



NGC CENTRAL REGION

"PARTNERS IN PLANTING AMERICA"

Greetings from Central Region Director



Fran Stueck

The crisp mornings have arrived, a sign of Fall is in the air. Hopefully the humidity is finally gone, but I live in the Midwest so I know hot weather could return. I enjoy all four seasons, favorite being Spring, Summer and Fall because of all

the color in my ten beds; the popping up of spring bulbs and green grass and then the rainbow colors of iris, baby, medium and tall, peonies, summer perennials, hybrid and daylilies, fall mums, hydrangeas in many colors, hibiscus and the vibrant colors of annuals, with bubblegum petunia planted in several beds and around my three-year-old Chanticleer pear trees. My favorite color is pink and its proof in my flower beds. Residents in Vinton drive by slowly, or drive in and make the circle drive when flowers are blooming. I enjoy sharing my flowers; it is good to divide and rejuvenate plants. I've even done bouquets for my grandson's girlfriends. Only thing he didn't realize is you don't have Stargazer lilies all the time, and his girlfriend at that time was named Lily and that's what he wanted. It was late Fall.

I partner with my husband, Ted, in working in the gardens. The other day a worker across the road at the rock quarry stopped and told Ted he was setting a bad example for the guys. The wives go by and see him in the flowers, weeding and deadheading. They tell their husbands, "Why don't you help me like Ted helps Fran?"

My travels so far as Central Region Director was first to Indiana State Meeting, April 3-4. The speakers were

very interesting and informative. My page Marsha was great, always there with rides to the meetings, carrying my bag, etc. My husband thought she was wonderful. He enjoyed being with the guys he knew. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing the scholarship winners talk about their future plans. Indiana gives 15 plus scholarships to students in two colleges in Indiana. I installed the Indiana 2017-2019 officers and district directors.

The next travel was June 7-8 to Ann Arbor for Michigan state meeting. It hit record high temperatures those days. My two pages were wonderful to work with. There were several seminars both days you could choose from with great speakers and a design show. I installed the Michigan 2017-2019 officers and district directors.

Next, I traveled to Fort Dodge for the Iowa state meeting June 15-16. There was a state flower show with entering and judging the first day. National President Nancy Hargroves installed the 2017-2019 officers, and presented a power point program on decorating outdoors for the many holidays. Jane Buck, Invasive Species Chairman, presented a program on Iowa invasive plants.

The friendliness and one on one visiting with members at the state meetings was educational. When I left the three states I had made new friends. That's what garden club is all about, sharing ideas and experiences you had, good or bad, with others.

Reminder of the Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI October 4 & 5, 2017; late fee registration after September 1, 2017. All information is on website: www.NGCcentralregion.org. Make sure you use the Central Region Convention registration form. You can fill it out on Central Region website.

Have a wonderful Fall Planting America! Fran

MEET 2017-2019 CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR AND SEVEN STATE PRESIDENTS

Central Region Director Fran Stueck

Fran grew up on a farm in Garrison, Iowa, married a farmer, and moved only 10 miles from home. She and Ted have 3 sons and daughters-in-law, 2 granddaughters and 2 grandsons; 3 are grown and in college, and the oldest Katie is a Veterinary Technician.

Fran was introduced to gardening with her Mom at a young age. In the summer, her parents and sister worked at the Green Giant Canning Factory in Vinton. Fran oversaw the big vegetable garden with her older brother's help. Duties included picking and shelling peas and stemming and cutting green beans, while sitting in the shade of an oak tree in the front lawn. Another duty was washing cucumbers and tomatoes so they were ready for her mom to can when she arrived home from work. There were 2 cherry trees which provided many cherries needing pitted. It was always hot when they were ripe, and cherry juice was sticky. However, they tasted good in pies and kolaches in the winter. In the vegetable garden were marigolds planted from seed on the border to rid the eating insects and moths from damaging the produce.

Fran was in 4-H from age 10 until she graduated. Her favorite years were spent cooking and sewing. She has baked and decorated wedding and all occasion cakes, and made 5,000 decorated sugar cookies yearly for the holidays for 40 years. She retired in 2002 from baking cakes, but continued the cookies for eight more years.

Fran has been a member of Vinton Garden Club for 40 years, holding every office several times, including President the last 10 years, and she has held many chairmanships. She is a charter member of Cottage Garden Society, an evening club, which she helped start 14 years ago. She has been a Master Gardener for 14 years doing projects in Vinton. She enjoys gardening in the Tilford Elementary, grades 1st to 4th Outdoor Classroom, and planting, deadheading, weeding and mulching. Mulching is a hoot. Members of the Vinton Garden Club bring buckets, and the grades come out one at a time--Kindergarten through Fourth, with the teacher for fifteen minutes, and then another grade comes. The mulch is in a pile on the

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Stueck Family left - Cindi & Tom, Tim & Tammy, Fran & Ted, Leanne & Scott

basketball court which is close by. Club members fill the buckets, anywhere from a ice cream buckets to a five-gallon buckets. Students are like bees going to the hive getting more mulch. Of course, the boys always want the five-gallon buckets which they can hardly carry, but want to show off their muscles. The children tell us they plant at home or at Grandma's, beaming from ear to ear while they talk gardening. Hopefully, they will enjoy it and join a garden club when they get

DIRECTORS CALENDAR

2017

April 3-4 Indiana State Convention, Indianapolis, IN
June 7-8 Michigan State Convention, Ann Arbor, MI
June 15-16 Iowa State Convention, Ft. Dodge, IA
Sept. 13-16 NGC Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
Oct. 4-5 Central Region Convention, Wisconsin Dells, WI
Nov. 11 Award from U.S. Justice Dept., Caro, MI

2018

April 24-26 Indiana State Convention, Michigan City, IN
May 8-10 Missouri State Meeting, Blue Springs, MO
May 21-24 NGC Convention, Philadelphia, PA
June 21-22 Iowa State Meeting, Mason City, IA

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"Partners in Planting America"

older. The students are so willing to help, and of course, there are some that like to pick the flowers. Fran would like to see every club work with the youth, as they are our future gardeners.

