



# SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

(Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas)

## *The Communicator*

2025 VOL. 18— June, 2025

*Sarah McReynolds, Director 2023-2025*

### *Fun at the SCR Regional Meeting*



# SCR Representing at the NGC Convention in Charleston, SC





## Message from Our Out Going SCR Director...



### *Plant America – Pollinate South Central”*

Director of South Central Region has been the most rewarding job I have held in garden club. I have enjoyed meeting new friends in all four of our states. I will always continue to support our region and help any of our members in any way. I am extremely proud of all the Blue and Gold Star Markers placed in our region. And Christine Longthorp, New Mexico, our new 2025-2027 Director will continue this valuable tradition with new ideas and exciting projects. I encourage all the members to support her as much as all of you, have supported me.

Looking back I think we as members of a region of National Garden Clubs have promoted all the projects and initiatives of our parent organization. We have held many Flower Shows, Symposiums, Environmental Schools, Gardening Schools and Landscape Design Schools. We have held ZOOM schools as well as in person schools. And most worthy of note is the fact, that Oklahoma started an online Garden Club with members from across the country.

South Central Region has held more pollinator programs, workshops, skits and informational programs than any other region in NGC. We have become aware of our need to save our pollinators and therefor save the food supply chain.

I have enjoyed visiting all the states and learning about all the challenges our garden clubs are facing. I am also amazed at the number of younger members that are taking leading roles in their clubs. It has been a joy to see how garden club has helped shape many towns and cities and the impact the clubs have made on educating the public on pollinators. I want to thank all of the members for supporting my theme, "Pollinating South Central Region". Thank you for buying all the various pins, scarves and pollinator merchandise to support the scholarships. And thank you to every member who made me feel welcome to your clubs and regions.

I also am very proud of all the state, regional and NGC jobs many of our members have held. We are a strong force. And I am most pleased that one of our own, from New Mexico, Suzy Andrego was installed as the Second Vice President of NGC for the 2025-2027 term. We all need to support this valuable SCR member. And in 2029 we will hold the NGC Convention in Albuquerque NM to install Suzy Andrego as President of NGC. It will take all four states, under the leadership of New Mexico to make this wonderful convention happen.

Thank you for letting me serve as your Director of SCR 2023-2025.

Fondly,

*Sarah McReynolds*





## Message from Our In Coming SCR Director...

Hello to Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico garden club members.

I would like to introduce myself to you all as I begin my two year term as your SCR Director. My name is Christine Longthorp and I was born in Cornwall, England coming as an immigrant to Stillwater, Oklahoma in 1966 for two and a half years. We moved to Albuquerque in 1969 and returned to the UK in 1971. Our family with four children returned to New Mexico in 1976 and after many failures at planting a garden I joined Petal Pushers Garden Club to learn how to garden in high desert.

Being a happy member of NGC I have held most of the offices and all of that leads me to today where I take my first steps as your director. Just to back track a little, the 2025-2027 SCR board was installed in Albuquerque at the SCR Annual Convention on April 17<sup>th</sup> with Nancy Rana giving a most touching and charming installation ceremony instilling in us the promise to make SCR grow and serve. Thank you, Nancy, for a perfect start to our term. Those of you who were present will remember the poignancy of the moment.

My life has been blessed by good friends I have made through the years who share the passion of growing and in my case floral design. My theme is "Let the good times grow!" which I hope will promote membership growth, educational growth and community growth. NGC is the largest non-profit organization in the country and yet there are many who know nothing about us so as we lead up to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2029 we can spread the mission of our garden clubs where ever we go. Let's be an attraction for people in our local communities and as we travel we can promote support and interest at a time when gardening and outdoor living are the top pastimes in our nation.

I will end by asking for your support for my Presidents Project which is to install a Gold star memorial at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe. You will be seeing my choices for Ways and Means to fund this project soon in order to make this goal a reality.

Finally, a huge thank you to all you beautiful people for giving me the opportunity to serve a South Central Region Director as I fulfill my promise to promote growth in all aspects of garden clubs but most of all have fun! Let the good times grow SCR!

Happy summer, my friends...

*Christine Longthorp*

Director South Central Region 2025-2027



## Message from Arkansas 2023-2025

### President, Pam Ellis

My tenure is at an end. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, a new president was installed. I can't decide if this was the shortest two years of my life or the longest. Stewarding the AFGC these last two years was one of the highest honors I've ever had. I want to thank the Arkansas Garden Club members for the trust you had in me and all the support all of you gave me. I couldn't have done it without every member of the AFGC helping me at every step of the way. We got a lot done these past two years. Scholarships from the AFGC, SCR and NGC were given every year to deserving Arkansas young people just starting their future careers. After having eight Flower Show School courses, Arkansas now has several new student judges and accredited judges. And our clubs have really stepped up. There has been at least one flower show in Arkansas every month. With approximately 75% of the clubs participating either by volunteering, submitting horticulture or a design or sending a donation. (Those ribbons are expensive!) we were able to have the first statewide flower show since before Covid. The theme was "A Painted Garden" and it was beautiful. If you missed it, please don't miss the next one. As a newly accredited judge myself, I really appreciate those judging opportunities. There is a new Blue Star marker in Bentonville. The installation ceremony was canceled because of a tornado but the marker is there and we are pleased that we have once again been able to honor Arkansas veterans. We also started the first NGC Garden School in Arkansas. The third course will be in Marion, Arkansas September 12 and 13 with the last course being held in September of 2026. All of these were state projects. They don't include the club projects all over the state. The clubs in Arkansas are all working hard to beautify their communities, improve the environment and educate their friends and neighbors.

It has been a great two years and I'm looking forward to the next two years under Nancy Rana. She will be an awesome president and I can't wait to watch her lead the AFGC for the next two years. If I only know one thing, I know it's going to be fun and you won't want to miss a thing. To paraphrase Aerosmith. "You won't want to go to sleep because you'd miss something and you won't want to miss a thing".

*Happy gardening, Pam*



## Message from New Mexico 2023-2025 President, Debra Sorrell

### *“Grow Through What You Go Through”*

New Mexico Garden Clubs is alive and well. We 437 members and 21 clubs spread across a very large state. I know that Texas is bigger but you also have garden clubs that are bigger than our entire NMGC membership! We have wonderful little pockets of gardeners peppered all around and they are making themselves known in their communities. This last year, one club did their 3rd annual Pollinator Party which started in a city park and has now moved to the zoo!

One of our districts had a flower show for their spring meeting! I think that's amazing because many folks think it's taxing enough to just put on the luncheon.

Thanks to our incredible Blue Star/Gold Star chairman, Shirley Tetreault, New Mexico installed their very first Gold Star marker here in Albuquerque. The soil there must have been amazing because #'s 2, 3 and 4 sprouted up in other places in the state this year! And, they're still sprouting.....there are either 3 or 4 more in the works that I am aware of.

Our state fair includes 4 full flower shows during the 2 weeks of the fair in September. It's the same schedule for each show but members completely tear everything down and start over every few days. It's an incredible dance we have been doing for many, many years. Our newest fair chairman has been told that the fair will no longer host the flower shows. That is the life-blood for us to get judges trained (we have 10 in various stages of completion) and to keep judges current in their credits. So, there is much depending on our level of protest over the next couple of months to get that decision reversed. Keep us in your thoughts!

