

# OKLAHOMA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

## Spring 2012



Hello everyone,

What an absolutely delightful State Convention at the Presbyterian Church in Alva! Despite health issues of Chairman Connie Allen [and we are sooo thankful that she is doing well] and her Co-Chair Barbara Faulkner, all attendees had a wonderful time. Barbara was calm under fire with a constant smile and everything went off without a hitch. Praises were given at the convention and again here...

Pastor Mary, helper Martha and her husband Mike served wonderful meals, their Bread Pudding was amazing. They were such gracious people helping us with every new quest, i.e., setting up new table after table and adding table coverings for the abundance and totally unexpected items for the Convention Silent Auction; the hallways were lined table to table!

We had three workshops back-to-back: Jim Lawson, Organizational Study Chairman did a superb job reviewing and answering questions concerning OGC Bylaws. See page 7 for the Motion that came from that workshop; Marillyn Lay, Newsletter Chair, answered questions and offered assistance for clubs receiving the emailed version of the OGC Newsletter and shared the latest news on The Communicator for the South Central Region. And, yes, when the OGC website is ready, the Newsletter will be sent directly from Odyssey Digital Printing who so graciously continues to print our Snail-mail version FREE; and Judy and I answered questions and gave updates on the NGC 2014 Convention.

MaryAnn Holman announced the three OGC Scholarship recipients for 2011 during the Awards Banquet. Because the Convention was held during the week, they could not attend but were able to receive their certificates during the SW District Convention on April 21. We are very proud of Rita Jones for earning the Helen Elrod Scholarship, Courtney Landoll for earning the Loyce Anderson Scholarship and Beth Krause for earning both a Beth Roberds and Loyce Anderson Scholarship. See page 8 for MaryAnn's report and pictures of the recipients.

Judy Grotts gave a program demonstration on the armature "reaching out" design; page 9, and I shared the NGC free Standard Flower Show schedule for clubs

who have not held a flower show for several years. I offer to the first garden club, Council or District a Handbook for Flower Shows manual when this schedule is used. The Standard Flower Show Schedule is a free download available from the NGC Website. Everything is done for the club, all Horticulture, Design, Artistic Craft and Educational rules are included, etc.

Garden Clubs received the Adult and Youth Awards by Chair Linda Lawson; Flower Show Awards were given by Mardi McKenzie for Chairman Analee Harper, see pages 12 for that listing. Congratulations to all club members for the work with our Youth on these projects. Judy Grotts handed out Awards from the South Central Region.

We were totally entertained by Smith & Nokes "Uncommon Comedy", a musical lunch blessing by Gary Adam, and a Style Show by "LaDee Da" page 11 during lunch.

Because of the "Educational Displays" by each District and several of our State Chairmen to replace oral reports, the Business Session of the Convention went quickly. See page 13 for a picture sampling of the displays. Convention members and guests viewed these reports at their leisure and cameras were in constant clicking mode.

Oral Reports given: Linda Oldham gave out Certificates for OGC's History Reports and encouraged all clubs with a challenge; see page 11 for her report. Barbara Markwardt reported on Habitat for Humanity and encouraged members to get dollar donations sent to the State Treasurer for the NGC Convention Habitat for Humanity Walk. See page 9. Dollar donations will remain in Oklahoma with donations returned to each District that contributed for their continuing work. Craig Williams gave seeds, plants, note cards and special Oklahoma pins to Judy Grotts, Patsy Ruth Miller and myself and gave a report from 'Color Oklahoma', see page 10. Chaplain Doris Rae Arens led a moving Memorial for our 2011 deceased member's; see page 7 for those honored.

Can you believe all this took place from Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon? Remarkable isn't it? A one afternoon/evening and one-half day State Convention is now not a possibility but reality!

I have so enjoyed the meetings and Conventions I have attended across our state. Each have bestowed such lovely gifts; a beautiful handmade necklace by Nancy Williford from the SE District to serve as the

'Official 2014' accessory attire, a lovely hanging glass ball from the NE District by Marillyn Lay and a metal hanging basket from the NW that sits on my kitchen counter filled with tomatoes and bananas. From the host NW District at the State Convention, I received a beautiful glass dome to cover a keepsake. You all have treated me as royalty; very humbling experiences and so heartfelt – thank you!

When I attended the SW Convention on the 21<sup>st</sup>, they implemented a unique [to me] way of holding the Ways & Means fundraiser. Each item was gift-wrapped in a box or gift bag with an attached dollar amount. People were feeling, shaking, smelling, etc., each package. Each package went quickly and it was fun to watch people showing what they got. If you haven't tried this, I guarantee it will be a huge success!

The Program Speakers of this Convention were mother and daughters from the Murphy Farms LLC. Elisabeth, Myiul and Mina told of their Certified Organic Farms in Walters and Hastings. They take their produce to the Lawton Farmers Market where they are greeted with rows of people waiting for them to start selling. They have two email addresses: [murphyfarmsorchard.com](mailto:murphyfarmsorchard.com) where you can request produce information and [www.oklahomafood.coop/shop/producers/22301.php](http://www.oklahomafood.coop/shop/producers/22301.php) where you can learn of their story. It is the place to be if you are in or near Lawton on a Saturday morn...