Fran served as Iowa State President in 2001-2003 and as Alternate Central Region Director in 2005-2007. She has served on Benton County Fair Board for 43 years, serving as superintendent of Flower Show; FGCI Master Judge for 18 years; on state board holding many positions for 23 years; on Central Region and National Board for several years, serving in many capacities

Fran enjoys gardening at the public gardens, and plants and maintains the Welcome to Vinton sign on Highway 218. She says, "My heart is in my ten flower beds which I have partnered with my husband, Planting America, and garden club activities."

As a horticulturist, she is always wanting to try something new each year, but it looks like she may have to stop buying perennials as she is having a hard time finding a prime place in the garden to plant them. Fran enjoys designing with her garden flowers at state flower shows and local flower shows at the Benton County Fair, showing spectators what they can do with their garden flowers. Since her return from National Convention in May she has planted over 150 plants in town beds, cement planters and the Welcome to Vinton sign on 218, plus her own gardens.

Fran says, "I am honored to be your Central Region Director. Thank you for the support you have given me, and I promise to give my best effort in service to this great organization. Let's continue to "Plant America" across the seven states."



Silphium Perfoliatum
Cup Plant from
Fran and Ted's Prairie

THE GARDEN CLUBS OF ILLINOIS, INC.

Anita Bierbaum, President



**Theme: Plant America:
Conserve, Preserve,
Restore**

Anita has been a member of The Garden Clubs of Illinois since 2000. She joined her local garden club after buying her current home and wondering what was planted. She did inherit a large amount of buckthorn and has almost succeeded in eradicating it. Living next to a nature preserve has its good and bad points but she does enjoy the abundance of wildlife including many water fowl that come to visit her yard.

Anita began her working career as an elementary school teacher. She taught first through third grades as well as teaching gifted art classes and gifted math for older children. She also enjoyed her experiences in the chocolate business as well as her years in the publishing business.

Her favorite gardening memories are of the three years she spent in England where roses climbed her garden wall in December.

Since being installed as state president in March of 2017, she has traveled to many parts of the state and met wonderful garden club members who are enthusiastic and making a difference in their communities. It is truly delightful to hear about the many projects implemented by these gardeners that correlate with the national and state themes and were started before they heard the themes. The theme for 2017 – 2019 in Illinois is Plant America – Conserve, Preserve, Restore. Habitat Corridors, Pocket Prairies, and Milkweed for Monarchs are just a few of the projects that our members are embracing to help restore our native ecosystems and encourage wildlife in the Chicago area.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIANA, INC.

Sue Fuhrman, President



Theme: Plant America: Plant for the Pollinators

The President's project for the 2017-2019 term will be planting gardens for pollinators in public places. The plan is to reach out to various youth organizations to involve them in the **planting of these** gardens. The Garden Club of Indiana has budgeted funds that will be made available to clubs to implement these plantings.

Sue Fuhrman joined the Christmas Lake Village Garden Club in 2004, shortly after retiring from a thirty-three-year career with the Pike County School Corporation, primarily as a middle school teacher. She has served as Publicity Chairman, Treasurer, Vice-President and President of her club. Prior to becoming President of The Garden Club of Indiana, she served as South West District Director, Historian and First Vice President. She has a Central Region Life Membership and was gifted the National Life Membership by the South West District in 2014.

Sue resides in Santa Claus, Indiana with her husband of forty-nine years, Ron. They are the parents of two children and have three grandchildren.

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA, INC.

Juliene Bramer, President



Theme: Start Anew - Plant, Grow, Wonder and Remember...

I am Juliene Bramer (like Jolene but Jewelene) and live a half a mile from where I grew up. My husband Marty and I built our house in the woods overlooking a creek, native prairie to the front. Here I learned to shade garden. We don't mow a lawn, just trim. We raised

three sons. I am a retired legal secretary and enjoy gardening, golf, knitting, reading, Words with Friends, walking in the woods, feeding/watching birds, judging and garden club! I am a lazy composter. I have three bins, but I don't turn them over, I am an active dead header (more to compost) and have a raised vegetable bed in a large dog chain link kennel to produce for me not the deer! We retired from farming and winter in Arizona, so I miss the Iowa winters NOT (though I miss those big flakes falling softly).

My theme is Start Anew - Plant, Grow, Wonder and Remember with special interests in seed saving, geraniums and, of course, Plant America. As my State President's Project, I am offering a \$100 award and certificate to the best recycle, reuse and reclaim idea/project submitted to me for review.

MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Carol Sue Brodbeck, President



Theme: Grow & Share

Carol grew up on a farm where she learned to garden at her parent's side. Her parents loved nature and shared the wonders of nature with her from the time she could walk. It was no surprise when she received her B.S. degree

in Biological Sciences from Bowling Green State University (Ohio). She started her career at Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Company in Detroit, assisting in the research and development of the influenza vaccine. In 1968, she moved to the Parke-Davis labs located in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she was one of the first members of a charter computer group—responsible for introducing computer-usage into research. Over the years, she oversaw the design and development of many computer systems, including systems unique in the pharmaceutical research industry; served as a computer consultant to professionals located in New Jersey, United Kingdom, and Europe; and extended the use of computers to over two dozen research affiliates worldwide.

After retiring in 2000, she volunteered for a variety of organizations, taught classes/workshops and

presented talks on a variety of topics (e.g., gardening, nature, and even history of aprons) to a wide variety of audiences (including the CR Convention and NGC convention, both held in Michigan) and completed the requirements for the Michigan State University Extension Advanced Master Gardener certification. In 2006, she was certified as a Human Behavior Consultant. She's mom to two daughters and Nanna to two granddaughters and a grandson.

Carol is an NGC 4-Star recipient, member of Michigan Consultants Council and Michigan Association of Accredited Judges, and served as allied instructor at Gardening School. She has served as President of both her garden clubs (Good Thyme in Ann Arbor and Creative Flower Arrangers Guild in Dearborn), chair of the 2013 Flower Show symposium in Ann Arbor, Co-chair of the 2016 NGC National Convention held in Grand Rapids, MGC Recording Secretary (2013-2015), MGC First Vice-President (2015-2017), and now as MGC President.

Her theme is *Grow & Share*—whether one shares what they grow or shares the knowledge they have obtained. Since Michigan ranks third nationally in agriculture and floriculture, she chose Michigan Pollinator Gardens as her project (and the First Vice President Janet Hickman has decided to keep both the theme and project for her administration). The Unified Project for Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. is “Plant America: Michigan Pollinator Gardens.” Her goal is to encourage each member to become the person they are meant to be using their talents and skills.

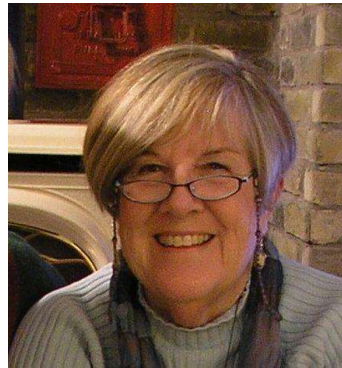
Michigan Garden Club News....

The Caro Garden Club will be honored on Veterans Day with an award from the United States Justice Department. The award is a tree of their choice to be planted at the site of their Blue Star Memorial.

Congratulations Caro Garden Club members on a job well done.

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MINNESOTA, INC. Bonnie Schwichtenberg, President

**Theme:
New Ways to Grow**



After growing up in southern California, my Minnesota husband Tom and I moved to St. Cloud in 1969 to raise our family, a son and a daughter, in a smaller community with good schools, clean air, and wildlife abounding. This has been a good life. During that time, I returned to college to complete my BS degree and switched from the travel industry to Elementary Education. In '93 I got the Gardening Bug and switched to SCUBA diving and underwater photography in 2001. My current interest is Watercolor painting, which I have been seriously working on for about 8 years. This spring we purchased a much smaller home in Western Wisconsin to be nearer to our daughter and son and their families. I am looking for new garden opportunities there and an art club to join.

My theme is “New Ways to Grow” to increase our membership in Minnesota using both traditional strategies and several non-traditional ones I picked up at the NGC Convention in May.

Today's middle-aged families are very busy and they are looking for fulfilling new experiences that do not require a regular repeating time commitment. I get that.

The other project that is very important to me personally is to continue to work with the Blue Star Memorial Program in conjunction with Wisconsin on the Stillwater Bridges and the 5 Mile Trail connecting the two states.

I plan to attend a function at each MN club each year to stay in touch, glean how the State Organization can help them complete their local projects.

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MISSOURI, INC.

Karen Blackmore, President



Theme: **Make Missouri Bloom**

I am excited to be President of Federated Garden Club of Missouri, Inc. I live in Columbia, Missouri but grew up on a farm in Arkansas. My parents raised a family as sharecroppers for several years before buying a 40-acre farm, as I was entering high school. I grew up chopping and picking cotton. Like all of you, I would do it all over again as it was the best possible place to grow up. I did know, as I left, that I would never pick cotton again! I had amazing parents though just regular folks. I was fortunate to get a job with State Farm out of high school and, with their financial help, did complete a BS In Business and spent 37 years with that great company, the last 20 years as an Automobile Claim Team Manager.

Charley Blackmore and I have been married 17 years and he is one of the most supportive husbands in the world. He is a self-taught computer genius (in my mind-he would not agree). He came with two great kids and 5 precious grandkids who call me grandma.

I joined Columbia Garden Club after retiring in 2004 and served two terms as president, two terms as treasurer and two terms as treasurer of Central District. I am a member of Central Missouri Hemerocallis Society and Show Me Iris Society. I am an accredited Flower Show Judge, a member of Central Missouri Judges Council and a Landscape Design Consultant.