Another big issue for us this last year has been redistricting. With membership numbers declining, it seemed like a good idea to do a some shuffling and try to make each district a little more member rich. That was the idea.....it was NOT well received. I've talked to other state presidents who are dealing with the same problem. For us, we have arrived at a solution that will work. But, it was a difficult journey.

When I was compiling a list for the memorial ceremony, I came up with the seven people we have lost this last year. Amazingly, four of them are from the same club! Petal Pushers GC has obviously had a rough year. In spite of those loses, however, the club grew a little this year. These ladies love their members right to the end and continue to welcome anyone new.

We have 2 incredibly talented women who are taking big leaps forward in their garden club experience. Christine Longthorp is following Sarah as the new Region Director. You will LOVE her! And, Suzy Andrego was installed as the National 2nd Vice President in May. We could not be more proud! In 2029, New Mexico and South Central Region will be the home of the NGC National President. I'm happy that we can bring some attention to our region and this side of the US! Clearly, not everything good happens in the east.

It has been my honor and delight to be the New Mexico Garden Club president for the last 2 years. We have a diverse set of growing conditions here and an equally diverse group of gardeners. I have been so blessed to have the opportunity to meet wonderful women and men who share their love for gardening in our state. My travels to the SCR and National conventions have given me a chance to see how NGC flourishes across the country. I hope to continue to spread the word about the benefits of garden club and to support our new President, Johnese Turri. She will be spreading JOY all over our state in the next two years. I can't wait to see how it grows!

*See you in the dirt, Debra Sorrell*



## Message from Oklahoma 2023-2025 President, Carolyn McCabe

### **“Green Grows the Garden— Plant OK**

As my term as Oklahoma Garden Clubs State President wraps up, I look back on the two years of projects, travel, and friendship with a full heart. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful gardeners and pollinator protectors.

My theme has been “Green Grows the Garden, Plant OK”. The project was developed to teach young people how to grow their own food and encourage them to do so. Thanks go to the many members who purchased the Oklahoma State Commemorative throws that were offered for sale to fund the Project. I thank the clubs and their members, as well, who participated.

I would also like to thank all of the members and committee chairs of the Oklahoma State Garden Clubs, Inc. for their unwavering support during my term as president. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent the Oklahoma membership.

During my term there have been two Plant America grants issued by the National Garden Clubs of America to Oklahoma clubs, Blue and Gold Star Memorials put in place, and a remarkable amount of NGC flower shows throughout the state. It was so gratifying to receive the numerance awards for the Oklahoma Clubs that were presented at the Awards Ceremony at the NGC Convention in South Carolina last month, including a special NGC scholarship for a well deserving Oklahoma college student.

Thanks go to all the presidents for inviting and welcoming me to their District meetings, workshops and other activities. Traveling the state and getting to know members from Guymon to Broken Arrow to Lawton and beyond was wonderful. Also, a big thanks for member attendance at the OGC State Conventions. Without them, there would be no Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.

Finally, I would like to extend my [congratulations](#) and well-wishes to the Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. incoming president, Melanie Mason Spence. I am looking forward to serving her during the 2025-2027 term.

*Carolyn McCabe,*

Outgoing OGC State President



**Message from Texas**  
**2023-2025 President,**  
**Lee Taylor**

**“Choose your path and make a difference “**

Where did the time go??? Never a dull moment!!! So many memories have been tucked away in a safe place for easy retrieval.

When my term began, our organization was having some challenges with finances and cash flow. A committee was appointed by me at that time to review our books so that Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. could work towards a reduction in expenses. Another committee was formed at the same time to look into alternative methods of increasing our income. We decided to use our Headquarters as an event center promoting garden-related activities, such as weddings or showers, celebrations of birthdays or engagements, even a location for Garden Clubs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to hold club meetings and District Conventions. We are now “back in the black” and have had an “open house” to introduce our facilities to area vendors.

Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. is working on a new project which has been undertaken by National Garden Clubs, Inc...to place a Blue and/or Gold Star Marker at each Presidential Library in the United States. Texas needs markers at Lyndon B. Johnson Library (Austin), George H. W. Bush Library (College Station) and George W. Bush Library (Dallas). I know this project will be a great success and such a wonderful tribute to our Armed Forces.

The ending of my term is bittersweet. During my term, I have met and gotten to know so many people and made new and lasting friendships. I was able to travel to Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico enjoying a vastly different change of scenery. It has been interesting to learn how different parts of the country approach similar issues in different ways. Gardening, landscaping, environmental concerns and varied flower show ideas are the glue that holds us all together. It has been both a privilege and an honor to be a part of South Central Region for these past two years.

*Blessings to you,*

*Lee*

# Installation at the NGC



# ***SCR Youth Activities Coordinator***

## ***Linda Jean Brown***

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as South Central Regions Youth Activities Coordinator for the terms 2021-23, 2023-25. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the SCR Chairmen. It has been a pleasure meeting and getting to know each of you. I love to receive the entries from our youth. Some of them are priceless.

South Central Region has a very important garden club history which will continue for many, many years to come as long as we continue to be involved with today's youth, tomorrow's gardeners. Garden club members in this region have the determination to educate our youth on the importance of keeping our environment safe, clean and litter free. We need to stay connected to them so we can show them how to take care of our Earth.

Just by reaching out to these kids they know we care about them. Visiting their schools to teach them gardening is such a rewarding time to spend with this group of eager minds.

By reaching out to our youth one never knows the impact it will have in their young lives or how they will touch our lives.

Some of the ways we can teach them is through Youth Contests such as: The Bird Art Work, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters, Poetry, Essay and Recycle/Sculpture.

We as garden club members are encouraged to continue to educate the next generation so they have something to give to generations to come.

So let's do what we do best...play with others and get our hands dirty.

Our Youth...Our Future

*Linda Jean Brown*

SCR Youth Activities Coordinator 2021-23. 2023-25

# SCR YOUTH CONTEST AWARDS for (2024)

## SCR Youth Poetry (2024) Contest

**Total Awarded \$160.00**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Ameer Farraj \$20.00  
 A&M Garden Club  
 College Station TX (Dist V)

### 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Liam Hopson \$20.00  
 Newton Garden Club  
 Newton TX (Dist III)

### 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Tristan Trahan \$20.00  
 Newton Garden Club  
 Newton TX (Dist III)

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Fiza Sahar Dhosani \$20.00  
 A&M Garden Club  
 College Station TX (Dist V)

### 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Salam Farraj \$20.00  
 A&M Garden Club  
 College Station TX (Dist V)

### 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Jessah Semans \$20.00  
 Newton Garden Club  
 Newton TX (Dist III)

### 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Callie Brown \$20.00  
 Arp Garden Club  
 Arp TX (Dist III)

### 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Hinkley Crawford \$20.00  
 A&M Garden Club  
 College Station TX (Dist V)

# SCR YOUTH CONTEST AWARDS for (2024)

## SCR Bird Contest Killdeer (2024)

**Total Awarded \$100.00**

### 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Madelyn Queen \$20.00  
Bella Vista Garden Club  
Bentonville AR

### 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Ariana Sharma \$20.00  
Bella Vista Garden Club  
Bentonville AR

### 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Krisshaa Nagabalaji \$20.00  
Bella Vista Garden Club  
Bentonville AR

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Bowman Reynolds \$20.00  
Iris Garden Club  
Clinton AR

### 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Brandie Pastrano \$20.00  
Iris Garden Club  
Clinton AR



# SCR YOUTH CONTEST AWARDS for (2024)

## Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl

**Total Awarded \$125.00**

### 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Ollie Bradford \$25.00  
Iris Garden Club  
Clinton AR

### 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Abigail Gibbs \$25.00  
A&M Garden Club  
College Station TX (Dist V)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Lilah Gross \$25.00  
Iris Garden Club  
Clinton AR

### 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Zoey Miller \$25.00  
Sunnyvale Garden Club  
Sunnyvale TX (Dist X)

### 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Junyoung Choi \$25.00  
A&M Garden Club  
College Station TX (Dist V)



Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl: Home Sweet Home was created by the Betty Brien Children's Museum in collaboration with the US Forest Service. Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl are protected by Congressional law and are used with permission from the US Forest Service. All Rights Reserved. 16 USC 580p-4 & 18 USC 711i.