As you will read on other pages, Linda Oldham still needs garden club assistance in getting the OGC History book ready. It will indeed be in a book form and available to each club. This is a NEW project of bringing our state's history up to date with the histories of each club as you have information. Won't it be enlightening to read how and when each of our clubs became affiliated, who were the founding members and the projects they have accomplished? I am very hopeful that the following administrations will see fit to continue to add yearly updates to our history book. NGC has a History Book for each term that is given to each state president. The one received for the last administration is in our Headquarters. It is simply amazing what is accomplished in this organization and we should be proud to be in its documentation.

My next official stop will be at the NGC Convention in Buffalo in May. I am sooo looking forward to seeing friends and catching up and seeing what lies ahead for our organization.

Keep up the good fight to keep the wildflowers blooming to produce seed heads before they are mowed, take care and we will talk soon. Have a great summer and remember, no one cares how much you know until they know how much you care, *Donna*

John Roberds was so very pleased with his plaque for his service to OGC. While visiting, I mentioned his name on the donor's plaque at Headquarters and he said he didn't know that. We need to get pictures and articles about our plaques and get them in our History book and Newsletter. *Donna*



The necklace below was made by Nancy Williford, Southeast District and is the Official 2014 Convention Necklace.



### **NEWS FLASH**

Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs will hold their dedication on June 6, 2012 at 10 am in Veterans Park, at 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Boulder Avenue.

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Dogwood Garden Club of Redfork has completed their fundraising for the Blue Star Byway Marker. It was announced by the Northeast District President and marker will be placed on November 11, 2012 at the Southwest Tulsa Route 66 Village, 3770 Southwest Blvd

If you cannot open this PDF newsletter, have someone in your club make a copy it for you. We cannot email in a Word document form as it is too large.



## American Woodcock

It was a beautiful February day that day. I was

scheduled to travel to Tahlequah to try and catch the courting displays of the American Woodcock. The Woodcock is similar in appearance to the Wilson's snipe. The Woodcock likes a moist vegetative habitat. While the Snipe likes wet grassy habitats it is generally seen probing the mud with its long bill.

I met up with fellow Audubon birders and we began our trek to Tahlequah. Each year Mia, who teaches at Northeastern State University, invites individuals to join her to observe the Woodcock. So every evening during courtship season, people meet up with her to sit quietly out in the country and wait for the birds to appear. The birds were displaying early in the year, as we had such unseasonably warm weather. It is usually around the middle of March before we know of their activities.

We needed to bring a small stool or something to sit upon. Some birders brought ground stools; others brought short stools, while others sat on the ground. We were advised to bring warm clothing i.e.: gloves, hat, heavy jacket and whatever we felt we needed to stay warm. I took my camera hoping to catch a shot at the bird.

Mia directed us by map to the location just east of Tahlequah where we were to meet up with her. It is important to be settled, ready to observe before sunset. Our instructions were to be at the designated meeting point by 5:30 pm. Courtship occurs at dusk and sunup. The Woodcock feeds during the day, but displays at morning and evening. As we drove up to the meeting, we called Mia to tell her we had arrived. She informed us that five other people would meet us. One couple was from Montana and the other three were from Tulsa. I recognized the names of the Tulsans and I did know them, as it turned out.

As planned, we were set and ready to go, when Mia drove up. My excitement was building as this encounter would be a "lifer" bird for me. I had not seen the Woodcock before. I had tried several times over the years, but the bird always eluded me. My husband and I traveled to Okmulgee two different times ending up in a cemetery to try to catch a glimpse of the bird that had been reported there. You know you are a diehard birder when you travel a distance to try and see it. I've had friends that traveled to Nebraska to see the Common Crane reported there. It is not native to America, and is found in Russia. It could be a trail wind swept him here. I traveled to Payne County in December to see the Snowy Owl reported to be seen there. They are not frequent visitors to the southern most states, but because of greater numbers of hatchlings, they traveled south in search for food. I did see the owl, another "lifer" bird for me. We say when an individual sees a "lifer", the drinks are on them!

We filed in line and the caravan began following Mia and off we went to our final destination. As we traveled, the sun became lower in the horizon. It had been a windy day, and we wondered if this would hamper the "adventure". Further and further we traveled from civilization until we turned into a gate on an acreage designated as our lookout point.

We parked our cars, disembarked and began to put on our gloves, hats and warm clothing. The wind was still howling and I began to wonder if I had brought enough layers. Everyone had a small stool or blanket to sit upon and we began our hike further in to the area.

When we got to the spot, Mia instructed us where she thought the birds would appear as they had the previous evening. I had a camera and she was somewhat concerned about it. She told me to just be mindful of the other viewers and curtail my picture taking so as not to disturb the others. I told her I understood and would be cautious.

We settled in a semi-circle and began our watch. It became quiet among us, and all that was heard was the howling wind and the cars passing on the country road. Dusk began to settle as the sun went down. The trees were swaying in the wind and I became mesmerized with the quiet solitude surrounding me. We were one with nature and the skeletons of the trees were a reminder of a much greater power than we possessed.

As we sat quietly, there appeared to the left of the opening the first Woodcock. It was not calling, but just strutted a few inches. That we felt was a female, as she does not call. I snapped her picture but quickly discovered my camera was not set properly. I decided not to adjust it, but just observe so as not to disrupt the situation. I was somewhat disappointed, but it was ok.

Then we heard the nasal peent sound as a male flew in not thirty feet from us. He strutted around peenting as he went. He flew and then a second male landed about 30 feet from us and copied the same movements and sounds as the first male. That male then flew away.

Off to the right in the opening, another female showed up and stayed a few minutes and flew. We did not witness any display behavior by the males that night. Somewhat disappointing, but I got my "lifer" bird and couldn't be happier.

