CENTRAL REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

"Plant America: Sow the Seeds and Keep Growing"



Spring 2022 ISSUE



CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR Carol Yee's MESSAGE



Greetings! Hope all is well with you.

As I write this it's still very cold with snow on the ground. I'm really looking forward to warmer spring weather and being able to enjoy the outdoors!

By the time you receive this newsletter, you may have been shocked to see that the Central Region website address; *ngccentralregion.org* does not work! Due to an unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstance, changing the website address (domain name) was necessary. An email has gone out to all Central Region State Presidents and Central Region Committee Chairmen to spread the word. Hope you've been made aware of the change. Thanks very much to Anita Bierbaum, Veronica Kramer-Wallace, Gloria Notaro and Jodi Meyer for responding so quickly and helping accomplish the change. The new Central Region website address is: *ngccentralregion.com* The only difference is the ".com" ending. The password (7states) remains the same.

Good news from NGC! **The Flower Show Handbook digital revised** edition is now online and downloadable at no charge! Go to the NGC website: *gar*-

denclub.org, click on Flower Show School (under schools), scroll down and look for "Flower Show School Resources," then "Flower Show School Forms" <u>Flower Show School Resources | National Garden Clubs, Inc.</u>

For those of you who have not been able to take advantage of all the NGC Virtual Resources, team Zoom videos, you can see a lot of them at your leisure. Go to the NGC website: *gardenclub.org* and click on the tabs: Member Resources/Member Resources Library/Video Library/Videos by category. There are videos for Membership Mondays as well as the popular "Home for the Holidays 2021" video (Under "More NGC Fun").

The **NGC Convention will be held May 16-19, 2022** at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida. If you'd like to represent your state (states are allowed a certain number of delegates for the business meetings depending on membership size), please check with your state president. Otherwise, any club member can attend. Planned are tours, a Tri-Refresher, and an NGC Petite Design Specialty Flower Show, "Plant America-Play Outdoors" to be held during the week. Registration and information is available on the NGC website under Member Resources/2022 Convention.

Mark your calendars for the **Central Region Annual Meeting** to be held in Bloomington, Minnesota (where Mall of America is located) **October 16-18, 2022**. Planning is now underway by Minnesota State President Rene Lynch and her committee. Details will be available soon.

Best Wishes,

Carol Yee Central Region Director mscyee@hotmail.com

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"Sow the Seeds and Keep Growing"





Dates to Remember

NGC Convention May 16 -19, 2022 Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando, FL 32819

Central Region Convention October 16 - 18, 2022 Bloomington, MN

www.ngccentralregion.com

Marilyn Krueger, President of the Garden Clubs of Illinois 2021-2023 Theme: *"Plant America . . . Starting at Home"*

Happy Spring from your fellow gardeners in Illinois! Our members are busy planning and planting to beautify and grow food for our communities and our home landscapes. Many of our clubs have had inspiring programs that encourage us to plant native and to do so wherever we are gardening. Our members have embraced the theme of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc., "Plant America...Starting at Home."

We are proud of our clubs for their dedication to the youth of Illinois by offering scholarships. Our clubs gave \$54,300. With an additional scholarship funded by The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. of \$4,500, bringing the total to \$58,800; 45 students are being supported financially by our garden clubs. Also, a student from Illinois received a \$4,000 scholarship from National Garden Clubs, Inc. This is an amazing amount since most clubs had very limited, if any, fundraising to support this academic year.



Speaking of fundraising, many of our clubs were able to host their well-attended events to the delight of their patrons. My own club, for example, hosted a House Walk, Holiday Market, and Tea that was especially appreciated since we had to cancel last year. That enthusiasm was evident throughout our state as COVID-19 restrictions lifted.

We invite you to attend our state flower show, "Let's Go to the Movies!" on August 6 & 7. If you've ever considered a road trip to Illinois, coming to our flower show would be a wonderful experience. Held at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, after you have enjoyed the show, you can tour the fabulous gardens. Many hotels are nearby and you will have a lovely mini-vacation. Be sure to introduce yourselves to our members. We look forward to seeing you!

Marilyn Krueger Illinois State President

Upcoming Events

April 24-25, 2022 - State Convention - Lisle July 18, 2022 - Summer Meeting - Champaign August 6-7, 2022 - State Flower Show - Chicago Botanic Garden TBD- Environmental and Flower Show Schools Please check our website - gardenclubsofillinois.org, for updates

Linda Harkleroad, President of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. 2021-2023

"Plant America in Colors of Hope for Cancer Awareness"



The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. continues to move forward - in the face of unrelenting variants. Our Central District hosted a well attended, in-person Wildflower Workshop at the end of September. Members from across the state exhibited their desire to reconnect with friends and learn more about invasive and native plants as well as wildflowers. Required masks and box lunches allowed us to enjoy the day at Ft. Harrison State Park in Indianapolis.