# SCR YOUTH CONTEST AWARDS for (2024)

## Recycle Sculpture

**Total Awarded \$60.00**

### 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Javier Deluna

\$20.00

Uttyler Academy

Dogwood Garden Club

Palestine TX (Dist III)

### 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Alana Fiocchi

\$20.00

Abilene Garden Club

Abilene TX (Dist VIII)

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Skyler Boyle

\$20.00

A&M Garden Club

College Station TX (Dist V)

## SCR Youth Essay (2024)

**Total Awarded \$50.00**

### 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Malak Farraj

\$25.00

A&M Garden Club

College Station TX (Dist V)

### 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Laila Farrai \$25.00

A&M Garden Club

College Station TX (Dist V)

**Total Awarded \$495.00**

## Pollinator Partnerships – SCR Director Award (\$100.00)

Mesquite Garden Club (Youth) – TX

Mesquite TX

# SCR ADULT CONTEST AWARDS for (2024)

## CE-1 COMMUNITY CONCERNS

	State	Size	Place
Morning Garden Club	NM	Med	1st
Green Thumb Garden Club	OK	Med	2nd
Bella Vista Garden Club	ARK	Large	1st

## CS-5 CIVIC DEVELOPMENT

Hunt Garden Club	TX	Large	1st
Bella Vista Garden Club	ARK	Large	2nd

## CE-8 LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Amaryllis Garden Club	OK	Small	1st
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## EC-1 PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Bentonville Garden Club	ARK	Med	1st
Garden Club of Rogers	ARK	Large	1st

## G-1 CONTAINER GARDENING

Garden club of Rogers	ARK	Large	1st
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## F-2 -FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM

Garden Club of Rogers	ARK	Large	1st
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## SCR-1 ARBOR DAY DEDICATION

Bentonville Garden Club	ARK	Med	1st
Hearthstone Garden Club	TX	Med	2nd
Garden Club of Rogers	Ark	Large	1st

## SCR-6 MEMBER OF HONOR

Ingleside Garden Club-Jean Joyce	TX	Large	1st
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## SCR-2 SINGLE CLUB FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Tulsa Garden Club	OK	Large	1st
Hughes Town & Country Garden Club	ARK	Small	1st
Late Bloomers Garden Club	Ok	Small	2nd

## SCR-3 Multiple GARDEN CLUBS FS SCHEDULE

OK Council of Garden Clubs	OK	Council	1st
Floralia Arrangers Guild Garden Club	ARK	Guild	2nd

## MAE-3 DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATION

Bella Vista Garden Club	ARK	Large	1st
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# SCR ADULT CONTEST AWARDS for (2024)

## MAE-4-A-3 PUBLICATIONAWARD NEWSLETTER (26 pgs)

New Mexico State Publication	NM	State	2nd
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## MAE-4-B-1 PUBLICATION AWARD NEWSLETTER (3-12 pgs)

Hunt Garden Club	TX	Large	1st
<b>Tulsa Garden Club</b>	OK	Large	2nd

## MAE-4-D-2 Publication more than 24 pgs

District IV	TX	District	1st
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## MAE-4-F-1 BROCHURE

Garden Club of Rogers	Ark	Large	3rd
Hondo Garden Club	TX	Med	1st

## MAE-5 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Tulsa Garden Club	OK	Large	1st
Garden Club of Rogers	ARK	Large	2nd
Hondo Garden Club	TX	Med	1st
Comal Garden Club	TX	Med	2nd

## SCR-4 YEARBOOK AWARD

Tulsa Garden Club	OK	Large	1st
Garden Club of Rogers	ARK	Large	2nd
Bella Vista Garden Club	Ark	Large	3rd
Hunt Garden Club	TX	Large	HM
Comal Garden Club	TX	Med	1st
Lakeside Garden Club	OK	Med	2nd
Abilene Garden Club	TX	Med	3rd
Holly Garden Club	TX	Med	HM
Valley Gardeners Garden Club	NM	Med	HN
Super Seeders Garden Club	TX	Small	1st
Amaryllis Garden Club	TX	Small	2nd
Arp Garden Club (Green club)	TX	Med	1st
Kyle Garden Club (Green Club)	TX	Large	1st

# SCR ADULT CONTEST AWARDS for (2024)

## SCR-5 OUTSTANDING YEARBOOK THEME

Designers & Diggers Garden Study Club	TX	Large	1st
Mesquite Garden Club	TX	Large	2nd
Tulsa Garden Club	OK	Large	3rd
Hearthstone Garden Club	TX	Med	1st
Amaryllis Garden Club	TX	Small	1st

## SCR-7 OUTSTANDING JUNIOR GARDEN CLUBBYB THEME

Bella Vista Garden Club	ARK	Large	No Score
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## YW-1 YOUTH PROGRAM AWARD

Tulsa Garden Club	OK	Large	1st
Garden Club of Rogers	ARK	Large	2nd

## YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

A&M Garden Club-Laila	TX	Grade 11	1st
A&M Garden Club-Farraai	TX	Grade 9	2nd

## POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIPS- SCR DIRECTOR AWARD

Bentonville Garden Club -Businesses	ARK
Morning Garden Club - Adults	NM
Mesquite Garden Club -Youth	TX





*A Big Thank you to all of the Contest Sponsors  
for 2023-2025*

*You are the BEST EVER!!*

### *Youth Contest Sponsors*

#### *SCR Bird Environmental Poster*

##### *Killdeer*

*Tyler Area Council of Garden Clubs*

*(5) 1<sup>st</sup> place winners @ \$20/ea \$100.00*

#### *Recycle/Sculpter*

*Dogwood Garden Club—Palestine, TX*

*(5) 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners @ \$20/ea \$100.00*

#### *Poetry*

*“I Spy with My Little Eyes Something*

#### *Green”*

*Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. District III*

*(8) 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners @ \$20/ea \$160.00*

#### *Smokey Bear/Woodsey Owl*

*Pionette Garden Club—Palestine TX*

*(5) 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners @ \$20/ea @125.00*

### *Adult Contest Sponsors*



*As of publication, I did not have a list of Adult Donors but know who you are and know that you are much appreciated. These awards are not funded by the SCR. The award amounts are donated by generous sponsors and are passed through to the recipients. We could not have the monetary awards without your help. Thank you again for your generosity and your dedication to rewarding our clubs for their hard work. Pam Ellis*



## SCR Historian Report

By Shirley Tetreault

When you read The Communicator, it states that Sarah's theme is "Pollinator Partnerships. Sarah has an amazing passion and asks that all members work together "because we are important to our land and to each other." These are small words with a big meaning. She offered a special SCR award and her director's project was "Pollinator Partnerships". Having many passions in garden clubs, she has contributed to her local club (Mexia Garden Club and Dallas Area Flower Show Judges), District V, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., South Central Region and National Garden Club throughout this administration. She has worked tirelessly to promote the mission of SCR which is modified from National Garden Club: "To provide education, resources, and region networking opportunities for it's members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility". She has traveled widely to the four member states - Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas spreading the word about pollinators around the world and the need for protecting our environment.