We packed up our gear and made our way back to our cars. I was totally satisfied. It was 7:15 PM. Off we went and the drinks were on me!

Josie Driskill  
Bird Chairman

**Southwest District**  
**Shirley Johnston - President**

Ways and Means for the SW District is a coffee mug depicting the Oklahoma State Emblems. The design was created by the students of the Comanche High School Art Department under the direction of Art Teacher, Arlyn Brantley. Marsha Thomas of the Lawton Petunia Club is Chairman for this project.

Cement Garden Club President and Master Gardener, Verna Faye Myers, along with five active members planted flowers and shrubs in the Cement Peace Garden.

The Fort Cobb Improvement Club held their annual fall flower show in conjunction with the Fort Cobb Free Fair, which is always scheduled for the weekend after Labor Day. The seventeen (7) members did a beautiful show in spite of the Oklahoma drought.

Also, the members are in the planning stages for a butterfly project.

Charter member of the Fort Cobb Improvement Club, Edna Bailey, recently passed away at the tender age 105 years young.

Lawton Pansy Club enjoyed an outstanding program on Bees and later visited Red Rock State Park to view the changing color of the leaves. They also donated plants and flowers to the new home built for the Habitat for Humanity.

Youth is our next generation of gardeners so the Petunia Garden Club Lawton stays active with the children. At each flower show an area for children is set aside for the participation. This year the their fall show the youngsters made bird feeders out of ½ gal milk cartons and a flower design to take home along with a packet of seed for their spring show.

Nine members of the Rose Unit Garden of Grandfield set up a booth at the local fair and toured community gardens under the direction of Bette Mathis, Club President and Master Gardener.

Two members of the Dahlia Garden Club of Walters entered the Festival in the Park Flower Show “Around the World with Flowers” held in OKC. The Petite Award for a 5 inch miniature, Designers choice, Design Excellence, Education Award for Smokey Bear and Sweepstakes were awarded to these two ladies.

Dahlia members scheduled an October “Garden Tour” at the home of Craig Williams which was well received with proceeds going to the Blue Star Memorial Fund.

Dedication Ceremony for Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was on Veterans Day November 11, 2011. The program was opened with the Walters High School Band playing “Armed Forces Salute,” a medley of military theme songs and the Walters Varsity Choir sand the Star-Spangled Banner. The Stephens County Honor Guard performed a flag presentation and gave a 21 gun salute.

The Lord’s Prayer was presented in Indian Sign Language by Comanche War Scout Princess, Sareva Liles. This was to honor the eight Comanche Code Talkers of World War II from the Walters area.

Oklahoma Governor, Mary Fallin, was unable to attend but she did send a Commendation, which was presented by Senator Don Barrington.

South Central Blue Star Chairman, Sarah McReynolds, gave the history on the Blue Star and presented each Dahlia member with a replica of the service flay which she had made. State President, Donna Marsheck, dedicated the marker.

Craig Williams, a Lawton Landscape Designer, assisted the Dahlia members with a floral garden design consisting of Red & White Crepe Myrtle, Blue Vitex Trees, Yaupon Holly and Blue Pansies in keeping with the Patriotic Theme.

As part of this celebration the Dahlia Club purchased 700 American flags to be placed on the graves of Veterans in the Walters Cemetery. The Boy Scouts along with the Girl Scouts placed these flags early in the week before the dedication thus involving the Walters community as much as possible.



**Financial Report- April 11, 2012**  
**All Accounts are held at BancFirst**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
Checking 2011-2013 term	2,986.64
Contingency Account	16,475.26
Headquarters Account	7,051.70
Helen Elrod Savings	24,337.62
Scholarship Savings	5,525.80
Wildflower Workshop	2,775.78
<b>Certificates of Deposits</b>	
CD Endowment Elrod	90,000.00
CD Endowment HDQ Matured 4-7-12	54,338.21
CD Group Scholarship	20,712.71
CD Headquarters	26,075.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>250,279.50</b>

Northeast District Report  
Carol Quinn - President

At the end of December I found out that I would be taking over as the President Aline Saturday had to resign due to family problems. I have been trying to get my feet under me. The Northeast District just had their Spring Convention. We had reports from all the Presidents of the clubs. We are down to only 15 clubs in the District. We will be working to bring in new club members.

Northeast District has a \$1,000 scholarship given to an OSU Student. There are also have several other scholarships given in the district. Bartlesville Garden Center has given one (1), Tulsa Garden Center has given three (3) Iris Garden Club have given one (1), and the Tulsa Council of FGC have given one (1).

Northeast District also supports several programs. Several trees have been planted with the "Up With Trees" program. We have several bird programs in different clubs. One of the biggest programs we have is habitat for Humanities. We have helped with several homes due to the weather in the past few years. The district has been very busy trying to get a Blue Star memorial in every County in the District. There are several that have been dedicated in the NED.

Tulsa Garden Club helps to maintain the Tulsa Rose Garden. They will have their Flower Show "From the 20's to 2012 - A Floral Tribute" on April 21-22 this year and will be holding the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden Tour of five (5) homes on May 19-20, 2012.

Bartlesville Garden Center maintains the corner of Highway 75 and Frank Phillips Blvd. They also have a Beautification Award which they present to business that works to improve the look of the city.

Green Thumb of Bartlesville supports a Junior Gardener program, and they also have a daffodil program where they give a vase of daffodils to Meals on Wheels home bound. Bartlesville has been a Tree City USA for over 25 years.