In October, out of 7 Districts, two held their yearly meetings in-person and one held its meeting on Zoom. The majority of TGCI Board members have come to accept virtual meetings as a part of the new normal, but some clubs in Indiana are still re-

luctant to use Zoom as a substitute for their in person meetings. However, the pandemic did not stop any club from carrying out its civic plantings or Gold Star dedication over the summer.

Plans are underway to hold our first in-person state convention in 3 years at the end of April.

Zoom has proven to be perfect for small committee meetings. There is very little doubt that when the pandemic ends we will continue to use Zoom. It alleviates the need for some members to drive 4-6 hours round trip to attend a 2-hour meeting.

The star of all of this uncertainty has been NGC. They have responded to the pandemic in spectacular fashion. The sessions on membership, Zoom, and Canva as well as the webinars highlighting unique places and events have provided every NGC member with opportunities never before available. As a state president, it helps support my effort to make every club member in Indiana aware of the benefits of being a member of NGC.

Thank you, Mary Warshauer. Thank you, NGC Board. Thank you, Zoom.

Linda Harkleroad State President

NGC Gardening School Series 1, Course 2 April 5 & 6, 2022

Charles Mclendon-Chairman mclendonc@nc.rr.com (919) 330-88690

Presented via ZOOM

NGC Environmental School Course 3, Series 5 March 7-10, 2022

Gloria Whyte, Registrar \$40 environmentalschool758@gmail.com (314) 666-4171

Presented via ZOOM

Monica Taylor, State President of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. 2021-2023

Theme: "Plant America: Grow, Share and Connect"



The winter months in Michigan found some clubs meeting in person, some cancelling due to high COVID-19 numbers and some clubs planning to Zoom their meetings. To meet these challenges and help clubs and members connect, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC) purchased a Zoom Pro-package allowing us to offer an account for each of the seven district directors to utilize within their district. Each club can work with their district director to facilitate Zoom club meetings, board meetings, or other special requests. This is an additional member benefit at no cost to the individual club. This has given us a fantastic opportunity to connect with our member clubs and the membership.

Using their Zoom account, the district directors have been planning president's meetings every 4-6 weeks within their district. This gives club officers time to come together to

share ideas, challenges, and solutions. It has helped us all stay connected and together find ways to be more successful in our garden clubs.

The President and First VP of MGC attend as schedules allow. It has been a terrific opportunity to get to know the club officers and learn about their successes and challenges.

As the snow melts, we are looking forward to spring, getting back into our yards and outdoor activities. Each district has been planning a Spring Leadership Meeting for its area. Although any club member may attend, these meetings are focused on club officers and potential officers. There will be round table discussions addressing the topics selected through a survey completed by each club president. Topics will range from recruiting new members, planning field trips and speakers, compiling yearbooks, award applications, and leadership. It should be a most informative day and a way to grow, share and connect with each other.

Monica Taylor State President

Central Region Life Memberships (\$50.00) and Gold Star Memberships (\$25.00)

A way to honor presidents and those club members who deserve recognition for all of their efforts/ support at the local club, district, state, region and or national level.

All monies received for Central Region Life Members and Gold Star Memberships go into the Operating Scholarship Fund. In other words, all monies received for CR Life Memberships and Gold Star Membership go directly to support scholarships sponsored by Central Region. CR Life Membership form is available on the Central Region Website.

Judy Newman Central Region Life Membership Chairman

Linda Houston, State President of Missouri Garden Clubs 2021 - 2023

Theme: "Plant America: Help Your Neighbor"



Greetings from the icy state of Missouri! My back porch is decorated with perennial seeds tucked into their milk jug greenhouses for stratification. Trails of deer hoof prints make lines in the snow. Snow days are so relaxing.

I'm happy to share Missouri's garden club highlights. First, we learned about our climate crisis at our annual state fall board meeting. Jodi Meyers, Co-Founder of Earth's Class-room, gave an eye-opening presentation based on data from NASA. Earth's Classroom uses experiential hands-on learning based on science and history to teach people of all ages through their non-profit program. Learn more at <u>https://earthsclassroom.org</u>.

