribution to your garden club, council, or district. Or, you are allowed to treat yourself. Your donation of \$50.00 supports a most worthwhile cause-the Deep South Scholarship Fund. It is tax deductible.

Congratulations to the following new Deep South Life Membership members:

Dorothy Boehm, Huntsville, AL...Honored by Federated Garden Clubs of Huntsville and Madison County

Atty Allred, Huntsville, AL...Honored by Redstone Garden Club

Betty Chesak, Huntsville, AL...Honored by Redstone Garden Club

Annette Orr, Fort Payne, AL...Honored by Fort Payne Garden Club

Carol Stewart, Huntsville, AL...Honored by Redstone Garden Club

Gwen Kelly, Gardendale, AL...Honored by Gardendale Garden Club

Elizabeth Curnow, Port Charlotte, FL

Martha Williams, Avon Park, FL...Honored by Avon Park Founders Garden Club

Genie McCook, Tifton, GA...Honored by South Georgia Judges Council

Kathy Donahue, Rome, GA...Honored by Diane Harbin

Pat Hathaway, Augusta, GA...Honored by Azalea District

Yvette Hebert, Alexandria, LA...Honored by LGCF District II

Paula Howard, Columbus, MS

Jan L. Orr, Pontotoc, MS

Ann Teasley, Franklin, TN...Honored by County Homes Garden Club

Monique Lewis, Hixon, TN...Honored District III, TN

Complete the application form at the end of this newsletter and mail with a check of \$50.00. Make the check payable to **Deep South Region** and mail it to:

Bess Hartley  
250 Cotton Hill Road  
Fort Gaines, GA 39851



### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS – IT’S OUR FUTURE

The arrival of spring provides multiple opportunities to extend invitations to join a garden club. Grocery, hardware, nurseries as well as the big chain stores display plants, seeds, gardening supplies and decorative items to entice the many shoppers.

**Be Prepared! Take advantage of this season to make personal contacts and share the joy of being a garden club member.**

#### **Get new members...**

Here are some suggestions which clubs found successful:

- Create computer generated “club business cards.” Give several to each member to carry in their purse to distribute.
- Make a post card size invitation to upcoming meetings, project, or event to hand or mail to potential members.
- Print a colorful flier. Include club name, meeting date, time, place and the contact information. Enticing program titles would create interest.
- Prepare a display board featuring club activities. Use pictures of programs, projects, community endeavors, youth club, etc. Include handouts with meeting and contact info. Can be used at many community functions.
- Make a welcome package for new residents. Include club information and a gift of seeds, bulbs or catalogs.
- Keep your club in the public eye by informing the local newspaper and radio of your events. Mention club contact in every news item with phone number.
- List your club in the phone book or place an ad in your local newspaper.
- Carry a tote with your club name or state logo when shopping
- Wear a tee shirt with club name when working on garden club project.
- Sponsor activities open to the public. Ex. Garden tour of members gardens, flower arranging demonstration, plant sale, Christmas tree competition, Halloween Scarecrow competition
- Host a booth at a Home and Garden Show, Farmers Market, Community Event

Caroline Silcox, Nancy Moore and Donna Bucci  
Membership Committee, Donna Bucci, Chairman

## Features

### Think Pink

*Greetings to all in the Deep South Region, After the bitter cold weather we have experienced the last few months there is hope for our gardens and spirits. Don't wait, it is time to get planning a "Pink Days" fundraiser. On behalf of the National Garden Club, Inc., Deep South Region, and Proven Winners we ask your clubs to join in this fun-filled project with a real reason to raise money for finding a cure for breast cancer.*

*Pink Days is a fun-filled, fundraiser which a garden club/clubs have supported across the United States & Canada & has been going strong for years. The fun-filled Pink Days event is partnered with an independent garden center or nursery, for every Invincibelle Spirit hydrangea sold, \$1.00 is donated to breast cancer research, 95% of the dollar goes directly into lifesaving research.*

*In 2009, Proven Winners introduced the INVINCIBELLE SPIRIT hydrangea, the first ever Annebelle hydrangea, this beauty is a survivor & thriver and is a beautiful addition to your southern garden and what a fantastic plant to inspire us. Now that y'all are informed on Pink Days....let's show them what we southern ladies are all about. Visit the Proven Winners web site for details, it is a beautiful site that I promise you will enjoy. Again.....*

*ASAP Visit [www.InvincibelleSpirit.net](http://www.InvincibelleSpirit.net) or [www.bcfcure.org](http://www.bcfcure.org) for ideas to help you get started. oh, by the way ASAP FYI ..... AS SOUTHERN AS POSSIBLE.*

*To all my garden friends, let's plant with an invincible spirit,  
Mary Hazen, "Plant It Pink" Chairman*

### Penny Pines

Since launching a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service in 2004, National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC) and its various affiliates across the country have collected well over \$100,000 on the local and state level for the U.S. Forest Service's well-known Penny Pines program. This program is dedicated to replanting damaged forested areas. These funds have taken root coast to coast, benefitting 80 national forests in 42 states.