Northeast District has several Flower Show Judges, Master Judges, Life Judges, Accredited Orchid Judge, African Violet Society of American Judges, Accredited American Rose Society Judges, and many Master Gardeners. We are proud to support all of the National Presidents Objectives.

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Why do melons have fancy weddings?



Because they cantaloupe!

North Central Report  
Mary Early - President

The North Central Summer Board was held in OKC at the World Organization of China Painters and Fall Board meeting was held in Oklahoma City. The District has held Home Tours, Environmental School, Flower Show Symposium and Workshops. The Spring Convention was held in Ponca City on March 15, 2012 at the Marland Mansion.

The NCD has Judges, Master Gardeners, Landscape Design, Environmental Consultants, and Regional Director, State Board members, Regional Board members and National Board members. North Central District entered the Yearbook contest, Press Book, Essay and the Butterfly Coloring contest.

**Report Given by Linda Lawson for Mary Early**

South Central Report  
Martha Aughe, President

The SCD held their Fall Board meeting in Shawnee, October 2011. Christmas parties were held throughout the SCD and a Marti Gras parties were held in Norman. Ardmore held a Membership Tea the end of March 2012. The Spring Convention was held in Ponca City. The SC entered yearbook contests, Press book contest, and butterfly coloring contests. The SCD has members serving on the OGC Board of Directors serving as committee chairman and State Officers. There are 13 Master Gardeners, 3 Master Judges, 8 Environmental Consultants.

**Report given by Linda Lawson for Martha Aughe**

Southeast District  
"Gardeners Go Green"  
T. Fran Walker - President

There are four garden clubs in the Southeast District, one club in Bryan County and three clubs in Atoka County.

**Bryan County Rose Garden Club** has ten members among who are a botanist, a credited Rose Judge and 3 Master Gardeners. They have several community projects.

- 1 Resealed the headstone for the Veterans Memorial Garden.
- 2 Bought warm clothing and underwear for needy elementary children.
- 3 Purchased \$500 of supplies for the horticultural therapy program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, the program is under the direction of Jane McMillan
- 4 Gave the Durant High School wildflower seeds. The students planted them at the campus on Highway 69-75. There is a lot of traffic on this highway so they will be enjoyed by a lot of locals and travelers.
- 5 Offering a \$1000 scholarship, but having trouble getting applications.

- 6 Spring Fling on March 30-31. The proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

Their pilgrimage was to the City Lake. Dr. Connie Taylor gave a program on different plants and weeds. Dr. Taylor had a monocular for each member to identify the different parts of the plants. While on the pilgrimage they picked up trash in the area.

**The three Atoka Garden Clubs** sponsor the Senior Tea for the senior girls of Atoka County each year. They maintain 2 planters that are in downtown Atoka with a total of six planters maintained. They receive positive comments from the community on this project.

**Pink Iris Garden Club of Atoka** added three new members this year. They had two deceased members, Alfreda Barton and Elaine Fink.

They have several community projects.

- 1 Provide plants for garden therapy of Special Ed. Classes of the Atoka School
- 2 Collect food for the Community Chest family food baskets
- 3 Participate in the Christmas Angel Tree toy drive
- 4 Administer Conservation & Litter poster contest as well as the Wildflower and Butterfly coloring contest.
- 5 Upkeep of grounds at the Atoka County Library.
- 6 Sponsor the Yard of the Month recognition. The winner each month is shown in the Atoka County Times an article and their picture.
- 7 Planted a Redbud tree and an Autumn Blaze Maple tree at the Atoka County Veterans Memorial.
- 8 Planted the wildflower seeds they received.

**Atoka Red rose Garden Club** has 12 members, with 1 joining recently. They had one deceased member, Nell Tate.

Longtime member Ruth McKee had her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in October and the club sent her a red rose in celebration. They have several projects:

They continue to replant red roses as needed around the fence at the West View Cemetery in Atoka which has been a project for over 30 years. They also maintain the entrance to the same cemetery.

They maintain two planters in front of the Atoka County Courthouse. They added more tulip bulbs for this spring. They try to keep red, white and blue plants in them throughout the year which the public seems to appreciate. These are hard to keep systematic as one is in full sun and one is in full shade.

Many members planted wildflower seeds and trees during the year. More trees will be planted as tornado damage is cleared and places are available for planting.

Contribute to World Gardening.

Play brown bag bingo with the proceeds going to the State Garden Club Scholarship Fund.

The club tries hard to have a wide variety of programs each year to help learn and keep the meetings interesting, and they never know what fun game or item will show up at a meeting.

**Yellow Rose Garden Club of Atoka** has 14 members. They had one deceased member, Elaine Fink. She was a dual member of Yellow Rose and Pink Iris.

Several club members planted the wildflower seeds on main roads in Atoka. Their pilgrimage was to the PSU Wes Watkins Research Center at Lane, OK. Dr. Shrefler was their tour guide. They took an open tour bus pulled by a farm tractor. They toured several greenhouses along with hoop houses. Following the tour, the group went into the conference room and viewed some slides taken by Dr. James Shrefler on the Dominican Republic. He had gone there as a young man in 1962 with the Peace Corps program. He returned for the 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion. Since the Dominican Republic is on a tropical island south of Cuba, when asked why they did everything by hand instead of bringing in machinery to get the job done, Dr. Shrefler replied that the people need jobs. The main exports are coffee, bananas and tropical plants.

