



JOIN US

National Garden Clubs

Fall, 2017

MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER

NGC is a not-for-profit organization that brings together nearly 165,000 members and 5,000 local garden clubs coast-to-coast. The organization comprises many of the nation's most respected botanic gardens and plant societies, along with: 50 State Garden Clubs, National Capital Area Gardens, Inc., 70 National Affiliates, 330 International Affiliates,.



Membership in National Garden Clubs, Inc. begins at the local club level with meetings, speakers, courses, flower shows and civic improvement projects of particular interest to an individual club's members. For those who wish to expand their gardening horizons, there are numerous networking opportunities through a variety of state, regional and national meetings, educational programs and schools.

Men, women and children of all ages and backgrounds are active in garden club activities and community service projects. Today's garden clubs creatively address current issues, such as sustainability and conservation, beautification of public spaces, combatting invasive plants, and protecting aquatic eco-systems.



Thank you for your confidence in me to perform the duties of the President of National Garden Clubs. It is a great honor.

It seems inevitable that I would be involved in an organization with horticulture and design focuses. I grew up on a farm that raised and shipped vegetable plants, and on that farm was my grandmother's florist shop. So horticulture and floral design have been a part of my life since day one.

A change of administrations is also a time for reflection. It is a time for three things: a time to look back, a time to evaluate where we are, and a time to look ahead.

The Saved Seed

A Journey Through a Seed's Life

The Saved Seed is the second early reader book written to educate elementary children about the life cycle of seed plants. A North American based fall staple for thousands of years, the pumpkin is treasured in our society for being not only a food source, but a Halloween favorite! There are dozens of varieties ranging from tiny ornamental varieties, to those weighing in at over 100 pounds each!

The Saved Seed follows the journey of a smiling pumpkin seed from Halloween pumpkin through the year becoming a seedling, a vine, and then a new pumpkin! Along the way, children learn through beautiful illustrations how to care for their own pumpkin seeds and become successful pumpkin gardeners!



MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT TO ALL COMMUNITIES:

JOIN US AS A NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB MEMBER

So how does a community that has a garden club benefit? In these communities - garden clubs are the vision, plan, and manpower behind community beautification. Whether it is flower-filled planters and barrels or tree-lined town streets, manicured public buildings, welcoming neighborhood and community entrances, partnerships with public departments of transportation for roadsides, or holiday designs in public buildings – a garden club’s presence is evident.

In these communities - garden clubs started and promoted recycling many years before it was a national movement. It is now a way of life in our country – not a project.

In these communities - garden clubs know the importance of working with youth for the future of gardening, conservation, and the environment. They are an additional resource for teachers to work with youth in after-school programs and school classrooms. National Garden Clubs and individual garden clubs provide college scholarships for students in horticulture-related fields.

In these communities - garden clubs realized early on what gardening did for the soul. Garden club members have been interacting with people in nursing homes and retirement homes long before we called it “Garden Therapy.”

In these communities - garden clubs are often the conscience of the community. Their voices speak up to save a tree, to save a park, and to prevent too much development.

Gardening touches everyone in some way. It can be beauty, color, solitude, food, memories, therapy, land value, exercise, to attract wildlife, or just the thrill of making something grow.

Gardening teaches life lessons:

To everything there is a season

Appreciate beauty of the world

Sharing

Patience - waiting for a plant to grow or a vegetable to ripen

Optimism and hope – to plant a seed, bulb, or tree is to believe that tomorrow will come and many tomorrows after that.

A community full of people who have learned these life lessons is a good community!! Communities with a garden club are usually a more beautiful place, a “greener” space, and are a community with a conscience.

Margaret Mead is credited with statement: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Garden club members are fiercely committed. Aren’t gardening people the happiest, friendliest, and most generous people you know?

Yes, we have challenges ahead of membership with competition for people’s time and garden clubs no longer being the only source of gardening information. We are fortunate right now that there is an emphasis in our country on vegetable gardening, community gardens, and healthy lifestyles that wasn’t around 15 years ago.



The theme for President Nancy Hargrove's administration is **Plant America**, a singularly focused initiative on gardens and gardening. Both a call to service and a description of what NGC clubs do, Plant America supports the main reason that people say they join a garden club - to learn about gardening!