



# AFGC Avenues and Adventures

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



(A member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.) Volume 5, Issue 47



## Greetings from our AFGC President, 2023-2025



*Pam Ellis*  
*AFGC Pres.*

Hi All,

I think October is my favorite month of the year with the leaves changing & the temperatures dropping. My gardens are having one last blast and looking so beautiful. The surprise

showers have given many gardens a second chance.

It's also a very busy time of the year for the AFGC because of the District Meetings. I have already had the pleasure of attending the Northwest District meeting hosted by Petit Jean Garden Club in Petit Jean State Park. If you've never been there, it's not to be missed. It is the first of fifty-two state parks in Arkansas and the start of the Arkansas State Park Systems.

The park and lodge were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and their original buildings and trails are still standing. The views were stunning, the food amazing and the speaker inspiring with his history of Petit Jean.

Michael Ghidotti gave an excellent talk on how to care for your tools. He was sharpening our tools as he spoke. That alone was worth the

price of the registration.

I'm heading to Hamburg next week for the Southeast District meeting. Those ladies always provide a fun time, and I am sure that this meeting will be no exception.

October 17th will be the Southwest District meeting at DeGray State Park with a speaker from Garvan Gardens. I am so excited to get to visit these Arkansas State Parks for the first time. Arkansas really has earned its nickname, "The Natural State".

The beauty around us is overwhelming. The Northeast District meeting will be in Forrest City with a program on birds.

And last but not least is Pulaski District. They always finish the state tour with a big bang. It will be November 7th at Thompson Library with speaker Margie Raimondo, owner of Urban Farmstead, Chef, Author, and Documentary Filmmaker. Her topic, "Nourishing Body and Soul" will certainly entertain you.

So, as you can see, there is plenty of time to register for these meetings and you won't want to miss the fun. We can't offer these wonderful programs without your support so I look forward to seeing all of you there.



My President's Project is to encourage NGC Schools, Flower Show, Environmental and Landscape Design, in Arkansas. I am happy to report that we had a very successful Course 1 Flower Show School chaired by Rose Knight in August. This is the second round in as many years and there will be a Course 2, March 4-7, if there is enough participation to justify it.

If you would like to know more about making flower designs or you're just nosy about what those judges are talking about when they are in there all by themselves, then this is the class for you. You can take it for credit or, if you would just want to learn without becoming a judge, you can audit. The brochure is on the website.

*(continued on page 3)*



An NGC Small Standard  
Flower Show

Sponsored by:  
Arkansas Judges Council

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

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*

## WHAT TO EXPECT

### DIVISION I HORTICULTURE

#### ***"IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE"***

- Section A: "Gorilla Me Happy"
- Section B: "Colorful Chameleons"
- Section C: "Lions, Tigers, and Bears"
- Section D: "Where the Sloths Live"
- Section E: "Just Monkeying Around"
- Section F: "Pikey Porcupine"
- Section G: "Toucan You Imagine"

### DIVISION II DESIGN

#### ***"THE ZOO KEEPERS FAVORITES"***

- Class 1: "Going on Safari"  
Exhibition Tables
- Class 2: "Out of the Elephants Trunk"  
Underwater Designs
- Class 3: "Llamas in Pajamas"  
Creative Designs

**SAVE THE DATE:** Enjoy "a day with friends" on Nov. 16th. Visit with friends at one of your favorite restaurants. Wind up your afternoon with a look at the latest flower designs. You will enjoy seeing horticulture that loves growing in Arkansas. Invite a friend and enjoy your day!

President Pam... (continued from page 1)

On September 22 and 23, there was the very first NGC Gardening School in Arkansas. It was also the first collaboration between the NGC and the Master Gardeners in the United States. We had a total of 58 people registered with 35 taking it both days and 23 for one day. The registration was filled in two weeks with 9 NGC members and 54 Master Gardeners. Some of the registrars were both Garden Clubbers and Master Gardeners. We had one person from Georgia and four from Tennessee. We are hoping to follow up with Course 2 next September so if you are interested, get your registration in early.

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.

Hope to see you there.

*Pam*

*Students and instructors had a great time at Gardening School.*



## The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Showcasing the Natural Beauty of the Ozarks

The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks is a stunning oasis nestled in the heart of the Ozark Mountains. This enchanting garden is a haven for nature lovers, offering a delightful escape into the beauty of the Ozarks flora and fauna.

### Location Land History

Located in Fayetteville, Arkansas, the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks is situated in a picturesque setting that showcases the natural splendor of the region. This 44-acre garden is a testament to the rich botanical heritage of the Ozarks and serves as a hub for plant conservation and horticulture in the area.

The garden's history dates back to its establishment in 1994, with the aim of creating a space that celebrates the unique plant species found in the Ozarks. Over the years, it has grown into a beloved destination for locals and visitors alike, offering a range of botanical exhibitions, garden tours, and educational programs.

### Unique Features and Attractions

The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks boasts a myriad of unique features and attractions that make it a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts. Here are some highlights:

- 1. Ozarks Native Plants:** The garden showcases a diverse collection of native plants that thrive in the Ozarks region. From vibrant wildflowers to towering trees, visitors can immerse themselves in the beauty of the local flora.
- 2. Garden Events:** Throughout the year, the botanical garden hosts a variety of events that cater to different interests. From workshops on botanical research and sustainability to seasonal flora exhibitions, there is always something exciting happening at the garden.
- 3. Butterfly House:** Step into the enchanting world of butterflies at the garden's butterfly house. This captivating exhibit allows visitors to witness these delicate creatures up close as they flutter among the colorful flowers.
- 4. Children's Garden:** The garden also features a dedicated space for children to explore and learn about nature. With interactive exhibits, play areas, and educational programs, it's a perfect place to foster a love for the natural world in young minds.

**5. Botanical Workshops:** For those looking to deepen their knowledge of horticulture and plant care, the garden offers a range of workshops and classes. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, these workshops provide valuable insights and practical tips.

**6. Botanical Garden Membership:** Become a member of the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks and enjoy exclusive benefits such as free admission, discounts on workshops and events, and access to members-only areas. It's a great way to support the garden's mission while enjoying its offerings.

**7. Weddings and Special Events:** The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks provides a breathtaking backdrop for weddings and special events. With its lush gardens, serene ponds, and charming pavilions, it's a dream location for couples looking to tie the knot amidst nature's beauty.

Visiting the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks is not only a feast for the senses but also an opportunity to contribute to the conservation of the region's plant biodiversity. Whether you're a nature lover, a gardening enthusiast, or simply seeking a peaceful retreat, this botanical gem in the heart of the Ozarks is sure to captivate and inspire you.

[www.bgozarks.org](http://www.bgozarks.org)



### NGC INFORMATION

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

Look carefully and you will find information about deadline dates for awards and contests. Often ideas are mentioned to help your club with fundraisers, workshops, and projects.

Take time to find interesting articles on the NGC blog.

Go to the NGC website and find articles that will be of interest to you and your friends.