Outstanding programs were enjoyed including informative ones and some for fun. They had an Alice in Wonderland Tea party. Merline Bonner hosted the Christmas luncheon, and viewing her home (mansion) is informative and entertaining. A lot of history is in this home with items from The Black Hotel and a theatre in Oklahoma City.

Two of their members, Fran Walker and Nancy Williford completed the Master Gardener classes.

**Committee Chairman -Thelma Bledsoe- Pink Iris**

Two schools Atoka Elementary and Lane Elementary entered the poster, wildflower and butterfly contests.

There were 385 entries in Litter and Conservation, Butterfly and Wildflower coloring contest.

There were 13 first place, 13 second place, 12 third place winners on the local level and since there were no entries to compete at district there were 13 first place winners that were sent to the State Competition.

**Committee Chairman-Nancy Williford-Yellow Rose Farris Schools** participated for the first time in the 2012 State Garden Club Bird Contest in conjunction with the Yellow Rose Garden Club. There were a total of seventeen (17) participants from Division I and Division II category. There was one 1) first place winner on the local level and since there were no entries to compete at District there was one (1) first place winner that was sent on to State Competition.

Be who you are and say what you feel,  
because those who mind don't matter,  
and those who matter don't mind

~ Dr. Seuss

**Doris Rae Arens conducted a memorial service  
To pay respect and honor our lost Garden Club  
members:**

**North Central:** Betty Whetstone, Four O’Clock, Ponca City  
**Southwest District:** Edna Bailey, Fort Cobb Improvement, 105  
year-old Charter club member

**South Central District:** Mary Jane Gastgeb, Flora Belle,  
Norman; Dorothy Dee Shears Barbour of Tulip, Norman;  
Betty Jane Hughes, Edith Carruth, Velma Rogers of  
Chrysanthemum Unit of Shawnee; Melba L. Milligan, Madill

**Southeast District:** Alfreda Barton, Pink Iris, Atoka; Nell  
Tate, Red Rose, Atoka; Elaine Fink, Yellow Rose, Atoka

**Northeast District:** Denise Caves, Priscilla Karo, Eleanor  
Pitcock, LaVerna LaFortune of Tulsa; Ruth Rice, Redbud of  
Welch; Esther Chilcoate, Green Thumb of Bartlesville.

**FORGET – ME – NOT**

Could every blossom find a voice,  
And sing a strain to me,  
I know where I would place my choice,  
Which my delight should be.  
I would not choose the lily tall,  
The rose from musky grot,  
But I would still my minstrel call,

**The blue Forget-me-not.**

And I on mossy bank would lie,  
Of brooklet, rippling clear;  
And she of the sweet, azure eye,  
Close at my listening ear,  
Should sing into my soul a strain,  
Might never be forgot,  
So rich with joy, so rich with pain –

**The blue Forget-me-not.**

Ah! Every blossom hath a tale,  
With silent grace to tell,  
From rose that reddens to the gale,  
To modest heather-bell’

But oh! The flower in every heart,  
That finds a sacred spot to bloom,  
With azure leaves apart,

**Is the Forget-me-not.**

Love plucks it from the mosses green,  
When parting hours are high,  
And places it, Love’s palms between,  
With many an ardent sigh;  
And bluely up from grassy graves,  
In some loved churchyard spot,  
It glances tenderly and waves,

**The dear Forget-me-not.**

*Crawford, Isabella Valancy, Canadian Poet from 1850-1887*



On behalf of the Organizational Study Committee, I move that a revision of the Bylaws be prepared to be voted on at the 2013 Convention. Each District President shall appoint an additional member to the Organizational Study Committee approved by the President and confirmed by the Board of Directors. A draft revision shall be reported at the Fall Board Meeting and published for member review. Proposed amendments to the revision will be accepted by the Committee until January 30, 2013. The final revision shall be published 60 days prior to the Convention.

**James K Lawson 4/11/2012** – Motion seconded and all were in favor.



This action took place during the State Convention’s Bylaws Workshop. Mr. Lawson explained that there are some minor changes that need to be made to the Bylaws to bring them ‘up to date’. Also the format will be changed to full sheets to enable a PDF emailing. The current Bylaws are available in this new format for a PDF emailing. Contact Mr. Lawson if you would like the current Bylaws sent to you. The proposed Bylaws change from the Fall Board Meeting was also addressed at the State Convention and passed. We may now conduct business via email. *Donna*

**This Recommendation was approved by the Board of Directors to be taken to the Convention for a vote.**

The circulated Bylaws change is:

Article VI – Board of Directors & Executive Committee.

Section 2

(as is) In the event of an emergency, a vote by mail, telephone, or electronic mail may be take.

(will now read) A vote by mail, telephone, or electronic mail may be taken.

Presented by,  
Mary Ann Holman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Bylaws

**Recommendations from South Central Region  
Executive Board Meeting  
Wyndham Riverfront  
Little Rock, AR.  
March 30, 2012**

1. South Central Award #2 Birds funded by Francis Willis Restricted Fund be reworded as a new award. Committee appointed with one representative from each state and Suzy Andrego as Chairman.
2. South Central Region Awards Rules be accepted as presented by Awards Committee except for #2 Birds Award. All changes effective immediately after this meeting.
3. South Central Region purchase a metal embellished seal cost \$200.00. The seal will have the four states of our region with two circles – one listing the four states and the other South Central Region/ National Garden Clubs, Inc. & the Monarch butterfly.
4. South Central Region *Communicator* be sent out in electronic mailing to those with access for free and a hard copy be sent by bulk mailing with bulk mailing permit shared by the state where the *Communicator* editor resides.
5. We accept the Monarch butterfly as the official South Central Region butterfly.
6. We continue the South Central Region website at cost \$131.00 a year. Website address: SCRNGC.com
7. The By-Laws Committee, Pamela Grotts, Chairman, Linda Lawson, Suzy Andrego, Pat Haering, and Linda Whetsell review, revise and add electronic voting to the by-laws. To be printed in the *Communicator* and voted at the next South Central Region Convention.