We have a varied flower garden with too many beds and too many flowers. I say that every year and each year it gets larger. I guess I specialize in daylilies and iris and have many of both, however I also have lots of natives and am most concerned about our pollinators.

It is exciting to think of the great things we can all do as we "Plant America." This was a great year for "making Missouri bloom." On August 16th, we will see much of our work at FGCM's Federation Day and State Fair Flower Show at the Missouri State Fair. The theme this year is "Come Home."

Missouri dedicated our 100th Blue Star Memorial Marker in Saint Louis and our 101st Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Memorial Cemetery at Fort Leonard Wood. We will be dedicating Blue Star Memorial Marker # 102 and a Gold Star Memorial Families' Marker, our first, in Lathrop Missouri on September 11, 2017. This will be another phase of the amazing project. One of my President's goals is to place a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker on our Capitol grounds and we are confident as we are near approval and plan to dedicate it on November 11, 2017.

In support of our Central Region theme, we are "Partnering in Planting America," currently joining with master gardeners at Jefferson Farms in Columbia, where a butterfly house has been established, as well as many other partnering projects throughout our state.

As always, membership is a priority and we have a goal of increasing membership by 10% again this year.

WISCONSIN GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION

Peggy Grubbs, President



Theme: **Plant Wisconsin**

During my term as president I plan to increase awareness of Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and National Garden Clubs, Inc. This will be done by building on the WGCF brand that is evident on our website and in our printed materials. The state's president's project is in a highly visible place, on the Minnesota/Wisconsin Border. In conjunction with the WI DOT and St. Croix County, we will be planting both pollinator and rain gardens, and installing a Veteran's Memorial Marker and garden at the Loop Trailhead. This is part of an interstate trail that goes on either side of the WI/MN border and crosses over two bridges. It is part of a 675-million-dollar project between the states. In addition, I intend to continue to grow the WGCF Grant Program. We are hosting a grant writing workshop in September for our clubs to educate them on the ins and outs of grant writing.

Peggy Grubbs was born in St. Paul, MN to a non-gardening family. She attended Boy Scout Camp in rural WI for 7 years, while her father was a scout master and she was thrilled with the outdoor, native life. At 26, her life changed forever when a friend invited her to join a federated garden club. Forty years later, she is still in the same club, continuing to learn about gardening with her lifelong friends.

She graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in elementary education. That teaching degree, along with a sense of adventure took her, along with her husband and two children, on an around the world adventure. She taught for 5 years in both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and spent her off time traveling and learning about different flora and fauna. In addition, Peggy has owned several businesses and continues to work with families in transition handling the sale of their personal property.

She has been an accredited NGC flower show judge, WGCF state treasurer, District Director, and club president before becoming the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation State President.

She is an avid gardener and together with her husband and son have a small, CSA fruit orchard, growing specialty apples in addition to other fruits.

THE CENTRAL REGION'S BIRD— THE BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE



The Central Region's mascot bird is the Chickadee. This social and friendly bird (*Parus atricapillus*) is a welcome guest at most home bird feeders in the winter

as it feeds alongside other species. Black-capped Chickadees are recognized by their black caps and wide bib, white cheeks, gray-brown back and buff flanks. It may be distinguished from the Carolina Chickadee by its narrow and indistinctly edged wing feathers of white.

The Chickadee's range is from Alaska and Canada to Missouri and east to New Jersey. Its habitat is deciduous and evergreen forests, open woodlands and suburban areas in the winter. This small flyer of 4.5-5.25" is classified as a perching bird and can often be seen feeding hanging upside down. Its main food is insects, insect eggs, seeds from conifers, and seeds or millet from gardens and patio birdfeeders.

Its song is a series of complex sounds including "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" and "fee-bee." Its cup-like nest made from grass, feathers, twigs and moss holds six to eight brown-speckled eggs. Keep your birdfeeder filled with black-oil sunflower seeds and your eyes peeled for this delightful and beautiful bird!

Nancy Bahn, CR Bird Chairman

CENTRAL REGION LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Consider buying a CR Life Membership for yourself, for a club member or for a friend or family member. They are \$50.00, LM pins are \$10.00 and Gold Stars are \$25.00. The purchase of LM's helps CR support Scholarships.

Carol Beckius, Life Membership Chairman
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Portage, MI 49024-9536
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cbeckius@chartermi.net

CR LIFE MEMBERSHIPS-UPDATE

So far, this year there are 7 new Life Members listed in the order in which they submitted their applications. They are Brenda Carl, Carol Sue Brodbeck, Arnetta Burroughs, Sheila Wade Kneeshaw and Shirley Nichols all from Michigan. Also new are Ted Stueck and Janice Tyler-Blanchard from Iowa. We thank all of them since Life Memberships help support CR Scholarships.

It would be great to hear from the other 5 states. Life memberships are \$50.00, LM pins are \$10.00 and Gold Stars are \$25.00. I will have applications and pins available at the CR Convention this October at the Wisconsin Dells.

Carol Beckius, CR Life Membership Chairman

DISPLAYS CR CONVENTION

Educational display space at Central Region Convention will be 4' x 3' (one-half of an 8' banquet table).

Carla Von Haden, Co-Chairman CR Convention
Email: carlav8@centurytel.net

SAVING HEIRLOOM SEEDS

Fall is the perfect time to start saving the seeds from your favorite Heirloom flowers or vegetables.

