



AFGC Avenues and Adventures

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



(A member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.) Volume 5, Issue 48



Greetings from our AFGC President, 2023-2025



Pam Ellis
AFGC Pres.

Hi All,

Arkansas is absolutely gorgeous in October, and the venues the Districts chose really showcased beautiful areas of our state. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the meetings and seeing old friends at

each of them. I really relish the District Meetings and hearing all that our clubs have accomplished. To know all of the contributions this organization makes is really heartwarming.

Northwest District led the gatherings at Petit Jean State Park. The scenery and viewpoints were stunning, from the Palisades Overlook to Bear Cave, to the petroglyphs at Rock House Cave, to Cedar Falls (the largest water fall in Arkansas), and Petit Jean's burial site. I'd never been to this state park and if you haven't, you need to put it on your list. It is well worth a trip. I'm taking my grandsons next week. The speakers were very informative. One was a park ranger who gave us an overview of Petit Jean and the others were two master gardeners who told us how to care for our tools and spent the entire meeting sharpening our tools.

Next was Southeast hosted by the Hamburg Garden Club and held at their clubhouse, a Presbyterian Church built in 1871. Lunch was a

selection of various soups prepared by the members. I had to test all of them and every one was delicious. Our speaker, Michael Weatherford, a professional forester and avid photographer told us how to "Bring Nature Back to Our Backyard" with striking pictures of his yard.

Southwest held their District meeting at DeGray Lake Resort State Park, another spectacular venue. I was delighted to hear Minnie Hahn, garden manager of Garvan Woodland Gardens, tell us about the gardens and all the work that goes into keeping them beautiful.

Forrest City Country Club was the site of the Northeast District meeting. It was warm, cozy and inviting. Kevin Krajcir, Conservation Biologist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage, gave an interesting talk on "The Birds of Arkansas" and how to entice them into your yard.

All of the district meetings provided entertaining and educational programs, beautiful and creative venues, and scrumptious food. If you didn't make it to your district's meeting this year, please try to attend one next year. I promise you will not regret it. Also, put on your calendar the upcoming state meetings. The AFGC/SCR combined convention will be a party you don't want to miss.



The AFGC portion will be held on April 22-23 immediately followed by the SCR Convention on April 24-25 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Little Rock. Below, find a list of events and activities that you are sure to enjoy.

Speakers:

- 1) Janice Hamlin, retired NGC Design Instructor
- 2) Heather Runyan, Logoly State Park Interpreter, "Native Plants"
- 3) Chris Olsen, Tour and Lunch at Edgemont Home and Garden
- 4) Chris Norwood, flower designer, VP of Tipton & Hurst

Workshops:

- 1) Floral Design Workshop, Janice Hamlin.
- 2) Pollinator Punch, with Sarah McReynolds

Other:

- 1) Line Dancing
- 2) Reception honoring District Director and State Presidents.

(continued on page 3)

DON'T FORGET

An NGC Small Standard
Flower Show



Sponsored by:
Arkansas Judges Council

Faith United Methodist Church
9820 W. Markham St.
Little Rock, AR 72205

Nov. 16, 2023
1:00-2:30pm

A Member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges
Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
South Central Region

Free/Open to Public



AFGC Pres., Pam Ellis, and NE District Director, Hallie Orr, purchased stepping stones at their meeting in Forrest City.



Hughes Garden Club, a member of NE District, sponsored a flower show at the St. Francis County Fair. "Here's the Dirt"

President Pam... (continued from page 1)

The Mid-Year Board Meeting in August of 2024, will be hosted by the Southeast District at the Star City Civic Center and the theme will be "Hollywood". I can't wait to see what they come up with. All of the registrations will be posted on the AFGC website, <https://www.arkansasfgc.net/>.

The Members Only section has the Garden Club Manual and the President's Packet in it for all members to access – ask your club president or your District Director to give you the password.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Pam

Amaryllis for Christmas Gifts



If you guessed that the Amaryllis became a popular Christmas gift because it blooms in the winter, then you're correct. But the Amaryllis' winter bloom is not its primary bloom—in its natural state (planted in the ground) it flowers primarily during summer. The bulbs can be potted and induced to rebloom in the winter, making a perfect gift to add glorious, lively color to an indoor setting. In other words, by forcing dormancy, we can encourage this summer flower to bloom in winter, resulting in a vibrant display.

Ensuring Your Amaryllis Blooms for Christmas

Though it can bring colorful life into any home throughout the winter, many prefer the Amaryllis to bloom at Christmas, while others feel there is enough color during the holidays and prefer the company of the Amaryllis in the dark days of January that follow. This versatility allows you to buy an early-blooming South African Amaryllis for yourself or a loved one, with a planned blooming around Christmas, or to give later blooming Dutch Amaryllis as Christmas gifts to be enjoyed after the holidays.

When you buy or receive an Amaryllis bulb, it'll likely come packaged as a dormant, bareroot bulb, or already potted with soil. Pre-potted bulbs need only water and the proper temperature to grow healthy, tall flowers. While many bareroot bulbs will need to be properly potted before watering, the large size of White Flower Farm's Amaryllis bulbs allows them to be potted with nothing more than stones and water, if you prefer to show them off in a glass vase. Larger bulbs in any variety also produce more stalks and therefore more brilliantly colorful flowers.

Once planted, a dormant bulb takes about eight to ten weeks to begin blooming, which means that to ensure a lovely, full Amaryllis for Christmas, you should plant and water them in early November (to be on the safe side). Keep in mind, this estimate is for dormant bulbs without stems (which is how White Flower Farm will ship them to you) under optimal conditions, with proper care. Retail stores and other shops that do not specialize in Amaryllis bulbs may sell bulbs that have already started to grow stalks, which may indicate poor storage conditions.

With a few easy steps, an Amaryllis can deliver gorgeous color when it's needed most. Even a novice gardener can maintain a beautiful, flowering Amaryllis for many years, which is why the Amaryllis makes such a wonderful Christmas gift.

—*Shantelle Brignolo*

Little Rock Garden Club

presents

**GARDENING TIPS
AND
INSPIRATIONS**

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Second Presbyterian Church
Great Hall

600 Pleasant Valley Drive
Little Rock, AR

Doors open at 9:30am
Lecture begins at 10:00am

Tickets are \$10 each

More info or to purchase tickets...
www.littlerockgardenclub.org

Lecture, Refreshments,
and a Party Favor!

.....

Enjoy this wonderful presentation
by
Janet Carson, *“Arkansas Survivors”*
and
Jason Reeves, *“A Year in the Garden”*

ORDER TICKETS NOW. LIMITED SEATING



Janet Carson
AR Garden Guru

Jason Reeves
TN Garden Guru

When it comes to Arkansas garden advice, the person that comes to most folks' minds is **Janet Carson**, the woman who has worked in state service for more than 33 years.

You may know her from a variety of magazine and newspaper columns. Many of you may know her through the Arkansas Master Gardener program.

Jason Reeves is the curator of the University of Tennessee Gardens, located at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson, TN.



NGC INFORMATION

Our schools provide members and non-members with a range of educational opportunities on the art and science of the environment, gardening, landscape design and floral design.

Many of our Landscape Design, Environment and Gardening schools are offered virtually online. Check each school for dates and to determine if it is virtual or in person. Remember, you may take a school offered by any state. No hotel, driving or travel expense required.