



AFGC Avenues and Adventures

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



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Greetings from our AFGC President, 2023-2025



Pam Ellis
AFGC Pres.

Hi All,

I find this time of year to be quiet and an appropriate time to reflect on what was and what is to be, what was successful in the past year and what might not have

turned out exactly as I would have liked.

It allows me to plan for the new year, not only in my life but in my garden. When garden writer, Henry Mitchell, wrote "There are only two kinds of people – those who garden and those who do not", he wasn't writing about what kinds of gardeners there are.

Almost everyone has a lawn mower and a shrub pruner and maybe a potted plant or two on the patio or in a window. I think everyone needs to grow something in a way that we enjoy and look forward to.

We should follow our bliss and please ourselves. Everyone's garden is going to be different and unlike anyone else's. It's when you start to worry about what the neighbors might think or preserving property values that your labor of love becomes a job.

Friends and Flowers Garden Club in Magnolia, Arkansas, will be hosting a seminar with Felder Rushing, one of my favorite gardeners, on Saturday, January 27, at 9am. He would be the first to say that the best gardens don't have to have bottle trees or cast-iron bathtubs filled with water lilies, and there may not be tall cement frogs or truck beds filled with marigolds. They don't have to be eye catching, but the best ones are! Those are the ones that cause us to pause, no matter how fast we are passing by—most characterized by whimsy. It may be a herd of plywood cows or deer or pink flamingos, but it causes a pause, maybe a picture or a visit with the gardener, if you are lucky. And, if you are the gardener who happens to be napping in the hammock, feeding fish or chickens, or poking in the fire, you have just made a new acquaintance.

Most of us have not been to gardens in every corner of America, the steamy jungles of South America or Africa, or the snowy peat bogs of Canada, but Felder has tried to reconstruct the science of horticulture and put it into the language of "garden variety" gardeners by giving us the following:

(continued on page 2)

"The Gardener's Bill of Rights"



REMINDER

Joann Hopper reminds you to think about plants you'd like to donate to our Ways & Means table at the convention. Folks always enjoy purchasing these.



*Leave room
in your garden
for angels
to dance.*

“The Gardener’s Bill of Rights”

The right to garden at any hour, day or night

The right to plant stuff in the front yard, away from the house foundation

The right to have no grass at all, except a small patch to lie upon to watch the sky

The right to plant any color flower next to any other color flower, even if they clash

The right to cultivate plants others may consider to be ‘weeds’

The right to more potted plants than we can possibly water

The right to plant too many tomatoes every year

The right to a leaf pile

The right to as many wind chimes and bird feeders as we can afford

The right to prune, or not to prune, leggy plants – with no questions asked

The right to mispronounce plant names, and to use the ‘h’ in “herbs”

The right to wear big floppy hats and baggy clothing – no matter how ridiculous we look

And lastly, the right to show our up-ended derrieres to neighbors as we bend over digging and planting – provided, of course, we are reasonably clothed

Horticulture has all sorts of rules and efficiency guidelines, and far too little room for doing stuff just for the love of it. Most gardeners, on the other hand, aren’t usually in a hurry or looking for a payback other than relaxation and the satisfaction in growing stuff, the above rights are inalienable to all gardeners, few of which make any sense at all to a horticulturalist – but those are all food for the gardener’s soul.

I hope you will join me January 27, 2024, in Magnolia to hear Mr. Rushing speak. I know it will be interesting, informative, and most of all fun.

We have a lot of exciting things coming up and I hope you will find a way to support the efforts of fellow club members.

Stay warm and be safe.

Pam

SAVE THE DATES

- 1) Friends and Flowers Garden Club
“A Gathering of Friends and Flowers”

Felder Rushing

Saturday, January 27

Hog Haven Story Barn

832 Columbia Road 405, Magnolia

- 2) Little Rock Garden Club

“Gardening Tips and Inspirations”

Janet Carson and Jason Reeves

Saturday, February 24

Second Presbyterian Church Great Hall

6000 Pleasant Valley Drive

9:30AM – Tickets are \$ 10.00.

Registration info on website

- 3) Flower Show School, Course 2

March 4-7

Four Points by Sheraton

925 S. University, Little Rock

Registration form is on the website.

- 4) SCR/AFGC Annual Conventions

Hosted by Pulaski District

April 22-25

Four Points by Sheraton

925 S University Avenue, Little Rock

- 5) National Garden Week

June 2-8, 2024

Spend some time this week

introducing folks to your garden club.

