



The Arkansas Gardener

June 2023

Find it fast...

AFGC website:
arkansasfgc.net
(password) TBA

SCR website:
scrgardenclubs.org
(password) TBA

NGC website:
gardenclub.org

NGC Member Services
1-800-550-6007

UA's Extension Office
www.uaex.edu

AFGC Office
705 Stagecoach Vlg.
Little Rock, AR, 72210
870-931-8455 cell/text
bobbieverser@gmail.com

All members, be sure that you know...

As a member of AFGC you are also a member of National Garden Clubs and South Central Region. Their websites are filled with ideas and opportunities for you. Take advantage of them.

The National Gardener is online. (No charge). Go to NGC website, gardenclub.org. Click on NGC.

Keeping in Touch is also on the NGC website.

The Communicator may be found on the SCR website.

The Arkansas Gardener is now emailed to our club presidents twice each year, in February and in June. Club presidents should forward *The Arkansas Gardener* to all members who email.

AFGC Avenues and Adventures, our newsletter, is emailed to all club presidents monthly with a request to forward to members.

GREETINGS from Pam Ellis AFGC President ~ 2023-2025 "DIG, PLANT, GROW"



Well, the lusty month of May is always a busy time of year for the National Garden Club with their annual convention. It was held in the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, and there is nothing that you would want to do that is not there, from Falcon hunting lessons, to a casino, to golf, to tennis. I'm sure some of you are familiar with the work of Dorothy Draper, who has been called the most influential American interior decorator of the past century. Seeing her stunning designs would take your breath away. Every guest room, every bathroom, every restaurant (and there

were nine) was different and her use of color and pattern was phenomenal. The garden tours, bunker tours, programs and speakers, the workshops on floral design, and all the other activities were just icing on the cake. The most amazing thing was being able to meet the Executive Director of the National Garden Club (a paid employee who works for us) and his assistants and how efficiently they run the business of NGC. It gives me assurance that this organization is safe. It was also a nice opportunity to get to know the NGC Executive Board volunteers from the president on down and know that we are in good hands. To be able to talk to them personally and communicate the issues we face in Arkansas and see their concern was truly humbling. I encourage you to consider going to the NGC Convention June 2-5, 2024, at the Westin Westminster in Denver Colorado.

It was such a pleasure to accept all of the awards for our very busy clubs. We had a lot of winners on the Region and National levels. Thank you for all of your hard work to ensure Arkansas' success. Bobbie has posted them in this newsletter.

We have some important meetings coming up. July 31st to August 1 will be the Mid-Year Board meeting at Fairfield Bay, and then our District meetings in October. I love the District meetings and learning all the diverse ways that garden club is enjoyed across this great state. October 3 is Northwest District, Southeast on October 14, Southwest is October 17th, Northeast is October 20th and Pulaski will be toward the end of October. And we can't forget the combined SCR/AFGC meeting April 22nd to the 25th at the Delta Hotel in Little Rock. Rose Knight and Nancy Rana have some wonderful events planned and this is going to be FUN! Don't miss it.

If you have any club activities coming up, please let Bobbie Verser know. She can include them in the newsletter, and Nancy McGraw can put them on the website. Please continue to utilize the media resources you have such as the NGC, SCR and AFGC websites and Facebook pages. Check out the Video Café on the NGC website. It is full of informative and educational videos to watch on a rainy day. A parting piece of trivia follows on page two.

Pam

What's Happening at NGC Headquarters



Brenda Moore, of Oak Hill, West Virginia, is honored to serve as the 48th National Garden Clubs, Inc. President, and to promote her theme of “Go Green – Plant America.”

What does “Go Green” mean? The internet defines it as becoming more environmentally aware and changing your behavior and lifestyle to reduce the amount of pollution and waste you generate. The decision to go green is a gradual process for most people. Any action you take that contributes to sustainable living makes a positive impact on the environment!

One of the simplest ways to make a difference is to swap your plastic bottle for a reusable one. Creating a single liter plastic water bottle requires at least 6 liters of water to produce. Not only will you help to conserve water you will also help limit the number of plastic bottles that flood landfills. How will you “Go Green?”