Heirloom seeds have gained popularity in recent years. Vegetables have superior taste and flowers are unusual qualities. **Seed prices have risen steadily in recent years**, at the same time as the number of seeds in a packet has decreased. Not all seeds that are saved and planted the next year will produce the same plants.

There are web sites or books that can teach you the basic techniques. Seed exchanges have developed to make it easier for gardeners to try the older varieties. How to save seeds or having a Seed exchange is a good club program.

Sources are:

Iowa: Seed Savers Exchange: www.seedsavers.org

Illinois: American Organic:

www.american-organic.com

Indiana: Urban Farmer: www.ufseeds.com

Michigan: Nature & Nurture Seeds 734-929-0802

www.natureandnurtureseeds.com

Minnesota: Hampden Park Co-op 651-646-6686

www.hampdenpark.com

Missouri: Granny's Heirloom Seeds 1-800-274-3899

www.grannysheirloomseeds.com

Wisconsin: St Clare Heirloom Seeds

www.stclareseeds.com

Happy Seed Saving, Betty Beck, Seed Saved Chairman

PLANT AMERICA: PARTNERS IN PLANTING AMERICA THROUGH VARIOUS NGC CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

"A look at what you as a member, club, district and state can do."

James Pavelka Central Region Youth Activities (Essay, Poetry, Sculpture) Chairman

So, do you have children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews? Do you have neighborhood kids, youth from your local church, temple, and mosque? Is there a boys & girls club, library that has youth programs, preschool, day care, local neighborhood elementary school, middle, and intermediate, Jr or High School in your neighborhood or community? If the answer is yes, then you can be the best person to help spread the word of the wonderful programs and contests the National Garden Clubs, Inc. offer from local to national levels. It is fun and if you don't like getting on your knees it's a great way to keep connected with and cultivate future gardeners. All the entry forms can be printed out from the National Garden Club, Inc. web site: <http://gardenclub.org>. Once you are there you go to youth activities and then scroll down to contest/awards. You can see each contest and forms that need to be filled out or taken to your local school, youth center, and garden club meeting. You don't need permission of your club unless you are going to put their name on it.

Here is a creative suggestion: you could put all the forms in a packet and present them at your next garden club meeting. You never know who has connections with their own family members or schools in the community. You could also purchase **"The Saved Seed"** for \$10 through Member Services, and present the book to your local library, daycares, or elementary school libraries. On the inside cover of the book you could put your club, district, state garden club seal. Also on the inside cover put a message stating who the book is from and why it was donated. You might arrange to do a reading and then a short activity or maybe do poetry writing. You could then complete an application and win \$25. For the most creative program done with the **"The Saved Seed."** See details of that award 16C on CR web site. You could probably get a good article or

publicity picture, since most papers like that type of human interest story of garden clubs thinking about youth. You never know until you try. If you have some good ideas or have pictures of your activities with youth, please share them with this chairman, and I'll do my best to get them publicized.

Please contact me jamespavelka@comcast.net or 219-942-6793 (h) 219-629-2358 (c) if you would like to talk about any of the contests or need the information. **PLEASE, REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION ON THE SMOKEY BEAR /WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST CONTACT Suzanne Potts (smp9114@att.net listed on Central Region Directory. She is that chairman and will help you out and direct you to the proper procedures. SO PLEASE DON'T MAIL YOUR WINNING STATE ENTRIES TO ME IN THIS CONTEST.**

Remember to always go through your state's awards policies as to date when they need entries. The state chairman (Youth or Awards) will send the 1st place winning entries in the 3 contests areas to me, and I will send the CR 1st place entries on to be judged at national levels. ALSO check the NGC Awards for these youth involvement awards: The Augusta H. Brewer Certificate of Merit: Horticulture Achievement by a Junior and/or Intermediate Garden Club; Conservation Award for Junior and/or Intermediate Garden Club; High School Gardeners Accomplishment; Youth Environmental Concern Award; Junior Garden Club Horticulture Award; High School Distinguished Service Project; Environmental Education; Youth Horticulture Education; Junior Leadership Award.

SUMMARY OF CONTESTS

Below is a summary of contests themes and short summary. Please use the NGC website for complete contest rules, judging scales of points, etc. at <http://gardenclub.org/youth/youth-contests.aspx>

The **first contest** is the **Poetry Contest**.

POETRY CONTEST - Encourage Creative Writing

2017-2018 Theme: **"Let it Grow"**

Eligibility: General Education: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade. Special Education and English as a Second Language: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.

Contest Rules: 1. All entries must be typed and titled; 2. Include name, address, age, grade, and school of participant on the back of entry; 3. Sponsoring garden

club and state garden club name must also be identified; 4. Sponsoring garden club may be that of a grandparent; 5. All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.; 6. Poems do not have to rhyme; 7. Poems may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick or Haiku.

Scale of Points: Title: 10%; Content: 40%; Creativity: 30%; Style: 20%; Total: 100%

The **second contest** is the **Essay Contest**.

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

The High School Essay Contest is open to all High School students, grades 9-12. Each year a \$1,000 NGC Scholarship will be awarded to the National Winner.