**Scholarship Report**

We have three recipients this year. All had very good applications and wonderful letters from teachers, mentors and employers. Those chosen for the Scholarships are listed below. The winners are not able to attend the OGC Inc. State Convention. They will be presented with the Certificates for the scholarships at the Southwest District of Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. convention in Walters, OK on Saturday, April 21, 2012. President Donna Marsheck will be present and will present each with her scholarship.

1<sup>st</sup> place winner: Rita Jones, Junior at OSU  
\$1,500 Helen Elrod scholarship  
Major – Landscape Architecture  
(Her application has been sent on to NGC, Inc. Hoping she will be a winner there also.)

2<sup>nd</sup> place winner: Courtney Landoll, Junior at Cameron University  
\$1,100 Loyce Anderson Scholarship  
Major – Agriculture

3<sup>rd</sup> place winner: Elizabeth Krause, Sophomore at Cameron University  
\$500 Beth Roberds Scholarship  
\$600 Loyce Anderson Scholarship  
Major - Agriculture



Seventeen (17) members of OGC attended the SCR Convention.  
L to r back row Linda Oldham, Linda Lawson, Mardi McKenzie, Pam Grotts, Donna Marsheck  
Front row: Elizabeth Lewis Clara Bishop Marillyn Lay, Doris Rae Arens and Judy Grotts.



Also attending (left): Lucy Clinton, Pat McCauley, and Mary Jean Easterling.

Not pictured are Barbara Markwardt, Opal Vosse, Courtney Grotts and Grace Shafer.





## Habitat for Humanity Committee Report

Tulsa Council of Federated President, Marillyn Lay has continued this to be a Council Project. Chairman Barbara Markwardt and co-chair, Opal Vosse told the Habitat has built 12 homes for the year 2011. Ten (10) of those homes were built in the Joplin, MO area with a contribution of \$25.00 from Aline Saturday, a \$25.00 donation from Opal Vosse and \$100 from Bill and Barbara Markwardt. In total 456 houses have been built in the Northeast District of Oklahoma and three (3) new homes with nine (9) more for this year. Volunteers from Tulsa and students from Rhema Bible College went on their spring break to Joplin. They worked on houses and re-did a Ball Field. Our OGC, Inc. President Donna Marsheck will do the HFH Walk-A-Thon at National. Please make a donation as the money comes back to Oklahoma HFH. Barbara Markwardt, Chairman



### Children Gardens

Erna Loving, Tulsa Council of FGC gave to the Tulsa Garden Center \$300 for the Children Youth Gardens.

Remington School a project of Tulsa Council is replanting a butterfly garden with the help of Opal Vosse and her son Fred, along with Barbara Markwardt. Barbara was able to water until the July 30 heat came in.

Vegetable garden at Remington School goes to feed the needy at the Iron Gate.

Mannford GC Children Garden is at the Mannford Public Library. Barbara Markwardt, Chairman



One of the table Decorations that became the door prizes.



As Horticulture Committee Chairman I write a weekly article geared specifically for Oklahoma Gardeners. As a Master Gardener, I provide research-based information for home gardeners in various areas of horticulture including landscaping, vegetable gardening, and lawn care. I always promote Native Oklahoma Plants and emphasize that gardeners must have Native Oklahoma plants in their landscape in order to attract Native Oklahoma birds, butterflies, and wildlife. I repeatedly remind everyone to use IPM (Integrated Pest Management) that encourages letting the birds and beneficial insects take care of the “bad bugs” instead of using pesticides that kill the good guys along with the bad guys. I advocate the use of compost to build the soil and make sure everyone knows how important the use of organic mulches are to conserve moisture, smother weeds, improve soil fertility, feed the plants and cut down on yard work by at least 70 percent.

One of my goals is to make people aware of Oklahoma Proven Plants that are chosen by OSU each year as plants that will thrive and beautify Oklahoma landscapes.

My other mission is to stop “Crepe Murder” in Oklahoma. I am trying to make gardener’s award that Crepe Myrtles are one of Oklahoma’s most beautiful plants with 4-seasons of beauty if the correct size is chosen and they are pruned correctly. I consider it a bonus if they also learn a real Southerner would never ever spell Crepe Myrtle any other way!

My Gardening articles are published in the Daily Ardmoreite in the Lifestyles section each Sunday. They can also be found on the State Garden Club’s website, the North Central District’s website, and all of them at the Carter County Extension Office website under Master Gardener Gardening Articles. Happy Gardening

Pat Neasbitt, Master Gardener



Judy Grotts is Displaying her “Armature Design” The armature Design is to be ‘reaching out’ in concept

**Wildflower Conservation/Landscape  
Committee Report**  
*State Convention Alva, Oklahoma April 11, 2011*

The high point of the past few months has been the first ever co-ordination between the *Oklahoma Garden Clubs* and *Color Oklahoma* (a division of the Oklahoma Native Plant Society). *Color Oklahoma* has the legal ability to collect funds through specialty license plates approved by the state legislature. The sole purpose of the funds derived from the sales of the plates is to plant wildflower seeds across the state. Traditionally only 3 to 5 major plantings have been done each year with a few individual grants done if funds were available.