Her final act as SCR Director was in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Embassy Suites hotel

On April 16th and 17th 2025. She played the part of "Mother Nature" in a beautifully written play by Heather White, MD. It was called "The Retreat". Several members dressed in various costumes for their part, and it was extremely informative. The play made you laugh but was also very serious about our worldly situation and should be shared by many. Sarah was definitely "Mother Nature" and wants you to know how serious it is to protect our planet.

I will add the NGC Conservation Pledge: I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.

For more information on Sarah, see the Presidents reports on the National Website.



# More Fun In Albuquerque

## *Farewell Tribute to SCR Director Sarah McReynolds*

Outgoing SCR Director McReynolds was honored at the 2025 SCR Convention in Albuquerque with a play written by Heather White, titled “The Retreat: Pollinator Partners”. The play showcased the talents of many different SCR members from all 4 states in the region. Two of Sarah’s many interests are the environment and pollinators. The play focused on the things we have done in the past, are doing in the present, and might happen for the future. Many common pollinators were featured such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds but also some unusual ones like the sloth, elephant and bear. Special thanks to Janet Nevil, who played the Oracle, and did a special video presentation for each of the past, present and future segments—and she had an amazing costume as well. Sarah outdid herself as Mother Nature (see below), and Dennis Ellis was Father Time. Heather would like to express her thanks to all those who were willing to participate and don a crazy costume. Hopefully, we all learned something new!



## THANKS TO ALL THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION MEMBERS WHO PURCHASED

### DIRECTOR MCREYNOLDS PROJECT WAYS & MEANS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

*Immediate Past Director Sarah McReynolds and Ways and Means Chairman Heather White would like to thank the many members who contributed to the success of scholarship fund raising over the past 2 years. Scholarships are one way we invest in the future of gardening and related fields in each of our states. The outstanding contributions of our members allowed SCR to give a \$1000 scholarship to each state in the region for both 2024 and 2025. In addition, we have been able to turn in a nice nest egg of scholarship funds for the future. Over the 2 years, Sarah & Heather traveled to all 4 states, and several districts within each of the states.*

*Many different pollinator items were sold: pins, earrings, scarves, seed balls, bee feeders, bee watering tubes & stations, hair clips, headbands. Below are a few photos from our adventures.*





## Circle the Wagons TGC Fall Convention 2025

Oct 22-23, 2025 (Oct 21 Trustees 1pm & Finance 3pm at HQ)

Hilton Garden Inn – 912 Northton Street, Ft. Worth 76104: 844-535-2240

Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate \_\_\_\_\_

Credentials (Please Check ALL that apply)

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ NGC President \_\_\_\_\_ Fmr NGC President \_\_\_\_\_ NGC Chair \_\_\_\_\_ SCR Director \_\_\_\_\_ Fmr. SCR Director \_\_\_\_\_ SCR Chair  
 \_\_\_\_\_ TGC President \_\_\_\_\_ Fmr TGC President \_\_\_\_\_ TGC Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ TGC Chairman  
 \_\_\_\_\_ District Director \_\_\_\_\_ Club President \_\_\_\_\_ Club Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Club Member  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Club Alternate \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate Member \_\_\_\_\_ Council President  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Landscape Design Consultant \_\_\_\_\_ Gardening Consultant \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental Consultant

Flower Show Judges:

\_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ Accredited \_\_\_\_\_ Life \_\_\_\_\_ Master \_\_\_\_\_ Emeritus  
 Life Members: \_\_\_\_\_ NGC \_\_\_\_\_ SCR \_\_\_\_\_ TGC \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Time Attendee \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Needs for Health Reasons \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Oct 1, 2025 DEADLINE

Please select and enter amount for each event you plan to attend

Registration Fee: \$40.00 entire convention \$40 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$20.00 per day \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

### Total Package

Tuesday, Oct 21, 2025, Headquarters 1:00 PM Trustees, 3:00 PM Finance 6:00 Dinner & Party

White Elephant with President Linda Jean Brown, all invited, Dutch Treat. Meet at Hotel at 6 to share driving.

### Wednesday, Oct 22, 2025

Breakfast available for purchase in hotel first floor

9:00 AM Executive Meeting  
 10 AM Board Directors Meeting  
 12:00 Lunch Landscape Design Consultants- Mason Marshall, NGC, SCR,  
 TGC & William Welch Scholarship Winner \$33 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1:30 PM Depart for Headquarters for Arbor Day Ceremony by carpool  
 2:00 PM Arbor Day Program, Bobbie Mason  
 3:00 PM Tree Party at Headquarters & Grounds  
 4:30 PM Depart to return to Hilton Garden Inn by carpool  
 5:00 PM Reception Honoring new TGC Administration 2025-2027, Officers & Chairmen  
 6:00 Dinner Environmental Consultants Council- Environmental Concerns \$45 \_\_\_\_\_

### Thursday, Oct 23, 2025

Breakfast available for purchase in hotel first floor

9:00 AM Western Fascinator Workshop  
 10:00 AM Snack Break  
 10:30 Awards Seminar/How to Win Money! VP Awards Sherie Clarkson & VP Youth Awards Mary Alice DeBow  
 12:00 Lunch Gardening Study Consultants Council- "A Guide to Hyacinths" by Stan Aten \$33 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1:30 General Assembly  
 5:00 PM Reception Honoring SCR Director Christine Longthorp  
 6:00 Dinner Honoring Affiliates; Herb Program by Greater Ft Worth Herb Society \$45 \_\_\_\_\_

All workshops, receptions, and parties are donated by members.

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to: TGC Inc State Fall Convention

Mail to: Carol Coughran 14325 Olympic Ct. Dallas, TX 75234 945-283-8022

Chairmen: Heather White-979-220-7545 & Sarah McReynolds – 254-747-1144

Hotel Accommodation - Mention "Texas Garden Club Fall Convention 2025".

For special rate and blocked rooms.

