



AFGC Avenues and Adventures

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



(A member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.) Volume 4, Issue 39



Greetings from our AFGC President, 2021-2023



Terri Waterman

It's hard to believe we are starting a new year; time is flying by for me. I'm not going to make any New Year's resolutions, I am just going to try and stay in the mo-

ment. To modify a popular quote – I'm going to "garden where my feet are", and enjoy what I'm doing now in my garden; not worry so much about what I haven't gotten done or that still needs to be done.

There are so many exciting things happening this year. We will be installing our incoming 2023-2025 Officers at our State Convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Hot Springs. We have the honor of our National Garden Club President, Mary Warshauer, attending and leading the installation at an evening banquet on April 6th.

I'm also excited that Rand Retzloff, landscape designer and owner of Garden Designs in Little Rock, has agreed to be our afternoon speaker on that Thursday. He is well known for his use of native plants in shade gardens. Some of you may have visited his ven-

dor booth at past Flower & Garden Shows where he always had a diverse selection of native plants. We are excited that he will also be a plant vendor at our meeting.

Look for information in this issue on activity suggestions for National Garden Week, June 4th--10th.

We have many Arkansas garden clubs planning and organizing beautiful events every year. If your club is planning activities for that week please send Bobbie Verser, our Newsletter Editor, the details as soon as possible. She will announce them and issue invitations. Also, send pictures and articles following the celebrations to (bobbieverser@gmail.com).

These details can also be sent to our Website Manager, Nancy McGraw, so they can be published on our website. (nancymcgrawviolin@yahoo.com).

Keep checking our website to keep up with all the happenings around the state. www.arkansasfgc.net Thanks to all the clubs and members who have provided pictures and articles this past year. Please continue to do so. I wish for everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023!

Terri



Inside this issue:

<i>National Garden Week</i>	2
<i>NGC Convention</i>	3
<i>Flower Show School, Course 4</i>	4
<i>AFGC Scholarship</i>	4
<i>Club President's Report</i>	4
<i>Who's Tending Whom?</i>	4

SLATE OF OFFICERS

2023-2025

President
Pam Ellis

Vice-President
Glenda Tolson

2nd Vice-President
Ann York

Secretary
Cathy Phillips

Treasurer
Sherrie Eoff

Historian
Rosie Huddleston



Ideas to Consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.
- Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.

—NGC website, gardenclub.org



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL CONVENTION

If you have ever given any thought to attending a National Garden Club Annual Convention, it might be a great time to investigate the possibilities and treat yourself to a fabulous vacation. May 2-5 is the time and White Sulphur Springs, WV, is the location of the 2023 convention.

The award-winning Greenbrier's grand façade is a historic landmark and modern accommodation to give you an incredible experience during your stay in West Virginia. The five-star luxury resort preserves its traditional heritage while offering many amenities and services for entertainment on its vast grounds.

The Greenbrier was founded in 1778 and rebuilt in the early 1900s. Since it first opened, it has been an upscale resort to welcome international visitors and several past US presidents. It features more than 700 rooms, 20 restaurants, and dozens of shops. It is located on 11,000 acres of scenic manicured lawns and untouched nature.

Did you know the U.S. Government sought The Greenbrier resort's help in preparing for a Cold War attack on the nation's capital? In 1958 during the Cold War at the height of nuclear panic across the United States, Project Greek Island was underway at The Greenbrier in quiet, little White Sulphur Springs, WV. At the behest of the Eisenhower Administration, a U.S. Government Relocation Facility was being built beneath what the public thought was simply an addition to the hotel proper. The addition, the West Virginia wing, was a cover-up. In reality, a concrete-encased fallout shelter was being buried 720 feet underground. It was intended to withstand an indirect nuclear attack and house all the members of Congress as well as a support staff of hundreds.

For more than 30 years, the bunker beneath the hotel remained the best-kept secret in West Virginia. That is until reporter Ted Gup broke the story to the world. Immediately the location was decommissioned, and over the next three years, the U.S. Government disentangled itself from The Greenbrier Resort.

—Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, WV

GET INVOLVED...

Are you interested in learning more about flower designing and horticulture for landscaping? Talk to Rose Knight, AFGC Flower Show School Chairman.

SAVE THE DATE

Flower Show School, Course 4
March 6-9, 2023
Hillcrest Hall, Little Rock

AFGC SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

AFGC Scholarship Applications are due Feb. 1. Mail to Sandra Bradberry, AFGC Scholarship Chairman. See information in AFGC President's Packet. Application may be found on NGC website, gardenclub.org.

Sandra Bradberry
Springbrier49@gmail.com
501-581-9439

ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS

.....
.....
.....
Complete the form —

**CLUB PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT
TO DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

(This is in your President's Packet).

Send to your District Director by February 1.

This report is based on the calendar year
(January — December, 2022).

It is important for every club president to report.

Who's Tending Whom?



"It's six of one and half-dozen of the other," my grandmother would have said, referring to the gardener and his other garden. This gardening season we've witnessed the bipolar behavior of Mother Nature. Even if you don't tend a garden, you know what I mean.

Tending a garden is more than just weeding and watering and crossing your fingers for success. It's getting nose to nose with your plants and watching for signs that your "garden children" are happy and healthy and playing well with others. No bullies allowed. Each one having an equal chance to thrive and have its share of soil, sun and water to refresh. Some even say that a word of encouragement or admonishment never hurts. I myself am often overheard whispering sweet nothings to a rose or shaking my finger at encroaching ivy.

It often seems as though the gardener does all the work, but it's not all give (by the gardener) and take (by the garden). Gardens and all their family of plants give so much back to the gardener. They offer a burst of color and movement or a place to breathe in the cleansed air after a shower. The sun comes back out after the shower and whispers, "Now aren't you glad for another day in your garden?"

The garden also offers a treat for the senses; the fleeting scent of spring honeysuckle that teases your nose, the soft plush of lamb's ear leaves, the sight of a moon flower unfurling its white purity to light the night. All the components of a garden are a gentle reminder to think about all you have been gifted through the miracles you witness daily through your garden journey. You watch growth, even death, and the chance of resurrection the next season.

So really, I think, in the end the garden tends the gardener.

—Beverly Florida
Cammack Village
Night Bloomers Garden Club