NGC requests that donations be made in multiples of \$68. This was the cost of planting 10 acres when the Penny Pines program was first started in California in 1941 as a statewide conservation program, and has been retained as a minimum donation through the years. According to Art Loesch, NGC Penny Pines chairman, \$68 now covers the cost to plant approximately 350 seedlings, which translates to about one acre. These are replacements and/or trees indigenous (not only pine trees) to the particular damaged area, whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe. You may designate a specific State and/or National Forest you wish to have benefit from your contribution. A \$68 donation may be made in honor or in memory of ONE individual, organization or theme. NGC issues handsome personalized certificates recognizing donors or their honorees. Complete information is available on the NGC Web site at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org). Find the link to Penny Pines under the President's Ongoing Projects. There you can find a Penny Pines Fact Sheet, as well as the Donation Form.

One way to collect funds is to simply "pass the hat" at meetings to collect pennies and other coins or bills. Penny Pines is a worthy cause and members are enthusiastic about contributing.

Each year states in the Deep South are recognized for their donations and certificates are presented to the top contributors. Get the word out to your clubs to send their \$68 gifts before our Convention! We want Deep South to lead the nation in this project! Every acre matters!

Deanna N. McFarlan  
Deep South Penny Pines Chairman

## Features

### MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

#### – CHOICES MATTER

Linda Nelson, NGC President's Two Year Special Project, "**Making A World of Difference-Choices Matter**" will open new doors for in-depth and creative learning and educational opportunities centered on the natural resources of planet earth—our air, land, water, forest and wildlife. It is important that members of NGC promote education as the KEY in making responsible decisions for today and tomorrow.

The Project is divided into two categories—States and Clubs. Both will have equal opportunities to participate. Through generous grants, NGC will present monetary awards and certificates recognizing outstanding achievements for projects in each named category. An award application will be required. The rules are simple.

#### STATE FEDERATIONS--- IT DOES MATTER

##### Education for Responsible Choices

States are asked to promote education through workshops, seminars, articles in newspapers, using one or any combination of tools that will help in educating their members and the public in making responsible choices that will protect and conserve our natural resources—air, water, forests, land and wildlife. SEND State Award Applications to: Marion Hilliard, Project Coordinator — marionh@bellsouth.net

#### CLUBS---MAKING A DIFFERENCE

##### Protecting and Conserving Our Natural Resources AIR-WATER-FORESTS-LAND-WILDLIFE

Air and water are recognized as our most essential resources—forests, land and wildlife are also important concerns. NGC garden clubs are asked to get involved in the Project by planning and completing projects and local concern involving one or more natural resources. Club projects could be partnered with other community organizations—including other NGC Environmental Councils or Master Gardeners. Education of both members and communities may be necessary to make responsible choices.

#### Application DEADLINE —March 31, 2015

**SEND Club Award Applications** to The Project Chairman most closely related to the club's project. Projects may have been started before May, 2013.

State and Club applications shall be judged according to size, determined by number of members on whom NGC dues are paid. First Place (\$ 200.) and Second Place (\$100.) AWARDS for categories Category A,B,C, and D in EACH of the five natural resources, AIR, WATER, FOREST, LAND , WILDLIFE.

A - Small club – 29 & under

B - Medium Club – 30-50

C - Large club – 60-99

D - X-Large Club – 100 & over

Applications and further information will be available at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), from Regional Directors, State Projects Chairmen, NGC Special Projects Coordinator, and NGC Keeping in Touch (KIT).