DEADLINE Oct 1, 2025\_Hilton Garden Inn, 912 Northton St. Ft Worth 76104,

844-535-2240; Room rate \$159 double

## Continuation of TGC Fall Convention Registration



For transportation to White Elephant 10/21 we need drivers & need to know if you need a ride

-----I can drive ----# of passengers (do not include yourself in passenger #)

-----I NEED A RIDE

For transportation to HQ on Wednesday, 10/22, we need drivers to Arbor Day/Tree Party leaving at 1:30pm from Hotel (10 min drive)

-----I can drive ----# of passengers (do not include yourself in passenger #)

-----I NEED A RIDE

Anticipate Registration will be open 4-6PM Tuesday, 10/21 and beginning at 8AM 10/22

For Tree Party, optional but consider a garden hat

For Dinner Wednesday, Mexican theme

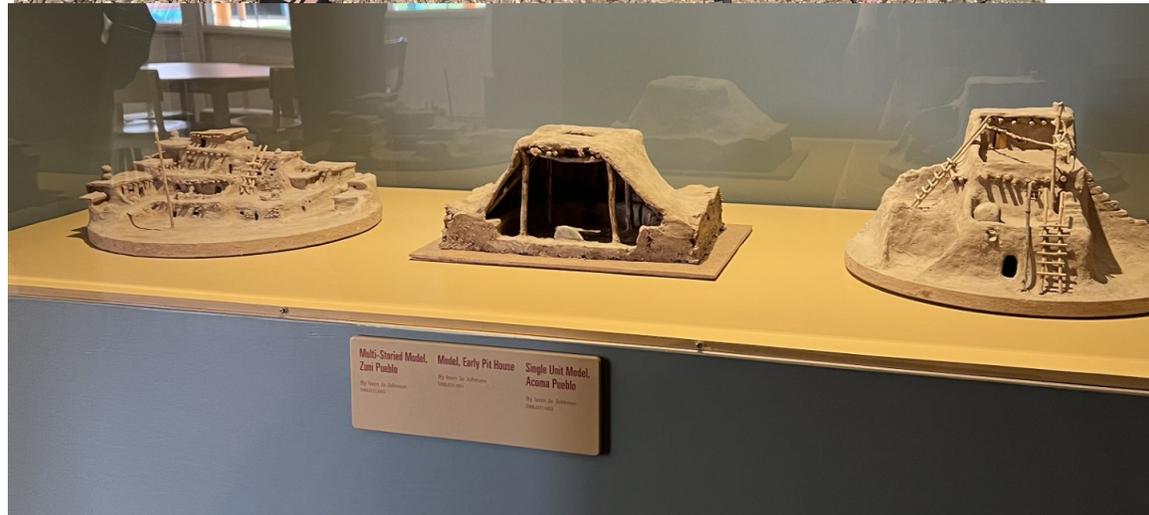
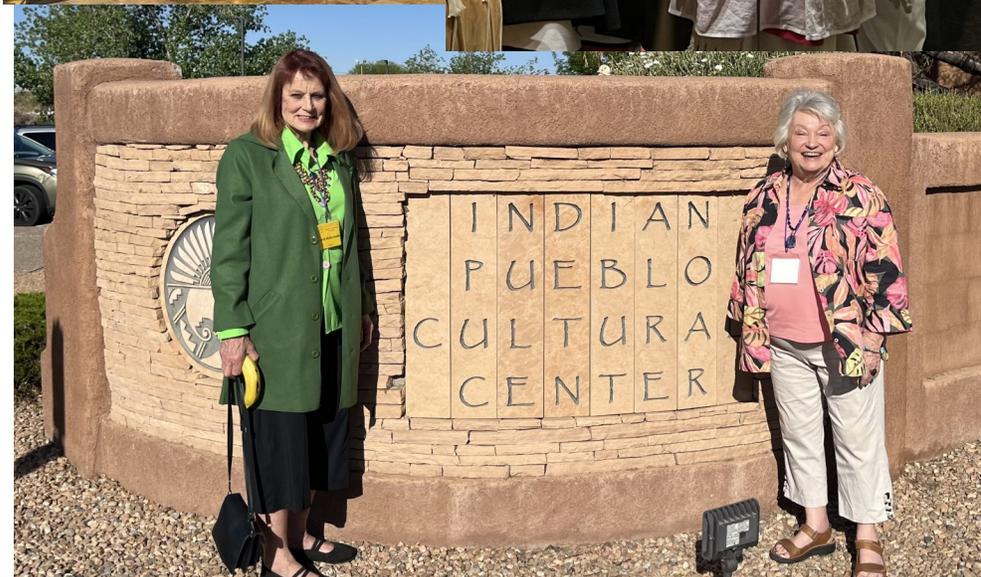
For Dinner Thursday, theme is Western Bling -- we will wear Western Fascinators made in Workshop

### *Invitation from Sarah McReynolds, Heather White, and Texas Garden Clubs*

**SCR MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE 2025 TGC FALL CONVENTION  
10/22-10/23/25**

TGC Fall Convention Co-chairmen Heather White & Sarah McReynolds cordially invite all members of SCR to attend our 2025 TGC Fall Convention, "Circle the Wagons", in Fort Worth, Texas, 10/22-10/23/25. SCR Director Christine Longthorp will be joining us for the festivities, and we would love to have other SCR members attend. We will be doing a pre-Convention dinner & honky tonk night on 10/21, and the Convention kicks off officially on 10/22. We have planned speaker programs, a workshop, an Arbor Day Planting, a Tree Party, fun fellowship and good times. Please consider joining us in Fort Worth. Yahoo! Rates are reasonable - less than \$100/day for meals/registration/activities, and rooms are \$159/night with double beds. This is geared to be affordable!

# Tours at SCR Convention



## DOWN THE GARDEN PATH – Keep America Beautiful

BY Gwen DeWitt Garden Consultant

It was fun traveling to historical Charleston, South Carolina for the National Garden Club Spring convention. There were boat rides to Fort Sumter, horse drawn carriage rides, tours of plantation homes and a walking tour of the old French Quarter. Oh my, the seafood!

We did actually work when we weren't out seeing the sights and enjoying the city. One of the interesting presenters was Jennifer Lawson, CEO and President of Keep America Beautiful. The organization, a national non-profit, is dedicated to transforming neighborhoods by planting trees, picking up litter, and boosting recycling. The organization was founded in 1953 and has 700 local affiliates coast to coast. It is comprised of a network of civic leaders, companies and millions of volunteers.

The organization's mission is "To Inspire and Educate People to take every action every day to improve and beautify their Community Environment." They like to say "We Plant Hope Building a Better Tomorrow one Community at a Time." At Keep America Beautiful, they know its more than clean streets or green parks – it's about people coming together to care for the places we all call home.

One of their projects that is dear to the hearts of Texans is a \$5000 grant Keep America Beautiful awarded to the Lady Bird Johnson National Park off the George Washington Memorial Parkway along the Potomac in Washington D.C. The park was created to honor the former First Lady's enduring legacy of promoting the beauty of our natural world by the planting of wildflowers along our highways. The grant was to replant flowers, trees and other restoration of the park.

Jennifer Lawson spoke to us of a major project they are implementing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America – the "Greatest American Clean Up." They are leading a drive to remove 25 billion pieces of litter in parks and other public spaces by July 4, 2026.

They want us to take the pledge - "I pledge to join the Greatest American Clean Up, to help create a cleaner, greener community. By working together, we can make our neighborhoods more beautiful in time for America's Birthday – July 4, 2026."

They came to National Garden Clubs because we share the same goals. They are asking us to join them by taking this worthy project back to our communities, encouraging them join in and be a part of the clean-up. I plan to spread the word to clubs and the communities around me asking them to take part in this project. If we work together, we can achieve their goal of 25 billion pieces of litter and in the process, we will be able to take pride in our

communities. After all, change comes from us joining together and believing in what we can accomplish together.

Keep America Beautiful's website is [www.kab.org](http://www.kab.org)

The husband and I keep litter picked up on our street. We carry a plastic grocery sack when walking, to use when we find litter. Living in the state parks, we found people are less likely to litter if you keep it picked up. Talk to your friends and neighbors about keeping litter picked up. Plant trees and spread wildflower seed this fall. Take the pledge - I'll be doing my part, hope you will too!