Invite new comers in the community to visit

one of your meetings or workshops.

THINKING AHEAD

Please save the date for the South Central Region – Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs Convention, April 22-25, to be held at the Four Points by Sheraton in Little Rock. This is a party not to be missed with programs by Janice Hamlin, Heather Runyon, Chris Olsen, Sarah McReynolds, and Chris Norwood.

Below, you will find some of the events Pulaski District has planned for you:

- 1) “On Island Time” - a buffet dinner of Caribbean foods followed by a floral design program.
- 2) “That’s Amore!” is the theme for our Italian buffet followed by a native plants program.
- 3) “Denim and Pearls” will showcase the Western themed centerpieces. Enjoy a BBQ buffet.
- 4) Garden Tour and lunch at The Edgemont House, home of Chris Olsen.
- 5) “The Big Easy” is an evening event with flavors of New Orleans cuisine.
- 6) “Under the Eiffel Tower” features Christopher Norwood and many interesting designs. Plan to enjoy Chicken Cordon Bleu.

In February we will have the registration forms ready for both of the conventions. There will be many things to attend and enjoy.

...Doubling Joys

When clouds and darkness veil the skies,
And sorrow’s blast blows loud and chill,
Friendship shall like a rainbow rise,
And softly whisper — peace, be still.

—Lucretia Maria Davidson

REMINDER

Register for the February event
sponsored by Little Rock Garden Club

“Gardening Tips and Inspirations”

Sat., Feb. 24, 2024

Second Presbyterian Church

Little Rock, AR

Tickets are \$10

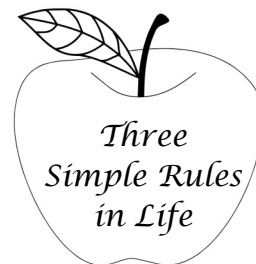
Door opens at 9:30am

Lecture begins at 10:00am.

Program presented by

Janet Carson and Jason Reeves

www.littlerockgardenclub.org



1. If you do not go after what you want, you’ll never have it.
2. If you do not ask, the answer will always be no.
3. If you do not step forward, you will always be in the same place.

—Unknown

VISIT THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

National Headquarters
4401 Magnolia Ave.
St. Louis, MO

In conjunction with the expansion of Headquarters in 1998, a garden adjacent to Kellogg Hall was planted in 1998 with perennial plants for attracting birds, bees and butterflies. It also features a bronze sculpture of a Bob Thomas design that honors his memory. The butterfly sundial and butterfly benches were created by Clydetta Fulmer of Montgomery, Alabama.

Research, time and experience has changed the views of wildlife planting for butterflies and other pollinators. In the summer of 2019, the Butterfly Garden was replanted with a diverse selection of butterfly-friendly plants from spring until fall, creating a native planting of grasses and broadleaves. As an added benefit, many of the plants are suitable for other pollinators such as bees and wasps.

An addition to the garden in 2019 was a stainless steel and glass monarch butterfly sculpture created by artist Abraham Mohler with a donation from Barbara Baker. Barbara's love, interest and concern for butterflies was the inspiration for her vision for this beautiful artwork that now graces this garden.

—www.gardenclub.org



Nominating Committee

—Submitted by Nancy Rana

The AFGC Nominating Committee will meet this spring to prepare the slate of officers for the 2025-2027 term. The offices to be filled are 2nd Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. Garden club presidents and members should suggest active and capable members willing to serve as an officer or a chairman for 2025-2027 to their district nominating committee member or District Director. On page 1 of the President's Report, club presidents may list names and contact information of persons willing to serve in state offices or chairmanships. District Directors will pass along this information to me.

As Personnel Chair, I want to encourage all of you to consider serving at the state level. The friendships that you make are priceless. It does require dedication to the position, but the time you devote is well worth the reward of serving.

Fondly,

Nancy Rana
Personnel Chair



NGC INFORMATION

You may now find the winter issue of *The National Gardener* on the NGC website. It is filled with ideas and information that will benefit your members, chairmen, and officers.

Do some scrolling in the website and get familiar with things offered. You will find registration forms for meetings, application forms for awards, guidelines for preparing award entries, places to shop, and information that will help you get things in order.

Need help? Go to www.gardenclub.org.