Alice DeSomma

FFGC- NGC President's Special Projects Chairman



### Down The Garden Path

#### Reflections on the Beauty of Nature

Plants are not the only important feature in my yard that the birds like. I frequently see woodpeckers of various kinds debarking pine snags and dead limbs that are remnants from past hurricanes. They're searching for insects that hide in the crevices or hollowing out nesting sites. Birds of various kinds use the dirt pathways for their dust baths and grit requirements. Brush piles provide hiding places for mice, garter snakes, lizards, toads, and many insects of immense interest to the wrens and other ground-feeding birds. Rocks are incorporated among my flower borders and are used as perches for the birds and hiding places for tasty ants and beetles. Natural mulch underneath the trees and shrubs is home for worms, roly-polies, millipedes, and other scrumptious morsels. Birdbaths are placed all around to meet water needs.

My National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat is a home to a diverse group of plants and creatures. I have actively enlisted the help of this feathered pest control in my garden. Their list of gourmet treats closely resembles my list of most dreaded pests. My avian friends devour aphids, cutworms, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and other insects whose intent it is to dine on my ornamental plantings.

## Features

Since my love affair with the birds, I have become a more responsible environmental steward. I am much more tolerant of the insects that manage to damage some of my plants. I've decided, for instance, that if a plant needs poisons sprayed on it to survive in my yard, then that's a plant I can do without. Far too many desirable plants thrive and flourish in my garden setting without such harsh measures. I much prefer them.

Neither is my yard a mess of the jumbies as one might assume. It's not a wild garden although it is attractive to wildlife. Its diversity offers seasonal change and color that is hard to come by in the Coastal South. It's a place where Amiable Spouse and I enjoy sitting and becoming immersed in the sights and sounds of nature. Before we realize it, calmness and serenity seeps into our most inner spaces, and we are refreshed and our spirits renewed.

**Marie Harrison** is a University of Florida Master Gardener volunteer, NGC Master Flower Show Judge, NGC Horticulture Instructor for Flower Show Schools and Symposia, and author of four regional gardening books.

Editor's note: This is Part 2 of Marie's article; Part 1 was printed in the Winter Issue of DSM.

### COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Deep South Unified Project is COMMUNITY GARDENS. We know that most Garden Clubs are already involved in one or more community gardens. Remember, the definition of a community garden is quite simple. Gardens can be categorized into three groups – private gardens, civic gardens, or community gardens. A community garden is any piece of land gardened by a group of people from a community. The community may be a school, neighborhood, church, club, apartment, condo, community center or senior center. What distinguishes a community garden from a civic garden is the active participation and ownership of the community itself in the creation and care of a community garden. This is NOT a garden owned and planned by a hospital and tended to by a garden club or group of volunteers or a landscaped entrance of a school being weeded by PTA members. This IS a neighborhood park where residents agreed to plant and maintain fruit trees together or a plot of land behind a church where church members gather together to grow vegetables to distribute to parishioners or raised beds at a school where

students decide what to grow and tend the garden together. Got it? It's NOT taking over a maintenance project or having your friends over to help trim your hedges. It is all about INTENT and EXECUTION. A "community" (geographically or with a common interest) decides what to grow and what the rules will be AND does the actual gardening themselves (without hiring someone to do the work). Got it?

So, think . . . Is your garden club helping a community with their garden – school, church, neighborhood, etc. – and giving them technical advice or instruction? If you are, you should seriously

consider applying for one of the awards being offered for the Deep South Unified Project: Community Gardens. Simple Books of Evidence describing the project and documented by pictures need to be sent to your own State's Deep South Unified Project Chairman by their designated deadline. They will be forwarding on winning entries to compete for the Deep South Award Money by January 31, 2015. You need pictures and NOW is the time to take them. You'll want to document various phases of the growing season for your Book of Evidence. Look online at [www.dsregion.org](http://www.dsregion.org) under Projects to see the Brochure that outlines the Award Categories and Classes.

If you don't have a community garden project, it is not too late to start now. Approach a church, school, condo association, or community center. You can offer your services as a consultant to get their project underway. NOW is the time to start. Meet with the decision maker and get a piece of land designated. Make up Flyers and hold a meeting with people interested in participating in the community garden. Decide what will be grown and what the rules will be. Get this done now so you'll be ready to plant when winter is over. The Brochure mentioned above will give you some practical advice and sources for additional information.

If you're coming to the Deep South Convention in Florida in April, look for the Workshop on Community Gardens and I'll see you there. Happy digging.

Christia Li Roberts, Deep South Unified Project Chairman



## Features

### FUN WITH FLOWERS PROGRAM

Fun With Flowers is a program that offers demonstrations and make-and-take, hands-on workshops that are open to the public, as well as Garden Club members.