*Continued*

## Keep America Beautiful— Continued

Since I arrived home, I have been keeping my little part of America beautiful. Time spent playing in the garden makes me a happy camper! I have been putting out compost in the flower beds - hot weather breaks compost down faster, making it necessary to replenish. Twenty years of adding compost to the flowerbeds has made for happy earthworms and rich soil. It is certainly a change from when I first started gardening here. Good soil filled with organic materials feeds the roots and makes for healthy plants and a happy gardener!

We had the lawn people mow and edge giving the garden a nice crisp look. Thanks to the rains, the gardens look lush. It's important to keep grass clipped, bushes trimmed, and weeds pulled to help keep the mosquito population down. Make sure plant saucers are kept empty of water to reduce the places for mosquito larva to breed. It doesn't take very much water to provide a breeding ground for mosquitos. One of the worst offenders is moisture in your gutters.

I planted my caladiums early in April before I headed to Albuquerque. The weather was cooler and the bulbs didn't come up. By the time I returned from Charleston, night time temperatures were finally warm enough for the fancy leaf caladiums to unfurl their leaves.

I planted 'Carolyn Whorton' and 'Florida Sweetheart.' I do love pink and they look stunning with chartreuse sweet potato vine and Ti plant (Cordyline fruticose). The wide colorful caladium leaves provide a pop of color to the shade garden.

In addition to the caladiums, several orchids are in bloom. 'Lime Sherbert' Brassavola nodosa has a showy white lip with a yellow-green throat. The lime green sepals make an attractive addition to a twilight garden. One of my all-time favorite orchids, 'Rhyncholaelia Glia Digbyana' has a large bloom with a white lip surrounded by a fringe along the edge and a lime green throat. The bottom sepals are lime green while the top ones are white with a delicate blush. The Digbyana is another good addition for an evening garden.

As dusk falls, white blooms brighten a garden while dark colors disappear. They also tend to be fragrant to attract pollinators to their flowers. The garden at twilight is a magical place filled with the moths dancing about fragrant blooms. As the temperatures drop, the night air is filled with the song of insects and birds. Time to slip out into the magical world of a twilight garden.



*Happy Gardening!*



# Horticulture Report

By Pam Grotty

## · Propagating for a Fall Floral Finale: June is Your Starting Point

While the vibrant flush of spring may be fading, the savvy gardener knows that June is a pivotal month for ensuring a spectacular display of fall blooms. This is the ideal time to propagate certain plants, giving them ample opportunity to establish themselves and flower profusely as the days shorten and temperatures cool. Whether you're looking to expand your existing collection, share your favorites with friends, have entries for an upcoming fall show, or simply enjoy a longer season of color, June propagation can set the stage for a breathtaking autumn garden.

### Why Propagate in June for Fall Blooms?

June offers a sweet spot for propagating many plants destined for fall flowering. The weather is generally warm and conducive to root development, while the plants still have a significant growing season ahead to mature and produce blooms. Starting now allows your new plants to establish a strong root system before the stresses of summer heat fully set in and gives them enough time to develop flower buds for an autumnal show.

### Which Plants Benefit from June Propagation for Fall Blooms?

Several popular fall-blooming plants are readily propagated in June through various methods:

- **Chrysanthemums (Mums):** These quintessential fall flowers are easily propagated through stem cuttings taken in late spring or early summer. This allows you to create numerous new plants that will burst into color in autumn.
- **Asters:** With their daisy-like flowers in shades of purple, pink, blue, and white, asters are another excellent candidate for June propagation via stem cuttings or division.
- **Sedum (Stonecrop):** Many varieties of sedum offer late-season interest with their fleshy leaves and clusters of pink, red, or white flowers. They can be easily propagated through stem cuttings or leaf cuttings in June.
- **Salvia:** Certain salvias, particularly those that bloom in late summer and fall like *Salvia leucantha* (Mexican Bush Sage) or *Salvia elegans* (Pineapple Sage), can be propagated from stem cuttings taken in early summer.
- **Coleus:** While primarily grown for their vibrant foliage, some coleus varieties can produce late-season flowers and are very easy to propagate from stem cuttings in June.
- **Herbs like Rosemary and Sage:** While not strictly fall-blooming in a traditional sense, propagating these woody herbs in June allows you to establish larger plants that can provide a more substantial harvest and potentially late-season flowers in warmer climates.

*Continued*

## Horticulture Report—Continued

### Common Propagation Methods for Fall Bloomers in June:

- **Stem Cuttings:** This is a widely used method for many fall-blooming plants. Select healthy, non-flowering stems and take cuttings that are 3-6 inches long. Remove the lower leaves, dip the cut end in rooting hormone, and plant them in a well-draining potting mix. Keep the cuttings consistently moist and in a bright, indirect light location. They should develop roots within a few weeks.
- **Division:** For plants like asters and some varieties of sedum that form clumps, division is a simple way to create new plants. Carefully dig up the established plant and gently pull or cut the root ball into separate sections, ensuring each section has healthy roots and shoots. Replant the divisions immediately. This is best done on a cooler day.
- **Layering:** This method encourages a stem to root while still attached to the parent plant. Bend a low-lying stem down to the soil, make a small wound on the underside, and bury that section, weighing it down with a stone or peg. Once roots have formed (usually within a few weeks), you can sever the new plant from the parent.

### Caring for Your New Propagations:

Regardless of the propagation method you choose, consistent care is crucial for the success of your new plants:

- **Moisture:** **Keep the soil consistently moist, but not waterlogged.** This is especially important for cuttings as they develop roots.
- **Light:** Provide bright, indirect light. Avoid direct, intense sunlight, which can scorch young plants.
- **Humidity:** For stem cuttings, increasing humidity by covering them with a plastic bag or placing them in a propagator can aid root development.
- **Protection:** Shield young plants from harsh weather conditions, strong winds, and pests.

By taking advantage of June's favorable growing conditions, you can effectively propagate a variety of plants that will reward you with a spectacular display of fall blooms. This proactive approach not only expands your garden's beauty but also allows you to enjoy the colorful finale of the gardening season to its fullest. So get propagating, and look forward to a vibrant autumn

spectacle!



# *Organic Gardening*

## *Treatment Free Beekeeping*

### *Bobbie Mason*

My beekeeping journey began when the Ovilla Garden Club had a program by a Master Gardener who was a beekeeper. I was fascinated. She was also petite, and older than I was, so I thought it was something I could try. I went to classes for 6 weeks, bought a hive box kit, and purchased a bee jacket. I purchased a nucleus of bees from a beekeeper in Rowlett, and I was now officially a beekeeper.

One of the subjects covered in the beekeeping class was treatment for varroa mites. Shortly after I got my bees set up, the Ovilla Garden Club had a program with a visit to a commercial peach orchard in Waxahachie. They used no chemicals or sprays on their peaches. When the owner mentioned that he was a beekeeper, I quickly asked “What do you do for varroa mites?” He replied, “Aww, the bees kind of take care of themselves.” That is exactly what I wanted to hear!

My journey to be an organic gardener began years earlier. I used to listen to Howard Garrett (organic gardener) on the radio, and read his newspaper column. My husband scoffed at me. While at a family reunion, he brought this up in front of a relative that has a tree farm. That relative told me all the chemicals were safe and approved. I kept horses down the street on leased acreage. I told him that I was thankful that the homeowner next door did not use weed killer or fertilizer on her lawn, as it washed into the horse’s stock tank. He replied “oh, when you’re talking livestock, that’s a different issue.” I thought, “how is that different than my small child, and small dog walking barefoot on the grass?” An agreement was made. My husband fertilized the front yard, and left the backyard alone.