Missouri continues to offer Environmental Studies Schools through Zoom to anyone concerned about these critical issues. Course III – Air is being offered March 7-10, 2022 for

the low price of \$40. Contact Gloria Whyte, Co-Chair and Registrar: <u>environmentalschool758@gmail.com</u>. Phone: 314-666-4171

Thirty-five garden clubs are planning to have plant sales this year. Many are collaborating with high school horticulture programs to help distribute their plants. Community organizations are always supportive. There is strength in numbers.

Lastly, I'd like to share that FGCM is providing six deserving college students majoring in plant science or conservation fields with a total of \$40,000 in scholarships. The top two students will each be awarded \$10,000. In addition, the remaining four will receive a \$5000 scholarship each. They were all outstanding applicants.

Linda Houston State President

Walt Reemtsma, State President of Garden Clubs of Iowa 2021-2023 Theme: "Together We Will Make it Happen"



As I was passing our local garden center a few minutes ago i noticed they had gotten their shipment of bagged soil in. To me this is a sign of spring and it makes me all the more anxious to want to plant things. Currently we are in a winter advisory which is predicting ice accumulation, so I guess I will have to wait a bit to start to plant.

Things in Iowa are going well. We are excited to receive the news that Iowa will be hosting the Regional Conference in fall of 2023. Believe it or not, we already have a lead on a wonderful speaker who will speak on some aspect of our world's environment. We will be trying to include some interesting tours and look forward to a wonderful time together..

Because we could not find individual chairpersons for our Environment, Gardening and Landscape school committees we created a new position: Coordinator of Schools who will have as her major responsibility getting out the word about the on-line schools that are offered by National. We are excited about the possibilities of getting more of our members to participate in these educational opportunities.

Saturday I had the opportunity to participate in the Iowa Public Television fundraising event by manning one of the phones (actually a laptop) during their phone-a-thon. It was a unique experience but I was able to get some publicity for the Garden Clubs of Iowa. I must of done a good job; today they invited me to come again next year.

May you all enjoy an early Spring. Walter Reemtsma State President



April 2022 PLANT AMERICA MONTH COMMUNICATION TIMELINE

Purpose: To highlight the National Garden Clubs Plant America initiative using PLANT AMERICA MONTH Proclamation issued by President Mary Warshauer (see page 9)

Message from President Warshauer in her words:

PLANT AMERICA seeks to inspire members to reach beyond the confines of their backyard beds and apply their ardor for gardening to broader community initiatives.

PLANT AMERICA began in 2017 under the leadership of former NGC President Nancy Hargroves. NGC's focus on community centered projects and efforts, brings life to this PLANT AMERICA ambition. By dedicating our work to preserving ecosystems and engaging in civic beautification, we can make a positive impact on our environment.

PLANT AMERICA embodies NGC's commitment to raise awareness about environmental issues such as land restoration, water conservation, environmental science and sustainability, and access to green space such as public parks. It also promotes the love of gardening, floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility.

PLANT AMERICA projects enhance public areas, honor our veterans with Blue Star landscaping projects, educate children and adults about the joys of gardening and create pride through local, city, and county projects. NGC awards PLANT AMERICA Community Grants to member clubs for these projects.

PLANT AMERICA envisions a glowing community of not only dedicated gardeners, but also the common environmentalist and typical nature enthusiasts.

PLANT AMERICA seeks to embrace the environmental challenges at hand, and to use them as a source of inspiration for new projects and initiatives. Through innovative methods of education and communication, NGC leads our communities into a greener and cleaner future.

As former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson once said, "The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest. It is one thing that all of us share."

President Warshauer is requesting that NGC committees support PLANT AMERICA MONTH in April. We are emphasizing **Earth Day** material (theme - Invest in Our Planet), **Arbor Day's** 150th Anniversary (Each One - Plant One - plant a native tree), and the 200th Anniversary of **Frederick Law Olmsted's birth (celebrating 200 years of his role in American landscape design).** Short articles will be posted on Facebook. Longer articles will be featured in *The National Gardener* and on the NGC Blog in April. Please submit these to Gerianne Holzman, *TNG* Editor, at gholzman@gardenclub.org and/or to Peggy Riccio, NGC Blog Editor, using this form, https://gardenclubwebsite.wufoo.com/forms/wu3v4jk0ed19v8/.

The first in a series of 2022-2023 Presidential Videos was recorded in early February. Here is a link to Kirk Brown's presentation entitled "When Can We Celebrate Olmsted's Legacy?" https://youtu.be/AwplhCANDMg Please share! This video will be available until May 11 only.