Brenda has a special passion for unusual and native plants. The Moore’s have a certified West Virginia Wild Yard, a National Wildlife Federation Certified Yard, and a Certified Monarch Waystation. Being a good steward of our Earth is very important to her. As a four-star member becoming a five-star member is one of her goals. The four NGC Youth books were authored or co-authored by her. The book, *My Green is Gone*, is illustrated by Emily Anderson. Order from Member Services, \$10 each. —www.gardenclub.org



Also at Member Services is the 2024 Vision of Beauty Calendar. Order now. They sell quickly. \$10 each for this spiral calendar. The designs are fabulous.

Brenda looks forward to meeting, communicating with, and working with National Garden Clubs’ members and potential members to make our organization an even better one. “No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it.”

—Andrew Carnegie



Does anyone need a “PLANT AMERICA” tote bag? \$12 each, order from Member Services.



Pam's Planting Pointers...

Hay vs. Straw: Hay is grown as food for livestock. If you buy hay for the garden, you will have seed heads that can sprout and create weeds. Straw, however, makes great mulch and planting beds for your garden. It has no nutritional value for animals since it's made from the plant stalk with the seed heads removed, leaving a hollow tube. Straw and hay are sometimes packaged identically in bales, so you may need to inquire or visually inspect the bales for seeds yourself. If you want to avoid pesticides, ask if the hay was organically grown. —Pam Ellis

AFGC ADULT NUMBERED AWARDS - FIRST PLACE WINNERS

Bella Vista G.C., #10, Yearbook (club size 6) (100-299 members), \$25 (Dorothy Ames)
#20, Heritage Award, \$25. (Paris Town & Country)

Bentonville G.C., #13, Arbor Day Award, \$25, (Jeanette Golden)

Mint Juleps G.C., #10, Yearbook, \$25, (club size 2) (20-29 members) (Dorothy Ames)

Night Bloomers G.C., #10, Yearbook, \$25, club size 1, (less than 20 members) (Dorothy Ames)

Garden Club of Rogers: #2B, Community Gardens/Continuing Educ. \$25, (Derenda Stanley)

- #4, Special Achievement, \$25, (Derenda Stanley)
- #6, Garden Therapy, \$25, (Nancy Voyles)
- #7, Conservation Concerns, \$25, (G.C. of Rogers)
- #8, Membership Increase, \$25, (Bobbie Verser)
- #9, National Garden Week, \$50, (Village Pines G.C.)
- #10, Yearbook, (size 5), (70-99 members) \$25 (Dorothy Ames)
- #11-A, Junior Gardeners/Yr. long program, \$25, (Sherrie Eoff)
- #11-B, Junior Gardeners/Single project, \$25, (Sherrie Eoff)
- #14, Membership Awareness/Large club, \$25, (NE District)
- #18, Litter Bug Beware, \$25, (Harrisburg G. C.)
- #19, Pollinators Project, \$25, (Terri Waterman)
- #21-A, Website/Social Media, \$25, Bella Vista G.C.)
- #21-B, Website/Social Media, \$25, (Derenda Stanley)
- #24-A, President's Project, \$150, (Terri Waterman)
- #24-B, President's Project, \$100, (Terri Waterman)
- #24-C, President's Project, \$100, (Terri Waterman)

Hughes Town and Country: #16-C, Innovative Flower Show Staging
\$25, (Arkansas Judges Council)

#16-D, Flower Show Schedule, \$25, (AR Judges Council)

#17-B, Floral Design Workshop, \$25, (Rose Knight)

Melinda Akins, #15, Turtle Award, \$25, (Lake & Plantation G. C.)

Debbie Main, #22, Bravo Award, \$25, (Village Pines G.C.)

Ronna Smith, #23, NW, Individual Service, \$25, (Ann York)

Terri Erwin, #23, Pul., Individual Service

Marian Baggett, #23, SE, Individual Service

Candy Rowe, #23, SW, Individual Service



Scholarships Presented

Taylor Hoover is the recipient of AFGC's scholarship award of \$2,000. Taylor graduated from Vilonia High School and attends Southern Arkansas University (SAU) in Magnolia, AR. She is on the Dean's List, and is active in FFA Alumni Association. She received a State FFA degree.