Craig Williams as the new Chairman of Wildflower Conservation of OGC also became the newest board member of *Color Oklahoma* in 2011. At the September meeting of that organization it was decided to do major plantings only in Stillwater, outside of Muskogee, in downtown Oklahoma City and at Cameron University in Lawton. Williams put a motion up to the *Color Oklahoma* board to provide seeds to the *Oklahoma Garden Clubs*. The motion carried with a price tag of nearly \$1200 for seeds and postage.

Due to a tight time line, Williams attempted to contact each OGC district president for a current and accurate listing of the club presidents in each area. Seeds were sent on a first come first mailed basis. Each of the first 40 recipients was mailed ¼ bags of “Black-Eye Susan” and “Indian Blanket”. Information for planting was included, Williams asked the clubs to send thank you note to him and to document the plantings so that these could be forwarded to *Color Oklahoma*.

Williams is pleased to announce that *Color Oklahoma* has again approved to repeat this program in the fall of 2012. Williams asks all of the garden clubs to start immediately to find sites that appear to be safe from mowing for a new fall program. He also asks the clubs to strive to find sites that showcase the wildflowers the best.

Oklahoma Garden Clubs 2011 Seed Recipients

**Southwest District**

Dahlia Club/Hastings-Walters  
Cement Club/Cement  
Lawton Petunia/Lawton  
Ft. Cobb Improvement Club/.Ft. Cobb - Carnegie  
Grandfield Rose/Grandfield  
Lawton Pansy/Lawton

**Southeast District**

Pink Iris/Atoka  
Red Rose/Atoka  
Yellow Rose/Atoka  
Bryan County/Durant

**North Central District**

Amaryllis/Arcadia  
Apogon/Crescent  
Iris/Ponca City  
Carefree Rose/Edmond  
Viola/Oklahoma City  
Four O’Clock/Ponca City  
Pisces/Guthrie  
Garden Party/Oklahoma City  
Red Rose/Ponca City  
Late Bloomers/Oklahoma City  
Red Rose/Midwest City-Edmond  
Azalea/Midwest City  
Bouquet/Midwest City  
Iris/Midwest City  
Ivy/ Midwest City  
Periwinkle/Del City  
Petunia/Perry

Cushing Gladiolus/Cushing

**South Central District**

Pansy/Ardmore  
Rose/Madill  
Patio/Marlow  
Shawnee Garden Council/Shawnee  
Gladiolus/Purcell  
Tulip/Sulphur  
Florabell/Norman  
Norman Garden Club/Norman  
Tulip/Norman

**Northeast District**

Aline Saturday/Mannford  
Judy Grotts/Chandler

**Northwest District**

Patsy Ruth Miller/Selman

*Seeds were sent to the club presidents or individuals listed above. None were returned by the post office. All of these were done on a first come first out basis.*



## Historian Report

Madam Oklahoma Garden Clubs President, Donna Marsheck; Madam South Central Region Director, Judy Grotts; Officers and Members.

I am delighted to see you all; actually I'm delighted to see period and you'll find out soon enough.

It is always a highlight of my year to see all of my garden club friends at our annual Spring Convention and don't you love the spring rains we're having compared to last year's lack.

We're off to a GREAT START on updating our state history for President, Marsheck; but we can't afford to drag our feet. Donna's term is half over and our state history project needs to be complete by the end of her Presidency.

We have sixty (60) clubs and eight (8) council's histories to receive, read and organize by districts and then incorporate with past history to make a complete Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc. history book.

I have been up until wee hours of the morning reading. Reading like I'm researching for a dissertation. One thing I can tell you is we have a GREAT past history and the incoming histories that I have received to date are as diverse as our numbers are, SO PLEASE, PLEASE get your club histories in so we can be working on them this summer. Our history committee is ready to get to work.

One thing that never ceases to amaze me about OGC is the vast talent, perseverance and sheer determination we exhibit.

I believe you know what it is to have a servant's heart. From the histories I've read you're Keeping Oklahoma Beautiful planting wildflowers and other indigenous plants, grasses, shrubs and trees that are drought tolerant and throw in "Color It Pink", with flowers and crape myrtles. You're doing the Planting for Public and Special Places incorporating Gardens with Edibles, Container Gardening, Trees and Shrubs along with Garden Therapy. Some of our clubs have already had programs educating about the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Control and Covanta Energy WBH partnership that disposes of drug safely, keeping them out of our drinking water and our children, teens and other would-be abusers hands. We can set a new3 innovative standard for the rest of the country, as we are the first state with a program like this.

Take these ideas for programs and project and use them. Share your work; write about it! We are leaving a legacy for the future.

I have heard from only one quarter of our clubs. So roll up your sleeves and get after it!!!! Next year we will have special awards for the best histories! We also have a few early bird awards this year.

Don't forget to send pictures, newspaper articles and other publications about what you're doing and when President, Donna Marsheck is present at your events. Please Document Everything So She Never Forgets Us. Let's present Donna with a memorable album at the end of her tenure. Nothing less than exceptional!!!!

Respectfully,  
Linda Oldham



Gladys Nokes & Margaret Smith are on a Mission... to share their wonderful gift of humor with groups of all sizes, from Corporate Gatherings to Family Reunions to Church activities.