2017-2018 **"Community Gardens - A Solution to Blight, Crime, and Hunger"**

Essay Contest Rules 2017-2019

The High School Essay Contest is open to High School students attending 9th through 12th grades either traditional, alternative, or home school. A \$1,000 National Garden Club Scholarship will be awarded to the National Winner. If the winner is an underclassman, the \$1,000 Scholarship will be held by NGC, Inc., without accrued interest, until such time that the student enters college. At that time, the money will be forwarded to the Financial Aid Officer of the college that the student will enter. The second-place winner will receive \$100. The contest must be sponsored by: a single garden club, group of member clubs, councils or districts or a State Garden Club. All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Length of essay: Between 600-700 words. The entry will be penalized if the essay does not conform to the required length. All words are to be counted. All entries must be typed and titled. Students should write the essay so it is suitable to be published in the NGC publication, The National Gardener.

Scale of Points: Content = Total 65 pts: (Knowledge of Subject: 25 pts; Practicality of Proposal: 10 pts; Originality: 15 pts; Subject matter well organized/Clarity of presentation: 15 pts)

Composition = Total 25 pts: (Vocabulary: 15 pts Conformance to length: 10 pts)

Manuscript = Total 10 pts. Name, Address, Phone Number, School Attending, Grade, List of Activities, and Sponsoring Club (Photo

Optional): 5 pts; Neatness and legibility: 5 pts;
Total 100 points.

materials used: 30%; Craftsmanship / technique: 10%
Total: 100%

The 3rd contest in youth activities and really fun to do!
ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO KEEP OUR PLANET GREEN – RECYCLABLE SCULPTURE CONTEST

Purpose: To encourage youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment.

Contest Rules: 1. Children in 4th through 8th grade will be eligible to enter the contest. 2. Sculptures must consist of recyclable, reused and reduced materials. 3. Width of the sculpture can be no more than 8 1/2 x 11 inches. 4. Height should be in proportion to width. 5. Entry form can be found on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org. 6. Entries should include as many photographs as can be printed on the back of the entry form, but two 4x6 photographs are recommended. 7. Club entries must be sent to State Chairman. Observe State Deadlines.

Scale of Points: Creative use of materials and self expression: 60%; Description of sculpture and

ENTRY FORM IS ON NGC, INC. WEB SITE and can be printed out. For additional information, contact Terry Critchlow, Recyclable Sculpture Contest Chairman, TCritchlow@aol.com

DEADLINES FOR ALL 3 CONTESTS

FEBRUARY 1st or sooner to your Central Region Youth Activities Chairman: James Pavelka – 1034 E 8th Str. Hobart, Indiana 46342-5220.

You can email entries if you prefer to save on costs.

jamespavelka@comcast.net.

MARCH 1st region winners to National Chairman

GOOD LUCK TO ALL! I hope to report that Central Region had national entries in all the categories and is *Planting America* by partnering with our future in our youth contests. *James Pavelka, CR Youth Activities Chairman*

CENTRAL REGION UNIFIED PROJECT
(Eligible for NGC Award of Excellence)

- The Central Region Theme “Partners in Planting America” will focus on member clubs, individual members, state federations and youth clubs working together on new or existing projects planting native plants and/or wildflowers in the landscape, parks, roadsides, etc.
- Partner with master gardeners, another club, an organization, youth, neighbor, friend, or perhaps your husband to landscape and maintain flower and vegetable gardens.
- Working with youth is especially encouraged, as Central Region Director Fran Stueck’s ultimate goals is: All seven states start new youth clubs

States are requested to compile information and accomplishments that fulfill the objectives of the CR theme. This information is to **be sent on or before November 15, 2018** to:

Loretta Daisy,
CR Unified Project Chairman
123 South Wood Lawn
Lake City, IA 51449-1728
Email: Ldaisy@iowatelecom.net
Phone 712-464-3606

After receiving the information from all seven states, an application will be prepared and submitted by the region for a NGC Award of Excellence, which will be awarded at the 2019 NGC Convention.

CENTRAL REGION AWARDS 2017-2019

Central Region awards are offered to recognize outstanding projects that advance the goals and objectives of Central Region and NGC. This recognition inspires, motivates and encourages others to further their efforts and apply for awards.

2017 Award Dates Covers projects: June 1, 2017 – August 31, 2017
Due to CR Awards Chairman: September 10, 2017
Awarded: 2017 CR Convention in Wisconsin

2018 Award Dates Covers projects: September 1, 2017– August 31, 2018
Due to CR Awards Chairman: September 10, 2018
Awarded: 2018 CR Convention in Michigan

Send Applications Sherry Wilson, CR Awards Chairman
214 Lakeridge Road
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901-2149
swilson@tcmax.net
H: 573-785-1032 C: 573-718-4421

NOTE: Central Region Awards and Application Form have been revised to reflect the NGC Award requirements.

APPLICATION

- Limited to three pages, front of pages only. No report cover, binder or plastic sheets.
- Complete **new** CR Application Form, which will be page one.
- Give a brief summary of project, including photos, letters, financial information, publicity or other supporting data.
- Photos may be attached to pages or inserted electronically.
- The three pages may be sent electronically or by postal service.
- Keep copy for your records, as application will not be returned.
- Adhere to due dates listed above, except where noted. Late entries will not be judged.