Taylor also received a \$2,000 scholarship from South Central Region and a \$3,800 scholarship from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

A Message from Taylor...

Dear Scholarship Committee Members and Sponsors:

Thank you so much for your dedication to making this process the best it can be. I am so honored to have been awarded this scholarship this year. I will be continuing my Agricultural Education degree at Southern AR University. A very special thank you to Ms. Bradberry for supporting me and answering all of my questions throughout the process. Without your help, I wouldn't have received the national award either!



AFGC YOUTH CONTEST WINNERS

#26, Bird Poster Contest, First Place Winners
\$20 each, (Bobbie Verser)

4th grade, A. Frazier, Iris G.C.

5th grade, C. Maulden, Iris G.C.

7th grade, S. Wilson, Iris G.C.

8th grade, L. Burroughs, Iris G.C.

#29, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl, First Place Winners
\$20 each, (Greenkeepers Garden Club)

1st grade, B. Rhoda, Iris G.C.

2nd grade, E. Story, Iris G.C.

3rd grade, E. Cash-Flowers, Iris G.C.

4th grade, S. Waits, Iris G.C.

5th grade, M. Poteete, Iris G.C.

*No entries for #27 or
#28 this year.*



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION — 2023 CONVENTION — OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

South Central Region, under the leadership of Region Director Rose Knight, held their annual convention April 19-21, 2023, in Oklahoma City, OK, at the Embassy Suites. AFGC members enjoyed the meetings, workshops, tours, vendors, and banquets. They also enjoyed visiting with garden club members from New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Pictured above, left to right, seated Nancy Voyles, Rose Knight, Pam Ellis, Nancy Rana.

Standing, Sherrie Eoff, Marge Leonard, Ronna Smith, Dee Curry, Deb Williams, Tracey Bonds.

SCR Director, 2023-2025, is Sarah McReynolds. Her theme is “Plant America — Pollinate South Central”.

Director’s Project, Pollinator Partnerships Bird of Year Contest: 2023 — Whooping crane (*Grus americana*)
2024 — Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*)

SCR Poetry Contest: 2023 — “I spy with my little eyes, something green outside”
2024 — “My garden has vegetables to spare that I can share”

INFORMATION FOR PRESIDENTS’ PACKET

It is that time again...Yes, information to be placed in the AFGC Presidents’ Packet should be sent to the AFGC Office ASAP. If possible, give information that covers 2 years.

- District Directors should send registration forms for their district meetings.
- Chairmen of Convention and Mid-Year Board meetings should send save the date/registration information.
- Any AFGC officers and chairmen should share information concerning Awards, Youth, Events, Reports, Projects, etc.



CIRCLE OF ROSES



Beth Kastl

Beth Kastl joined Bella Vista Garden Club in 1998, and immediately became the Ways and Means Chairman. The following year she served as Second Vice-President. She has held offices of President, 1st V-P, Assistant Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. She enjoys flower designing and one of her designs was printed in NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar. Beth is a Master Gardener and a member of Floralia Arrangers.



DISTRICT MEETINGS IN THE FALL

Northwest District, October 3

Southeast District, October 14,

Southwest District, October 17, DeGray State Park

Northeast District, October 20, Forrest City Country Club

Pulaski District (later part of October)

Watch for details for each district's meeting.
You are invited to attend any or all of these meetings.



The new officers of Wildflowers Garden Club were installed by out-going President Linda Holbert and her designer hats. "Hat's off" to the outstanding leaders. Left to right, Susan Elliott, Vice-Pres.; Cora Lee Brannon, Pres.; Judy Hornibrook, Secretary; and Marge Scheck, Treasurer.