President, Donna Marsheck, laughing so hard she had tears, from the antics of Nokes and Smith.



Dee Weibner of "LaDee DA" fashions put on a beautiful fashion show with the members of the NWD modeling.



### District Presidents

Back row: NED President, Carol Quinn, SWD President, Fran Walker, the SCR Director, Judy Grotts,  
Front row: Linda Lawson standing in for NCD President, Mary Early, Patsy Ruth Miller, NWD President, Doris Rae Arens your State and SCR Chaplin and Shirley Johnston, SED President.



Barbara Faulkner  
Chairman of the  
83<sup>rd</sup> annual Convention  
calls the meeting to  
order.



Linda Lawson (right) Awards Chairman along with Pat Murrell (left) gave out the following awards:



PAST AND PRESENT OKLAHOMA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. PRESIDENTS.

L to r Donna Marscheck, your current State President, Elizabeth Lewis, State President 2009-2011, Judy Grotts, State President 2007-2006, Doris Rae Arens, State President 1985-1987, and Patsy Ruth Miller, Past President 1978-1981.



Mardi McKenzie (shown right) handed out the **Judges Council Awards.**

Charlene Wells, NED, received the Staging Award for the Tulsa Garden Club Show (large club)

Shirley Johnson (shown left) of the SWD Walters Garden Club, was the recipient of the Staging Award for Atoka

**Litter & Pollution Poster**

1st Cherry Peterson 2nd GR Lane Elementary  
1st Madison Rector 4th GR Lane Elementary  
1st Marilyn Kenyon 8th GR Lane Elementary

**Water & Conservation Posters**

1st Max Dodson 3rd GR Lane Elementary  
1st Toby Snow 5th GR Lane Elementary  
1st Lindsay Carter 8th GR Lane Elementary  
All winners sponsored by Atoka Pink Iris Garden Club  
SE District

**Butterfly Coloring Contest**

Division I (K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Division II (3rd, 4th, 5th)  
1st Jordan Nicholson 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade SE District  
2nd Elisabeth Ridgway 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade NW District  
Division III (6th, 7th, 8th)  
1st Jaeleigh Holder 7th Grade SE District  
2nd Mackenzie Pike 6th Grade NE District  
Division IV (Senior Citizens)  
1st Lois Deasy SC District  
2nd Jane Triggia NE District

**Wildflowers Coloring Contest**

Division I - 1st Place  
Nicole Silvers, 601 W. McGee Creek Rd, Lane, OK 74555  
Atoka Pink Iris Garden Club, SE District  
Division II - 1st Place  
Jaden Wright, 26678 N 4020 Rd, Ramona, OK 74061  
Garden Thyme GC, NE District  
Division II - 2nd Place  
Max Dodson, 601 W. McGee Creek Rd, Lane, OK 74555  
Atoka Pink Iris GC, SE District  
Division III - 1st Place  
Grady Blackwood, 601 W. McGee Creek Rd. Lane, OK 74555  
Atoka Pink Iris GC, SE District  
Division IV - 1st Place  
Paige Allen, P.O. Box 39, Lane, OK  
Atoka Pink Iris GC, SE District

**Smokey Bear**

Division I

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Heidi Rodriguez
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Alexis Musgrave
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Corrie Berg

Division II

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Levi Carter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Keano Galvan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Hunter Harris

Division III

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Kyra Benfer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Joanna Schuette
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Amy Loya

Division IV

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Christy Berg
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Natalie Rodriguez
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Nathan Bake

Division V

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Aspen Valliquette
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Sabastian Ehninger
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Bailey McKee

**Woodsy Owl**

Division II

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Emmrie Homer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Mollee King
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Juli Ehminge

Division III

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Katie Culwell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Clayton Carter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Johan Wolfe

Division IV

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Grace Herald

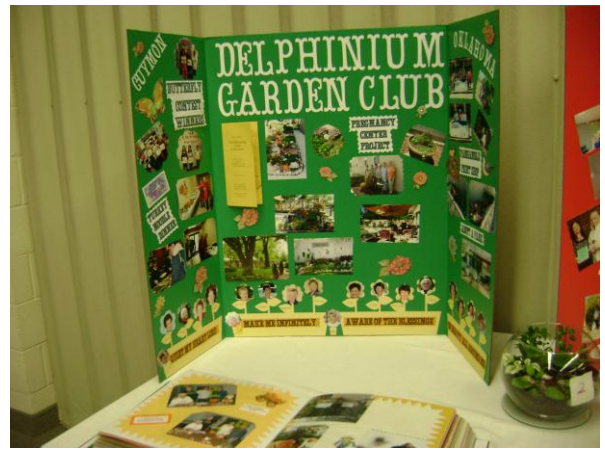
Division V

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Destiny Wells
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Justin Galvan

All Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl came from the Delphinium Garden Club - NW District



One of the table displays. This display is from South Central along with information for all to pick up and take.



Delphinium Garden Club in the Northwest District



OKLAHOMA  
BLACK GOLD & RED EARTH

YOUR PRESIDENT IS TILL ALL OF US  
TO GET OUR DUCKS IN A ROW  
FOR THE 2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION

*The only thing potentially worse than not being able to see the forest for the trees is not being able to see the trees because of the forest.*

*Anonymous*



Fran Walker, SED President inviting all to the

84<sup>th</sup>

Oklahoma State Garden Club Convention

April 25-26, 2013



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