A suggested charge is \$15 to \$25 and pre-registration and pre-payment is necessary so that the Instructor can purchase materials ahead.

The possibilities for projects are endless! Materials and supplies are readily available at Floral Wholesalers, Craft Stores such as Michael's and Jo Ann's and stores such as Hobby Lobby, or even Wal-Mart. Flowers, fruit and vegetables are easily obtained from neighborhood groceries. Big Lots, Dollar General and Dollar Tree are great sources for containers and other unique materials/components at reasonable prices.

Students can be asked to bring some of their own materials, but it is generally best if the club/instructor provides everything and request that students bring clippers. That way, everyone has identical components to work with and the instructor has a much easier time.

It is not necessary to provide refreshments; but that is up to the local Club or District.

Instructors can be local Florists, Interior Designers or Garden Club members. Flower Show Judges and Floral Design Instructors make excellent teachers and are usually willing to share their talents and expertise (hopefully for free). It is strongly urged that ALL instructors sign a teaching contract so that all items/responsibilities are in print and agreed to before class

- Some Guest Instructors are paid a fee (between \$25-\$50) PLUS mileage and the host club provides all supplies for the class per instructor's supply list.
- Other Guest Instructors retain ALL registration fees, except \$5 (or whatever amount is agreed upon IN ADVANCE by contract).
- Example: In a class of 25 students with a class fee is \$20, total income is \$500.00. The guest instructor receives \$15 PER STUDENT (\$375) out of which s/he

must provide everything for the class: all flowers, wire, tape, containers, and other such components for the students. The club retains \$5 per student (\$125).

Clubs hosting the Fun With Flowers programs can make monies by having a Ways and Means table selling design essentials, extra Oasis, containers, specialty items or tools for designing.

Starting classes at 10 am and ending at noon works well (allow approximately 45 minutes for lecture and demonstrations, a short break to pass out supplies, approximately 50 minutes for the workshop, and end with clean up, registration for next class/es and announcements). While it is usually best to have the classes on weekdays, weekends are an option for some host clubs. "Fun with Flowers and Kids" is another great option!

This program is designed as a way to have membership recruitment. Membership CAN be increased through this outreach. Members from beginners to advanced can have FUN WITH FLOWERS!!!

***Within this issue of DSM, you'll find an example of a great Fun with Flowers project. The Pot-et-Fleur project will make a fun program and everyone can learn to do it!***

#### NGC President's Special Project

"Stages of remarkable and timely projects are being reported across the nation. Garden Clubs across the Deep South have been putting their caring for the natural resources of our planet earth to work for decades. NOW is the time to brag on these endeavors. In a 3 page award application you can tell the project's story, receive a participation certificate signed by Linda Nelson, NGC President -- and be a candidate for a cash award.

Deep South States also have the opportunity to share how their educational programs are helping their members and the public make the best choices, or decisions for our natural resources. Their efforts will also be recognized by the NGC President... Remember ... YOU can't WIN if YOU are not IN."

Marion Hilliard  
NGC President's Special Project Coordinator

## Features

# POT-ET-FLEUR

Container grown plant, Pothos or Devil's Ivy (Epipremnum aureum), is shown with cut flowers added to make a design in a basket.

### MATERIALS

Potted plant, a full, single plant such as Pothos, ivy or fern  
Basket to sit potted plant in  
Water tubes/picks  
10 stems Liatris,  
5 stems Alstromeria  
7 stems carnations



### DIRECTIONS

- Place potted plant in lined basket.
- Fill water picks with water that has had "flower food" added.
- Begin by placing 3 stems of Liatris together for the main line (tallest piece is 1 1/2 width of basket/pot plant; using 3 stems makes a bolder, heavier main line – you may need to unobtrusively wire these first 3 stems together); then, in a roughly triangular fashion, place the other Liatris, forming the outline of the design (Fig. 1).
- Reinforce and begin to fill design area with Alstromeria, placing stems/flowers so that they are inside the triangular outline of the design made by the Liatris. You may find that you need to "prune" out some of the flower stems of the Alstromeria and use them separately in water picks. (Fig. 2)
- Place several carnation blooms in each water pick and fill in spaces, placing so that the triangular feel of the design is carried by the color and placement of the carnations. (Fig. 3)

NOTES: This design will work with any combination of colors and flower types. Example is in basket measuring 10" across and has completed height of 28". Hot pink mini-carnations and pink/yellow Alstromeria and purple Liatris were used.