2023-2025

Members of Executive Committee

OFFICERS: (Members of Executive Committee)

President: Pam Ellis, NE District

1st Vice-President: Nancy Rana, NW District

2nd Vice-President: Ann York, Northwest District

Secretary: Kathy Phillips, Pulaski District

Treasurer: Sherrie Eoff, Northwest District

Historian: Rosie Huddleston, Southwest District

DISTRICT DIRECTORS: (Members of Executive Committee)

Northeast, Hallie Orr; hallie.orr123@gmail.com

Northwest, Deb Williams; debwilliamsfnp@gmail.com

Pulaski, Anita Mounger; anitamounger@gmail.com

Southeast, Joanne Hopper; mail4jo40@yahoo.com

Southwest, Terri Waterman; terriafgc@gmail.com

OTHERS: (Members of Executive Committee)

Immediate Former President

Three Members-at-Large (appointed, non-voting)

Parliamentarian (appointed, non-voting)

Editor of *The Arkansas Gardener* (appointed, non-voting)

President of AFGC Judges Council (appointed, non-voting)

Book of Remembrance

(Memorials/Honorariums are placed in AFGC Scholarship Fund)

Sheila Evans by SW District
Toni Gass by SW District
Jane Kramer by Judi Davis
Toni Morrison by Garden Club of Rogers
Mike Morse by Garden Club of Rogers

A gift to the AFGC Book of Remembrance is a way of remembering the deceased or to honor friends and members of our clubs. With a contribution of at least \$10, a person's name is placed in the Book of Remembrance.

In Memory—give name and address of family member to be contacted.

In Honor—give name of individual and address of the person being honored.

DONATIONS TO AFGC FUNDS

Scholarship Fund:

Melinda Akins (AFGC Life Member)
Pam Ellis (AFGC Life Member)
Hallie Orr (AFGC Life Member)

Blue Star Memorial Fund:

Memory of Fran Singleton by Norma Haralson

Reminder...

Club Presidents, please remember to keep your members up to date by sharing information and forwarding newsletters each month. Watch for upcoming events and share opportunities with your friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flower Show School, Course 1

August 14-17, 2023

Hillcrest Hall, 1501 Kavanaugh Blvd., LR, 72205

Sponsored by AFGC Arkansas Judges Council

Rose Knight,

Flower Show School Chairman and Registrar

jkknight@suddenlink.net

501-519-3505

Instructors: Frances Thrash—Design

Sue Kirkman—FSP and Horticulture

We will study Roses and Ilex for Horticulture &

NGC Traditional Designs for Design

Pre-registration required

AFGC OFFICERS - 2023-2025

President, Pam Ellis
Pamella271@gmail.com

First Vice-President, Nancy Rana
nancygmrana@gmail.com

Second Vice-President, Ann York
annvork@gmail.com

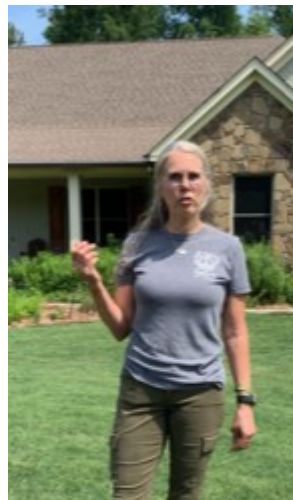
Secretary, Kathy Phillips
Ctandkathy@gmail.com

Treasurer, Sherrie Eoff
skeoff@hotmail.com

Historian, Rosie Huddleston
huddler@sbcglobal.net

Parliamentarian, Sandra Bradberry
springbrier49@gmail.com

MacArthur Garden Club enjoyed touring the pollinator gardens of Heather Isbell. Heather shared her great knowledge of native plants and emphasized the need for us to rethink how we garden. Afterwards, lunch at Izzy's.



**SCR ADULT AWARDS PRESENTED TO AFGC CLUBS
2023 IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**

- SCR-1, Arbor Day: Medium club, Bentonville G. C., \$25
Large club, Garden Club of Rogers
- SCR-3, Multiple Flower Show Schedule: Small club,
Hughes Town and Country, \$25
- SCR-4, Yearbook: Large Club, Garden Club of Rogers, \$25
- SCR-7, Outstanding Jr. Garden Club Yearbook Theme:
Garden Club of Rogers,, \$25
- CE-1, Community Concerns: Large club,
Garden Club of Rogers, \$25
- FD-2, Floral Design Program: Small club,
Hughes Town and Country, \$25
- G-1, Container Gardening: Large Club, G. C. of Rogers, \$25
- MAE-3, Digital Media: Large club, Bella Vista G. C., \$25
- MAE-4-G-1, How to Tips (single club): Large club,
Garden Club of Rogers, \$25
- YW-1, Youth Program: Garden Club of Rogers, \$50
- SCR Sweepstakes: Garden Club of Rogers, \$25
- SCR Director's Project: "Fun with Pollinators"
G. C. of Rogers, \$100



SCR Region Director, Rose Knight, on left, poses with four state presidents during the NGC convention in West Virginia. The presidents are Christine Longthorp, New Mexico; Pam Ellis, Arkansas; April Pratt, Oklahoma; and Gwen DeWitt, Texas.