If I didn’t treat my yard and flowers, why would I treat my bees? And the thought of contaminated honey was on my mind. Of course, that’s not supposed to happen, but what if one of the steps went wrong?

I bought a book by Michael Bush “The Practical Beekeeper, Beekeeping Naturally”. His experience was that 50% of his hives were successful without treatments for varroa mites, and earlier in his beekeeping, he had a 50% rate when he treated for varroa mites. Those odds were good enough for me! Why go to the time and expense to treat, when the results may be the same? Mr. Bush emphasized that treating bees for diseases could hinder their ability to adapt and cope on their own.

*Continued*

## *Organic Gardening--Continued*

I did not have a mentor, and the area beekeeping club had meetings that were too far away to attend, although I did go to a couple of their meetings. I depended on social media to learn more about beekeeping. I followed 9 different groups on beekeeping. I quickly learned that it was best not to mention “treatment free”. (Except for the group “Treatment-free Beekeepers”.) It seemed that a lot of the pro-treatment beekeepers were angry that anyone would even think about not treating. Anytime someone lost a hive, or mentioned a weak hive, one member was quick to ask “when is the last time you treated for varroa mites?” I once recommended a homeopathic remedy for someone that asked for advice on bee stings. He replied that “stuff” never works. I didn’t reply to him, I just hid his comment.

I also learned a lot from the group “Women in Beekeeping”. It can be difficult to be a lone, older woman trying to lift those heavy boxes. Some of the Treatment Free Beeks only inspect their brood box once a year. Every time you go into the hive, there are going to be bees that are squashed, the possibility of harming the Queen, and robbing (from other bees) from honey that drips down. There were times that I felt like I did more harm than good when I opened the boxes for inspection, and times that I realized after the fact that I should have inspected sooner. Not having to open the hive in order to do 3 yearly treatments for varroa mites was another advantage.

You don’t get honey the first year, you have to wait for the hive to get established, and what honey they have, must be kept for winter. The anticipation was excruciating! So, I did steal one frame of honey, scraped it, and let it drip through a colander into a container in my kitchen. I have to say, that is the best honey I have ever tasted! And, no chemicals to be worried about!

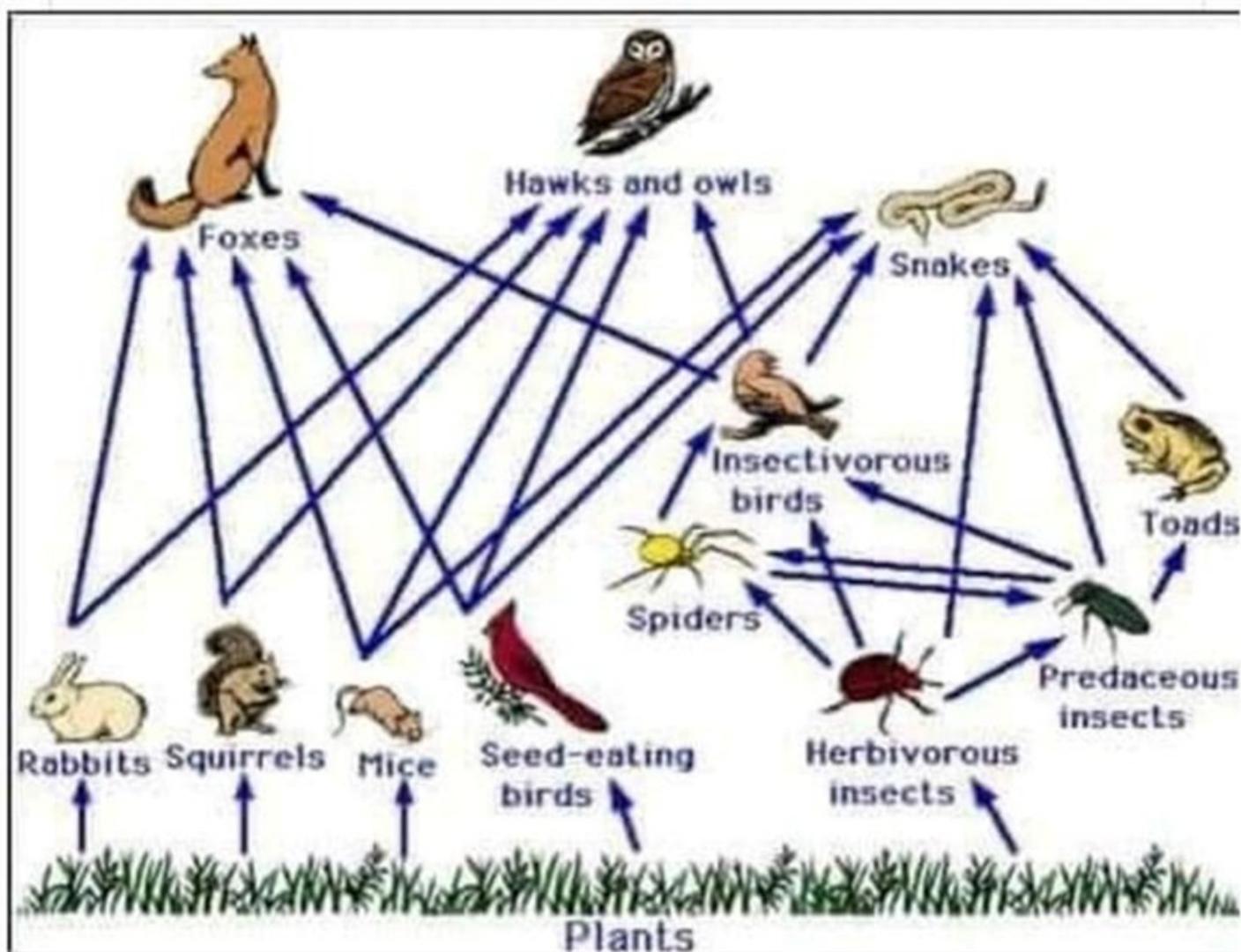


## Organic Gardening—Continued

This illustration shows the true facts. Chemicals applied to grass or plants affect all living creatures. Walking on the grass can bring chemicals on the soles of your shoes, onto the flooring in your house. The runoff may go into the creek that feeds my pond, and contaminate the fish and turtles in the pond, and the water my horses drink.

What if the success of fertilizer and weed killers was 50%, like Michael Bush found in his beekeeping? Would you still spend the time and money on your lawn and flowers?

**When you poison anything below, including the grass, it just moves up the chain. Stop using poison.**



*While Smelling Your Roses, Think Medicinal*

Even though roses are not thought of as herbs, they are indeed as much an herb as basil or rosemary. In fact, during the Middle Ages, roses were grown for both their fragrance and medicinal properties. Rose petals were blended with vinegar and used as an astringent boiled with sugar to make syrup, added to distilled water for an eye wash and the hips used to make tea.

In Nicholas Culpepper's Complete Herbal, written in the 17th century, are listed four different roses grown during this time that were used regularly for medicine. Those include:

**Rose (Damask) *Rosa Damascena*.** Described as having a pale red color and pleasant scent, this rose used as a syrup, helped keep the bowels regular and "was of considerable efficacy for common colds and coughs". When the flowers were dried and made into infusions and sometimes a powder, it was used "against the overflowing of the menses, spitting of blood and other hemorrhages."

