



AFGC Avenues and Adventures

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



(A member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.)

Volume 2, Issue 7

Derenda Stanley, AFGC President



Happy Fall,
Fellow Gardeners:

I have currently visited four districts and by the time you read this I will have visited all five. Each part of the state of Arkansas is so unique, and each district had different and wonderful meetings. I enjoyed each one. During these meetings, I had a wonderful opportunity to get to meet members of individual clubs and had the pleasure of getting to see them share their talents, from decorations, food, prayers, and reports.

I hope most of the clubs were able to apply for the Plant America grant due November 1. There is still the opportunity to apply for some of the best "Tools for Planting and Gardening" from Ames Tools. Please take the opportunity to apply for these tools as you line up your plans for new projects or maintain the already established ones.

There are many educational opportunities being offered this month. Flower Show School I, November 6-8, at Hillcrest Hall will be interesting with horticulture and design instruction. Even if you don't want to be a judge, the knowledge you will gain is well worth two days of learning. November 16th is Judges Council Seminar. During these few hours you will learn all about Flower Shows, schedules, staging, clerking and what the

judges want. Come join us for both of these enlightening and learning opportunities.

Plant America, Sow Arkansas..... Sow seeds of beauty, sow seeds of education, and sow seeds in the community.

Derenda

Planning Ahead

The Southwest District will host our AFGC Convention at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, April 2-3. Mark your calendar now and visit with your club members who might enjoy an outing. All are invited. Spring is always a great time for a Hot Springs get-away. Take time to visit Garvan Gardens, stroll along Bathhouse Row, and window shop as you enjoy the opportunity to learn more about Arkansas gardening. Visit with friends, also. Watch for more information, soon.



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Dues for 2017-2018 are
\$5.50 per member.

59 clubs, 1,413 members

Delinquent dues, 2 clubs

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Headquarters



National Garden Clubs, Inc. Headquarters is located on six acres of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. The garden surrounding our headquarters provides many hours of interest for all.

The following information is from “Garden Gate” magazine, December 2017 issue. The Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the oldest in the country, opening to the public in 1859. Businessman Henry Shaw built his country home in 1849 with the intention of adding gardens and later donating it to the public for education and enjoyment. You can visit the home, called Tower Grove’s in the Victorian District of the Missouri Botanical Garden. The garden has thousands of plants spread throughout numerous gardens and plenty of activities, including festivals and classes are offered. Seasonal Shows are provided by the flowering trees.

The Japanese Garden covers 14 acres, making it one of the biggest in North America. Enjoy the lake, traditional bridges, lanterns, and stones. Ben Chu, horticulture supervisor of the garden, recommends keeping the garden simple by adding stones and shrubs.

Plan a trip to this garden and enjoy all that it has to offer. The gift shop is also a treat!

What is Sneezeweed?

Helenium spp. and hybrids is one answer to the question, “What is sneezeweed?” This is a yellow, red, orange or white blooming plant from midsummer through fall. It is cold-hardy and heat tolerant for zones 3-9. It likes moist, but well-drained soil and full to part shade. It grows 2 to 5 ft. tall and 2 to 3 feet wide. Set these out in early spring when the soil begins to warm. Where they thrive, they tend to spread rapidly. Following blooming, cut plants back to the ground and divide clumps in spring every 3 to 4 years.

There are many varieties, so check out the website and select the one that suits you and your landscape. Use sneezeweed to extend the life of your garden well past the first fall frosts. The plants look best in a cottage garden setting. When growing sneezeweed plants in traditional borders, you’ll have to prune and stake them to keep the plants well behaved.

Clumps of sneezeweed make excellent additions to wildlife gardens where they help support insect populations. Plant sneezeweed to help support bees. The flowers are also known to attract butterflies.



Helenium ‘Mardi Gras’

Award Preparation Time is Here!

Applying for awards, you would normally go to the AFGC website details on each individual award. Our AFGC website has been temporarily discontinued. Our president is searching for a new host and webmaster for us. I have emailed the AFGC Award Guidelines for 2017-2018 to each club president. This is the award section of the AFGC green Manual, 12th Edition 2013. It has detailed information both for all AFGC awards.

You will also need to refer to the AFGC Award Information page in your Presidents' Packet (except for the website addresses) for some other important general info and tips.

On this information sheet you will see the website address for NGC...This is still correct!

You may need the SCR Award Guidelines and their website is down, same situation. I have emailed each president SCR 2017-2018 Award Guidelines as well.

NGC has re-written their award offerings. I encourage you to read through these to learn of some new well-fitting awards, like: CS-1 Community Gardens, CB-2 Community Beautification, EC-7 Organic Gardening Practices and FD-2 Floral Design Program among others. NGC has updated and streamlined a few awards by combining two awards and they have just simplified the requirements on others.

You know we do the work; in the little garden spot at your local library...or at the courthouse...or when you work with the nursing home or the youth.