SCR YOUTH CONTEST WINNERS SPONSORED BY AFGC

- Bird Contest: Adult Great Blue Heron
4th grade, First Place, \$20, A. Frazier, sponsored by Iris GC
6th grade, Second Place, C. Maulden, sponsored by Iris GC
7th grade, Second Place, S. Wilson, sponsored by Iris GC
- Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Contest
1st grade, First Place, \$25, B. Rhoda, sponsored by Iris GC
1st grade, Second Place, K. Farrell, sponsored by Iris GC
2nd grade, Second Place, E. Story, sponsored by Iris GC
4th grade, Second Place, S. Waits, sponsored by Iris GC
3rd grade, Third Place, E. Cash-Flowers, sponsored by Iris GC
5th grade, Third Place, M. Poteete, sponsored by Iris GC

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AWARDS
CERTIFICATES OF MERIT
DURING ANNUAL CONVENTION
IN WEST VIRGINIA**

- MAE 3, Best presentation submitted on any type of
digital media: Bella Vista Garden Club
- CE 4, Roadside Plantings: Garden Club of Rogers
- CE 5, Beautification Project: Garden Club of Rogers



AFGC MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING REGISTRATION - JULY 31 & AUGUST 1, 2023
“STEPPING BACK IN TIME”

Hosted by the Northwest District at Fairfield Bay Convention Center

Registration Information: Make checks to Northwest District, AFGC

Mail to Registrar: Geri Hoerner, 6 Glencoe Lane, Bella Vista, AR 72715 Cell 479-340-4886

Room Accommodations are at Cobblestone Inn and Suites, \$109 special rate for 2 Queens or 1 King by mentioning your attendance at Garden Club Meeting. Free breakfast in Cobblestone Restaurant.

Full Time Registration (Includes registration, meals and event/activities) \$ 135 _____

(Postmarked by July 10)

Registration Fee (Postmarked by July 10) \$ 40 _____

Late Registration Fee (Postmarked after July 10) \$ 45 _____

No registration charge for Guests. Please indicate yourself and/or Guest number beside dinner/lunch fee

MONDAY, JULY 31

For further information: Contact

Ann York, 501-733-2941

12:00 Noon – 4:30 p.m. Registration, Convention Center Lobby

12:00 Noon – 4:30 p.m. Ways & Means/ Vendors open, Hallways

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Viewing of Petite Flower Show – Room behind vendors

1:00 – 1:45 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting – Lobby Room

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting – Lobby Room

3:15 – 4:00 p.m. District Directors’ Meeting – Lobby Room

5:00 p.m. Judges Council Dinner “What’s My Design?” \$ 40 _____

Mexican Buffet/Activity

7:00 -8:00 p.m. “It’s Fiesta Time” \$ 15 _____

Flower Show School Fundraiser/ Social Hour with prize drawings

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. AFGC Mid-Year Meeting

12:00 Noon, Vintage Luncheon (Chicken Cordon Bleu)

(Vintage dress - hats, pearls, gloves optional) \$ 40 _____

History of AFGC

Carol Shockley, ARS Consultant and Judge; “Roses for Today’s Gardens”

2:00- 2:30 p.m. Unfinished business

Adjourn \$ _____ TOTAL

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Garden Club _____

City/State/Zip _____ Cell Phone _____

CIRCLE CLASSIFICATIONS:

AFGC (Pres) (Officer) (Chairman) (Dist. Director) (Former Pres.) (FS Judge) (Circle of Roses) (Life Member) (First Timer) (Guest)

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (Director) (Officer) (Chairman) (Life Member)

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB, INC. (Board Member) (Life Member) (Judges’ Council) (President)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____