CR Award #1 – Partnering with Youth in Planting America. Certificate and \$50.00 to the club involving youth in planting native and pollinator plants, teaching about prairie plants and their purposes and use by Indians and settlers during their travels. Sponsor: CR Director Fran Stueck

CR Award #2 – Insuring Our Future--Youth Clubs. Certificate and \$100.00 to the State Garden Club with the largest increase in number of youth clubs during the 2017-2019 term. Award will be judged on highest percentage of increase based on state membership and will be awarded at CR gathering during 2019 NGC Convention. Sponsor: CR Director Fran Stueck

CR Award #3 – Planting Community Gardens. Certificate and \$25.00 to a club that makes a difference in their community with plantings; may be annuals, perennials, native plants, wildflowers or vegetables.
Sponsor: Community Gardens Chairman Sue Neuhart

CR Award #4 – Sharing Our Gardens. Certificate and \$50.00 to a club(s) or council(s) for holding an outstanding garden walk open to the public, a garden tea and/or tour, or a garden therapy outing.

Sponsor: Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. President Juliene Bramer

CR Award #5 – Partnering with Plant It Pink. Certificate and \$50.00 to a club(s) or individual for establishing or maintaining special gardens using pink flowers, such as container gardens or a memorial garden.

Sponsor: Plant It Pink Chairman Diane Dawson

CR Award #6 – Sharing with Habitat for Humanity. Certificate and \$25.00 to a club for the best landscaping of a Habitat for Humanity home with native plants and/or wildflowers.

Sponsor: CR Alternate Director Loretta Daisy

CR Award #7 – Caring Through Garden Therapy. Certificate and \$50.00 to a club with the best program or project of services for an activity with nursing homes, senior centers, developmentally and/or physically challenged.

Sponsor: The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.

CR Award #8 – Partnering with Girl Scouts. Certificate and \$50.00 to a club or individual club member for a project working with the Girl Scouts to earn the native plants patch from NGC.

Sponsor: The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. President Sue Fuhrman

CR Award #9 – Preserving Our Land. Certificate and \$50.00 to a district, club or member for outstanding work in the field of conservation, natural resources or wildlife refuge. May be with youth and/or adults.

Sponsor: The Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc. President Karen Blackmore

CR Award #10 – Protecting Our Butterflies

10a – Monarch Waystations. Certificate and \$25.00 to the state registering the most Monarch Waystations.

Sponsor: Butterflies Chairman Sandy Quam

10b – Youth Garden Club. Certificate and \$25.00 to a youth garden club participating in a butterfly garden project and/or Monarch tagging through Monarch Watch from the University of Kansas.

Sponsor: Butterflies Chairman Sandy Quam

CR Award #11 – Promoting National Garden Week. Certificate and \$50.00 to a club(s) documenting activities held in celebration of National Garden Week. Sponsor: Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.

CR Award #12 – Sharing Creativity. Eligible: Club, Council, District and State Flower Shows.

12a – Certificate and \$25.00 for best overall Standard Flower Show Schedule. Submit application form and one copy of schedule.

Sponsor: Flower Show School Chairman Liz Murken

12b – Certificate and \$25.00 for best Standard Flower Show Horticulture Division. Award will be based on show's schedule listing correct scientifically named horticulture classes, and number of horticulture entries in proportion to size of club. Submit one copy of schedule with application and supporting data.

Sponsor: Advisor Gerry Ford

12c – Certificate and \$25.00 for highest scoring Flower Show Educational Exhibit.

Submit one copy of schedule with application and supporting data.

Sponsor: Girl Scout Liaison Chairman Cynthia Wright

CR Award #13 – Sharing CR Talents in Vision of Beauty Calendar. Certificate and \$25.00 to the CR state with the largest number of entries featured in the NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar. No application required.

13a – 2017 Vision of Beauty calendar -- awarded in Wisconsin

13b – 2018 Vision of Beauty calendar – awarded in Michigan

Sponsor: Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

CR Award #14 – Honoring Veterans-Blue & Gold Star Memorials. Certificate and \$50.00 to a member, club, council, or state for outstanding work in establishing Blue Star and/or Gold Star Memorials.

Sponsor: Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers Chairman Sarah Nahmias

CR Award #15 – Celebrating Life Memberships. Certificate and \$25.00 to the club acquiring the most new CR Life Members.

Sponsor: CR Life Member Chairman Carol Beckius

CR Award #16 – Youth Activities Awards

16a -- Partners in Planting America's Future through Youth Contests. Certificate and \$25.00 to the State Garden Club with the highest percentage of participation in NGC Youth Award Programs for 2017 and 2018 (Poetry, Essay, Sculpture, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster). State Youth Activities Chairman will report by March 1 of each year to CR Youth Activities Chairman, jamespavelka@comcast.net. Will be awarded at CR gathering during 2018 and 2019 NGC Conventions.

Sponsor: CR Youth Activities Chairman Jim Pavelka

16b – Book Sales Award – *The Saved Seed*. Certificate and \$25.00 to the State Garden Club selling the greatest number of these books. Information will be obtained from NGC Headquarters by sponsoring chairman by March 1 of each year. Will be awarded at the CR gathering during 2018 and 2019 NGC Conventions.

Sponsor: Youth Activities Chairman Jim Pavelka

16c – Class Activity/Reading Presentation –*The Saved Seed*. Certificate and \$25.00 to the club with the best overall program associated with this book, such as reading, distribution, and creative hands-on activities. Application is due by March 1 of each year to CR Youth Activities Chairman, James Pavelka, 1034 E. 8th St., Hobart, IN 46342 or jamespavelka@comcast.net. Will be awarded at CR gathering during 2018 and 2019 NGC Conventions.