## Features

### DEEP SOUTH TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For details on hotel, tours, etc visit: [dsregion.org](http://dsregion.org) and [stpetersburg.hilton.com](http://stpetersburg.hilton.com)  
**April 11 – 14, 2014**

Fri, April 11	Registration	3:00 pm	6:00 pm	Lobby 1 Bay (Across From Hotel Registration)
	Barbecue /Trashion Show	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	Pool Area
	Cash Bar	5:30 pm	6:30 pm	Pool Area
	Executive Comm. Meet	8:30 pm		Suite (TBA)
Sat, April 12	Registration	8:00 am	5:00 pm	Lobby 1 Bay (Across From Hotel Registration)
	Educational Set Up	7:00 am	9:15 am	St Petersburg I
	DS Council Board	8:30 am	9:15 am	St Petersburg II
	Vendors Open	10:00 am	5:00 pm	Lobby III, Williams, Demens
	DS Meeting Opening	10:30 am	11:30 am	St Petersburg I and II (Opening Ceremony)
	Lunch/Program	11:45 am	1:45 pm	Grand Bay Ballroom
	Sunken Garden Tour	2:00 pm	5:00 pm	Buses Leave From South Entry Mass Attendees First To Tour; First Return
	Catholic Mass	5:00 pm	6:30 pm	Hotel Lobby Area by Van
	NGC President Reception	6:15 pm	7:00 pm	Lobby II
	Dinner/Program	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	Grand Bay Ballroom
Sun, April 13	Registration	8:00 am	6:00 pm	Conference Reg. Lobby II
	Non Denom Church	8:30 am	9:15 am	HTC 3
	Vendors	10:00 am	5:00 pm	Lobby III, Demens, Williams
	DS Business Meeting	9:30 am	11:00 am	St Petersburg I and II
	Lunch/Program	11:30 am	1:30 pm	Grand Bay Ballroom
	Workshops: # 1	1:45 pm	2:30 pm	St Petersburg II <i>Awards</i>
	# 2	2:45 pm	3:30 pm	HTC 3 DS Regional Project
				HTC 1 NGC President Project
				HTC 2 DSR Newsletter
				HTC 3 <u><i>Preserving Your Harvest</i></u> , <i>Options for Preservation, Mary Keith</i>
	Deep South Pictures	4:30 pm	6:00 pm	TBA (Schedule of States and Location)
	Pre-Function Cash Bar	6:15 pm	7:00 pm	Lobby II
	Dinner and Program	7:00 pm	10:00 pm	Grand Bay Ballroom
Mon, April 14	Tours To Morean, Dali, etc.	8:30 am	3:00 pm	Leave From South Entrance
	FFGC Flower Show Opening		3:00 pm	Harborview, Pier, Skyway & Bayboro Room
	Dinner & Entertainment		7:00 pm	Grand Bay Ballroom & Cash Bar Farewell dinner with our Deep South friends. FFGC Flower Show and Calendar Awards presented. Entertainment - <i>"My Three Sons" a fabulous award winning Barbershop Quartet!</i>

\* Spouse Hospitality will be open Sat, Sun, Mon with some tours, activities. See DSR Registration Form for details.

Cissy Richardson, 2014 DSR Convention Chairman, [suncit@msn.com](mailto:suncit@msn.com)

## Features

### DEEP SOUTH REGION LIFE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

State Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of DSR Life Member \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check for \$50 payable to Deep South Region. Mail with this form to the 2011 – 2013 DSR Life Membership Chairman: Bess Hartley, 250 Cotton Hill Road, Fort Gaines, GA [39851.email:bhartley@windstream.net](mailto:bhartley@windstream.net)

### DEEP SOUTH REGION LIFE PATRON MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

State Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of DSR Life Member \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check for \$100 payable to Deep South Region. Mail with this form to the 2011 – 2013 DSR Life Membership Chairman: Bess Hartley, 250 Cotton Hill Road, Fort Gaines, GA [39851.email:bhartley@windstream.net](mailto:bhartley@windstream.net)

*Indicate if membership is a gift  or surprise . Please check appropriate box and provide the following information. Gift memberships will be acknowledged.*

Honored by \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

*Special Instructions may be written on back of registration form.*

Deep South Life Memberships are used for funding scholarships for qualified freshmen (graduating high school seniors), sophomores, juniors, and seniors, majoring in any garden or environmental related subject and enrolled in an accredited college or university within the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.