



AFGC Avenues and Adventures

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



(A member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.) Volume 5, Issue 59



Greetings from our AFGC President, 2023-2025

AFGC Office: 501-831-0576



Pam will be attending the AFGC Annual Convention in the spring. The SCR Annual Convention will be interesting.

- March 24-26 – Flower Show School – Course 4 – Little Rock, Arkansas
- April 16-17 – South Central Region Convention– Albuquerque, New Mexico
- April 29-30 – AFGC Convention – Little Rock, AR
- May 19-21 – NGC Convention – Charleston, South Carolina
- August – Mid-Year Board Meeting
- October – District meetings
- December – Award applications due

I hope to see all of you attend, at least, one of these events.

Happy Gardening,

Pam

Happy New Year to All!

What an exciting year we have coming our way. I know everyone is really looking forward to the State Flower Show, February 21-22, at the State Fair Grounds in Little Rock. I want to remind everyone that this Flower Show is for the entire state of Arkansas. We hope to win some big awards from the NGC and we can't do that without the support of every club in Arkansas.

Having 100% participation is a big part of winning a top award, and I am sure that we can do it.

Club Presidents, please contact me to let me know how your club plans to support the State Flower Show. The Flower Show is certainly very exciting but we have a lot more to look forward to.

Make sure you put these dates on your calendar and plan on helping make the rest of the year exciting.



Canvas tote bag
\$12
NGC Store

Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community!

Join NGC clubs across the country to celebrate National Garden Week, June 1-7, 2025. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

A PAINTED GARDEN

A National Garden Club
Major Flower Show

Arkansas State Fairgrounds
Hall of Industry
2600 Howard St., LR, AR

February 21-22, 2025

Admission Charges
Adults \$5
Children 12 & under FREE

Teresa Shannon, Chairman

Pam's Gardening Tips for the Winter...

Whether we like it or not, this time of the year we extend our gardening skills inside and become houseplant gardeners. The term 'houseplant' is really misleading though. No plants are 'native' to the house! Most of our houseplants are native to the understory layers of tropical rain forests, where they thrive in the moist, humid, low-light environment. Over the years some of these species were collected and brought indoors because they are among the few plants that can survive in our low-light and drier environments. That doesn't mean they like it!

If you suffer from dry, itchy skin in the wintertime, then you probably know how your houseplants are feeling right now. Home heating systems dry out the indoor air so dramatically that the humidity in the house mostly drops to desert-like levels, affecting people and plants alike. Even cacti and other succulents that don't mind drier air still prefer about a 30% humidity level, instead of the startling 20% range we find in our homes. They also prefer a little cooler temperature rather than the typical 72 degrees of typical households.

To signal the need for more humidity, many plants will show dried leaf tips or dried edges on new leaves, and some may drop older leaves. Flowers will fade and drop off quickly, and buds may shrivel and fail to open. Overall, the plant will look stressed, not perky, and may have an off color. You may think it needs more water, but if the soil is damp, the problem is likely humidity. Some simple things can help: Position plants away from vents, both heat and air. They need air circulation, but not drafts – especially warm ones. Group several together so they can humidify each other as water evaporates from the soil. I'm not a fan of pebble trays, because water molecules disperse in all directions, not just up. Plants don't really benefit much from misting either, since they can't absorb water on leaves before it evaporates. Run humidifiers, which are widely available. When possible, turn down the heat a bit.

Understanding your own environment can help your plants feel at home, and hopefully avoid the majority of houseplant problems. Another problem area is very low light intensity, especially in the winter. Houseplants differ significantly in their light needs, but a plant in less than sufficient light will gradually decline in health – perhaps surviving, but not thriving! However, fluctuations in light can severely stress plants. Take care when relocating plants. If you move a plant currently growing in low light into a high light environment, it will burn or scorch. Likewise, a move from low light to high lighting will result in either a gradual decline, or sudden leaf drop – as in the ficus plant . A grow light (widely available) may be of assistance in providing light without heat.