IT ONLY TAKES A FEW PICTURES AND A SHORT WRITE UP TO APPLY FOR MOST AWARDS!

SO APPLY!

WE DESERVE THE ACCOLADES!

Contact me if you still need copies of guidelines or need help learning how to get started.

Ronna Precure 479-644-9673 sanfords@arkansas.net

Gifts for Gardeners

You have plenty of time to order some great gifts for your gardening friends. Check out the NGC Member Services on-line catalog for great items for adults or children. How about having a Life Membership presented to a friend? This benefits Scholarship Funds and honors someone special, also. Do you have a favorite horticulture magazine? Do you have a favorite tool or pair of gardening gloves? How about that apron or bucket that holds all of the things you need when you get ready to dig or groom in your favorite flower bed.



The *NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar* makes a great stocking stuffer. A subscription to *The National Gardener* is something to look forward to and has great horticulture articles as well as the latest on tours, conventions, awards, etc. Give a gift that is entertaining and useful!



Mark Your Calendars



Nov. 1, Pulaski District Meeting, Hillcrest
Nov. 6-8, Flower Show School I, Hillcrest
Nov. 16, Flower Show Seminar, Hillcrest
Dec. 1, Deadline for Youth Poetry and Essay Contests entries. (Ava Partridge).
Dec. 7, Deadline for AFGC Bird Poster entries. (Sherry Smith).

ARKANSAS FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

March 2-4, 2018 State Fairgrounds in L.R.

Expect to enjoy the following speakers...

Carol Mendel, "Don't Be a Garden Snob"

John Clark, "Blackberries for the Home Garden, An Excellent Choice!"

Allen Owings, "Home Landscape Problems and Solutions" and "New Flowers for Your Spring Landscape"

Patrick Byers, "Drought Tolerant Plants for Your Garden" and "Integrated Pest Management in the Vegetable Garden"

Jill Forrester, "Basic Back Yard Garden"

Janet Carson, "Easy Care Annuals and Perennials"

Carols, Candles, and Many, Many Lights!

Nov. 17-Dec.31, *Lights of the Ozarks*, Fayetteville Downtown Square. 5pm-1am, with carriage and pony rides, hot cocoa and holiday music.

Nov. 17-18, *Holiday Lights Extravaganza*, Smackover, AR Museum of Natural Resources. Oil Field Park, a delight to young and young at heart. Hot cocoa and shopping indoors. 5:30-8:30pm, \$10 per car.

Nov. 18-Dec.31, *Holiday Lights at Garvan Gardens*, Hot Springs. Visit garvangardens.org for nightly activities. Lights on at 5pm. Entry fees for children 4-12, and 13 and up. Golf carts available for extra fee.

Nov. 21-Dec.31, *21st Annual Enchanted Land of Lights and Legends*, Pine Bluff. Drive-thru display of holiday lights. Free. Donate \$10 and receive ornament. 6-9pm.

Nov. 24-Dec. 17, *Caroling in the Caverns*, Blanchard Springs Caverns. Visit yourplaceinthemountains.com. Musicians perform your favorite Christmas songs, every Fri.-Sun. 6-8pm. Admission is \$25.

Dec. 1, *Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights*, in the Historic Loop. 6-8pm, admission is free.

Dec. 2, *31st Annual Christmas and Candlelight*, Historic Washington State Park. Decorations, music and more adorn the homes, churches, etc. in this village. Tours 1-5pm or 5-8pm (with candles and luminaries). Horse-drawn surrey rides and gift shops available. Admission \$10 adults; \$6, 6-12. Visit historicwashingtonstatepark.com.

Dec. 16, *Caroling in the Forest*, Pinnacle Mtn. State Park, Kingfisher Trailhead. Stroll through the forest on paved trail singing your favorite carols. Bring flashlights and best voices. Hot cocoa around the campfire at the Pavilion. 7-9pm, admission is free. Call 501-868-5806.

November Gardening Tips

You still have time to do some cleaning up in your garden. Pull up all spent annuals, cut off all spent perennials, being careful to mark the spot where some of the dormant or late-sprouting varieties are located. Dig out all unhealthy looking evergreens or flowering shrubs and prepare the ground for replacements.

Many camellias will bloom this month. Watch growth habits. Some grow tall, some medium and some quite dwarf. Buy plants in bloom in the nurseries.

We still have time to set out pansies and violas. These will give you some instant color as you remove your annuals. Wait until the ground temperature is cooler to plant your bulbs. It may be December before you get them in the ground. Some bulbs may be placed in containers with pansies placed on top of them. You'll enjoy the combination this spring.

Do not dispose of all leaves. Save some for the garden. They may be utilized in two ways:

- Half-rotted hardwood leaves make good mulch for azaleas and camellias.
- Added to compost pile, they are a valuable source of humus for the garden. (Source: *The Mid-South Garden Guide*)