Sponsor: Youth Activities Chairman Jim Pavelka



PLANT AMERICA - PLANT NATIVES

CR Director Fran Stueck encourages all members to become involved in planting native plants and/or woodland wildflowers. It can be very rewarding as she and her husband can attest to. Last year the Stuecks put 200 acres of farm ground into prairie and wildflowers for 15 years. Already pheasants, quail, partridge, and rabbits have found a home. The bees, birds and butterflies are increasing. When riding the gator in the prairie, a flock of 12 little turkeys flew up. What a sight! They found a home to be safe, and she and her husband had provided it. The fields are surrounded with Bluebird houses Ted has made. They already have had one brood and more eggs are in the nest. It's a sight to see the birds sitting on the oxeye daisy towering above the little blue stem grass.

THE MORE YOU KNOW...

We recently read a couple of magazine articles that may be of interest to butterfly enthusiasts. The summer issue of *The National Gardener* has an article on neonicotinoids on page 28. On Google we found that there are 7 or 8 ingredients in pesticides that can have long lasting effects, and as a group these are neonicotinoids. They are: Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuram, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiacloprid, Thiamethoxam and possibly Sulfoxaflor. These ingredients are in a lot of pesticides. If you do not get *The National Gardener*, perhaps your club president does, and would share with the group the information from the article.

Also in the September/October issue of *Birds and Bloom* on page 59 is an article on Monarch butterflies. On page 60 there is a list of 3 things one can do to attract more Monarchs. If someone in your club receives this magazine, ask them to share with your club the information printed in this article.

Sandy Quam, CR Butterfly Chairman



Educational Opportunities 2017

Environmental Schools

ES Course III,
October 16 & 17, 2017,
Holland, MI

ES Course IV
October 23 & 24, 2017
Stickney, IL

ES Course IV
April 9 & 10, 2018
Holland, MI

Flower Show Schools

FSS Course I,
October 5 & 7, 2017
Urbana, IL

Flower Show Symposiums

August 25 & 26, 2017
Milwaukee, WI

September 26 & 27, 2017
South Barrington, IL

Gardening Schools

GS Course II, Series 12,
September 21 & 22, 2017
Madrid, Iowa

Landscape Design Schools

LDS Course II,
October 30 & 31, 2017,
Glenview, IL

SCHOLARSHIPS

Time to clean out your design work room.
Bring your used containers, accessories,
wood forms, wrought iron, mechanics,
dried material (no books) to the
Central Region Convention
October 4-5, 2017
Proceeds go to Scholarships

any questions contact
Scholarship Chairman Marge McGoff
MargeM@chartermi.net
Cell 517-290-7064 H -231-547-5421

NEWS FLASH

There's a special guest coming to Central Region Convention in Wisconsin Dells. John Harrison, Vice-President of Espoma www.espoma.com will join us Oct 5th at 4:30 pm. to talk about their products. National Garden Clubs announced the partnership with Espoma, a premier provider of organic plant foods and potting soils, at the NGC Convention in May. Espoma announced at the Richmond Convention it would provide grants of up to \$250 of their organic plant foods and potting soils to 20 garden clubs. The first winner was in Indiana. CONGRATULATIONS!

To register your local garden club with Espoma please click here to fill out the form on their website:

(<http://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs>)

Submitted by Fran Stueck
Central Region Director



Liatris aspera and Monarchs at Hayden Native Prairie, IA



Passing the Gavel – Fran and Judy

DIRECTOR'S PROJECT

All Central Region's seven states, the W, 3 M's and 3 I's, have prairie and pollinator plants that are hardy and grow in their own area.

Let's partner together and "Plant America" with the plants in your area sharing pictures and names of plants. They will be put in Newsletter, and or website. Send information to the Central Region Director Fran Stueck electronically franstueck@yahoo.com or mail address; 5589 22nd Ave. Trail, Vinton, IA 52349-9480.

Let's build a rainbow garden of colors with native wildflowers and pollinator plants and see how many different flowers and plants we come up with in the seven states.

A "Certificate of Appreciation" will be given at the 2019 Central Region Convention to all that participated.



Lilium michiganense at Hayden Native Prairie, Iowa

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2018 Central Region Convention

October 22-23, 2018

**Bavarian Inn
Lodge & Conference Center
Frankenmuth, Michigan**

CENTRAL REGION NEWSLETTER DEADLINES for article submission:

November 1
March 1
July 1

Send articles and information to:
Sandra Gossman at
SRGOSSMAN@aol.com



CENTRAL REGION AWARD APPLICATION

Date Submitted _____

Award # _____ Award Name _____

Name of Applicant _____
(State Garden Club, Club(s), Council, Member--Enter name exactly as it should appear on any award received.)

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- Application is limited to three pages, front of pages only. No report cover, binder or plastic sheets.
- Give brief summary of project, including photos, letters, financial information, publicity or other supporting data.
- Photos may be attached to pages or inserted electronically.
- Send the completed three pages electronically or by postal service to Central Region Awards Chairman, Sherry Wilson, 214 Lakeridge Road, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901-2149; H: 573-785-1032; C: 573-718-4421; swilson@tcmax.net.