**Rose (Hip) *Rosa Canina*.** Also called Wild Briar, the flowers were single, white, with sometimes pale red leaves and were usually grown in hedges. "After the leaves fall, they are followed by red seed-vessels, full of pulp." These seed-vessels (hips) were a great source of Vitamin C. Culpepper states, it helps "stay the defluxions of rheum upon the gums and teeth, preserving them from corruption and fastening them if they are loose, "Which probably did in fact work. Scurvy, a nutritional deficiency of Vitamin C, causes people's teeth to become loose and was a big problem during this time.

**Rose (Red) *Rosa Rubra*.** This rose is described as less double than either the damask or white and has a great many yellow anthers in the middle. This species helps "strengthens the stomach, prevents vomiting, stops tickling coughs, by preventing the defluxion of the rheum and is of service in consumptions; the anthera or aspices".

**Rose (White) *Rosa Alba*.** The flowers of this rose are "white and more double or fuller of leaves than the damask or red, having a less fragrant scent than either of them. Only the flowers of this rose are used, "being drying, binding and cooling; the water distilled from them is used in collyriums for sore inflamed eyes, it is the only officinal preparation from them." He states.

Even though today we wouldn't think of using roses in this way, there is still one use that has remained throughout the centuries. That is the recipe for rose hip tea. A beautiful shade of rosy, red, this tea is a better source of Vitamin C than orange juice. Antique roses are the best source of rose hips. After the roses have bloomed, resist the temptation to remove the dead flowers and shiny orange-scarlet hips will appear. These hips, after being dried, make the tea. Be sure to only use roses that have not been sprayed with pesticides.

#### Rose Hip Tea

1 tsp. dried rose hips (*Rubrifolia* or *Rose Rugosa*)

For each cup of tea, put 1 teaspoon of dried rose hips into a teapot. Add very hot water (not boiling, to help preserve the Vitamin C) and allow it to stand for several minutes, covering the teapot with a tea cozy or thick towel.





Below is a beautiful letter that was written to me by my very dear friend, Carolyn Bucklen. It was written in 2023 from an experience she had at the Albuquerque Garden Center. She knows that I have been the Blue Star/Gold Star Chair for many years and that my heart is always with our Veterans. As we approach Memorial Day, think of how important our Blue Star/Gold Star program is to so many. Where are they located in your city. Send me a picture beside the marker and send it to me with the location and the date you saw it. I hope your heart is warmed as mine is when reading this letter. It is not just a "plaque" mounted on a stick or a rock. It is a special tribute to our military. God bless the USA. Shirley Tetreault – Blue Star/Gold Star Chair At the Tomato Fiesta yesterday quite a few men asked for directions to the Blue Star Memorial both in the garden shop and outside. I was doing 'free' floral designs in awesome containers (donated or thrift store finds.) that had languished unnoticed on the shelves for far too long. I made several forays into the garden to collect blooms to supplement my leftover class greenery. I came in and out the kitchen door and each time I would see people pausing silently to reflect in front of the memorial, singly or in clusters. You could tell that for most it was a sacred moment as they stood absorbing the tribute as they spent more time than it would take to read the memorial and move along. I was privileged to have witnessed this salute to our veterans as I finally realized the true significance of the Blue Star memorial project. Veterans are so stalwart and are known for their silence regarding their service. These small recognitions resonate deeply within their spirits. Our Blue Star Memorial location couldn't be more perfect either. I had often wondered why our 'BSM' hadn't been more prominently located within the garden rather than relegated to the end of an often-skipped pathway. Several people asked me 'what was down there' before heading toward the larger garden space in the opposite direction. Watching the reaction of the veterans convinced me that the location couldn't be more perfect, giving them space and privacy to reflect in peace without being bustled along by other strollers in the garden. You are so involved in the dedication of these Blue Star Memorials... I wanted to be sure that you were aware of their impact during quiet times not surrounded by ceremony. This is great work. I met a veteran at the 'Survivors of Suicide meeting Saturday who is trying to be a father to a friend's/fellow veteran's 16-year-old son who had just celebrated his 1st birthday without his dad. The veteran was in his 50's and had lost his leg above the knee. He is active in TAPS at a national level. An amazing man, a true survivor, a testament to survival and contribution to his fellow man. Carolyn Bucklen

## News from our Clubs

### Rainbow Garden Club North Texas - Community Garden Project

The Rainbow Garden Club North Texas partnered with the Hampton Illinois Library Friends (HILF) about 3 years ago to rehabilitate a neglected garden in the library courtyard. When we started there was one living plant in the flower beds. We have amended the soil, added plants from our gardens, added bulbs and mulch. We have now created a garden filled with color from various pollinator plants. from Feb. through to the first frost.

We were there in May to do some cleanup work and add mulch in preparation for summer. Members did spring cleaning during the month of May at our community garden project at the Hampton Illinois Library in Dallas, Texas. We weeded, cleaned up the garden and added mulch in preparation for the start of summer on June 1st.

Stan Aten President Rainbow Garden Club  
North Texas  
District X



**RAYMOND C. MORRISON**

RAYMOND C. MORRISON WAS BORN ON SEP. 13, 1900 IN LAWRENCE, MISSOURI, TO PHILIP HUNTER AND EDITH AGUELLA (CLEVELAND) MORRISON. ON JUN. 9, 1922, HE GRADUATED FROM THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY. MORRISON MARRIED HELEN ESTELLE STEELE ON FEB. 28, 1924, AND THEY HAD TWO CHILDREN.

MORRISON IS NOTED FOR BEING FORT WORTH'S FIRST CITY FORESTER. MORRISON'S JAN. 1925 HIS MOST PROMINENT WORKS WERE AN ARBORETUM AND A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUNICIPAL ROSE GARDEN IN LOCK SPRING. FROM 1918 HE SERVED FOR FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN IN 1934. HE RESIGNED IN DEC. 1938 TO JOIN A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FIRM WITH EUGENE CARTER. MORRISON WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF HOLLAND'S SOUTHERN INSTITUTE FOR TOWN PLANNING IN 1939 WHICH WAS INITIATED AS A WAY TO ADDRESS ISSUES POINTED OUT IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WITH THE FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY'S OFFICE OF COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND RELATED DEFENSE ACTIVITIES IN 1947. HE PURSUED HIS OWN BUSINESS VENTURES INCLUDING A SOIL COMPANY AND TURKEY RANCH. IN 1931, HE BECAME THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE.

DURING HIS TERM AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PARK EXECUTIVES, HE CO-AUTHORED THE BOOK LET'S GO TO THE PARK WITH MYRTLE E. HUNT. MORRISON WAS ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS PUBLISHING, SPENDING, PHOTOGRAPHY, MAGAZINE AND JOURNAL ARTICLES, AND THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY GROUPS HE STARTED. HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND DIED OF PNEUMONIA ON APR. 12, 1989. HIS ASHES WERE SPREAD AT THE FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN.

172 YEARS OF TEXAS INDEPENDENCE 1820-2011  
MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**Did you know that South Central Region has a website** with lots of information, upcoming convention information and archived copies of "The Communicator" (The Official tri-annual publication of South Central Region).

**Website address: [scrgardenclubs.org](http://scrgardenclubs.org)**

**Password: FUTURE**

## *The Final Word*



*It was a pleasure to serve our states, the SCR, and the NGC*

South Central Communicator Editor

Pam Ellis

Communicator Email address: [Pamella271@gmail.com](mailto:Pamella271@gmail.com)

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