However, over-watering kills more plants than all other factors combined. It deprives the roots of oxygen and promotes root rot. Most plants should be watered thoroughly when the growing medium has begun to dry out and only then! Plants do not grow as vigorously in winter because of cooler temps and shorter days. Therefore, they need less water and fertilizer. Avoid the temptation to fertilize, thereby preventing even further problems!

Happy Gardening,

Pam Ellis



WINTER BULBS: PLANTING AND CARE TIPS

Winter may seem like a dormant time for gardens, but it's actually a fantastic season to prepare for vibrant blooms in the months to come! Planting winter bulbs not only ensures a stunning display of flowers but also adds structure and color to your garden when most plants are tucked away. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, understanding how to select, plant, and care for winter bulbs can transform your outdoor space into a winter wonderland. Let's explore the essential tips and tricks to make your winter bulb garden thrive!

I know how disheartening it can be when your garden feels lifeless during the colder months. It's such a bummer when you look outside and see nothing but bare branches and frozen ground. But fear not! With the right selection of winter bulbs and proper care, you can enjoy a burst of color and life even in the depths of winter. From choosing the perfect bulbs to mastering planting techniques, these tips will help you create a resilient and beautiful garden that stands out all season long. Let's dive into the world of winter bulbs and discover how to make your garden bloom brilliantly!

Choosing the appropriate bulbs is the first step toward a successful winter garden. Some of my favorite winter bulbs include tulips, daffodils, and crocuses, each bringing unique colors and textures to your garden. Tulips, native to Central Asia and widely cultivated in Europe, come in a dazzling array of colors and shapes. Daffodils, originating from Europe and North Africa, are renowned for their bright yellow and white blooms that symbolize renewal and hope. Crocuses, native to Europe and Asia, are perfect for adding early spring color as they are among the first to emerge from the ground. It's important to select bulbs that are well-suited to your local climate and soil conditions to ensure they thrive without becoming invasive.

—Cody Medina, Small Scale Farmer

SAVE THE DATES... you are invited to any or all!

May 1, 2025: Visit Moss Mountain Garden & Home

Contact Nancy Voyles or Nancy Rana to make your reservation for the tour and luncheon to be held at the end of the AFGC Convention in Little Rock. We will be making final plans for this special event. Cost is \$110.

nvoyles62@aol.com or nancygmrana@gmail.com



What is a Friend?



*There are rare people in this world
who are always there to listen
with a smile and a loving open heart.*

*You are one of
those rare people...
How fortunate I am
that you are my friend!*

—Andrea L. Hines

2023-2025

Members of Executive Committee

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President: Pam Ellis, Pamela271@gmail.com
1st Vice-President: Nancy Rana, nancygmrana@gmail.com
2nd 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

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Southeast, Joanne Hopper; mail4jo40@yahoo.com
Southwest, Terri Waterman; terriafgc@gmail.com

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(Phyllis Byrum)

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Rose Knight,
Vision of Beauty Calendar, Committee
Nominating Committee

Nancy Rana,
Nominating Committee, Vice-Chairman

Pam Ellis,
State President (AR)

LOOKING AHEAD...

ARKANSAS FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

SLATE OF OFFICERS 2025-2027

President: Nancy Rana, NW District
1st Vice-President: Ann York, NW District
2nd Vice-President: Sherrie Eoff, NW District
Secretary: Ellen Rowan, SE District
Treasurer: Laura Whitley, SW District
Historian: Hallie Orr, NE District

Weddings at NGC



Last year, NGC started marketing weddings at headquarters. The 6.2 acres of ground create a fantastic location for a wedding. However, getting into the wedding business is not easy. Headquarters used their creative skills to develop a marketing process that includes social media marketing and in-person wedding expos. Although we are currently only allowing outdoor weddings, we've booked several weddings for the spring and summer of 2025. We look forward to adding more weddings in the future.