Plant America Timeline continued

The second video in this series will feature ecologist Doug Tallamy's program entitled "Homegrown National Park[™]" on March 8, 2022. Registration will be announced by NGC Headquarters about ten days prior. Watch for a registration email as space is limited. The video will appear on the NGC website in the Video Library too. Homegrown National Park is a term coined by Doug Tallamy. The concept for Homegrown National Park[™], *a bottom-up call-to-action to regenerate habitat where we live and work*, and to a lesser extent where we farm and graze, extending national parks to our yards and communities."

You are invited to participate in the inaugural PLANT AMERICA MONTH April 2022. Your submissions will be the heart of all NGC messaging in April. Here are some ideas:

PLANT AMERICA Community Grants - announce 2022 grant winners. Share before and after images of past grant winners with Social Media for Facebook publication throughout the month of April. David Robson

Each One, Plant One - an article about this program and why planting native species is important. History of Arbor Day Foundation? Audrey Coyle

Environmental Concerns and Conservation - information for a Facebook post from each member. Send to Valerie Seinfeld, Social Media chairman. If longer than 200 words, please send to Peggy Riccio.

Horticulture - an pertinent article from several of the chairmen. Please send to Peggy Riccio, Blog Editor or Valerie Seinfeld, Social Media chairman.

Schools - an interesting article from each about conservation, landscape designs, xeriscaped, environmental, organic gardening or innovative ideas, etc. Perhaps an article could be shared in Newscape?

Website - update website graphics and information. Include a new PLANT AMERICA information page, intro from Mary, printable copies of the Proclamation and the PLANT AMERICA MONTH poster. Jane Waugh

TNG - Gerianne Holzman has planned April's issue with these subjects in mind.

NGC Photography Group (private) - please be aware of this initiative and share info with your members. If any member would share pictures relating to Mary's message or proclamation, please contact Valerie Seinfeld at Social Media for release info. Thank you.

The NEW NGC Website Calendar will be in beta testing soon, so many events and schools will be announced. Watch for more info.

The first in a series of 2022-2023 Presidential Videos was recorded in early February. Here is a link to Kirk Brown's presentation entitled "When Can We Celebrate Olmsted's Legacy?" https://youtube/AwplhCANDMg Please share! This video will be available until May 11 only.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. PLANT AMERICA MONTH Proclamation

Whereas, April 22, 2022 is the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day, which recognizes and celebrates the birth of the global environmental education and stewardship movement grown out of an awareness of our impacts on the local and worldwide communities;

Whereas, April 26, 2022, is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, renowned conservationist and landscape architect credited with having created public parks providing city dwellers "a sense of enlarged freedom," being restorative in nature and connecting communities;

Whereas, In April, the last Friday of the month, April 29, 2022, is the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day, which recognizes and celebrates the critical role of trees in the earth's environment and in creating healthier, safer and more connected communities;

Whereas, The world has endured for the last two years, a pandemic where so many members of our communities have sought refuge and taken solace, hope and sustenance in their gardens;

Whereas, It is the Mission Statement of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. to provide education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility and to share these resources within their communities;

Whereas, It is the Mission Statement of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. to provide education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility and to share these resources within their communities;

Whereas, The National Garden Clubs, Inc. instituted the Plant America program to provide resources and support for its local member clubs and the gardening projects they have undertaken in partnerships with their communities; and

Whereas, The Board of Directors of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. wishes to acknowledge and celebrate the import and confluence of these events of April 2022, now, therefore, be it Resolved, That National Garden Clubs, Inc. hereby declares April 2022 as PLANT AMERICA MONTH.

Mary Warshauer NGC President 2021-2023





CENTRAL REGION UNIFIED PROJECT

NGC Central Region is proud to announce that the winner of the 2021 "Plant America - Growing for Food Pantries" is Schaumberg Community Garden Club. Our apologies to the club as this announcement was inadvertently left out of the last issue of Garden Glories. Schaumberg Community Garden Club donated over 3,500 pounds of vegetables and fruits including 600 bags of leafy greens and herbs. A very active and hard-working club! Congratulations!

For 2022, the rules will change slightly: canned and packaged or boxed goods may be included by amount not weight (200 lbs. veg & fruit, 137 cans & 215 packages). The entry date is sooner as the CR convention will be in the beginning of October.

We are looking forward to more entries from the states and the clubs. So, start planning your gardens and keeping track of what you donate.

Laurel DeBoer Alternate Director Central Region Unified Project Chair

CENTRAL REGION AWARD APPLICATION UNIFIED PROJECT

Date Submitted

Award # 1 & 2 Award Name: PLANT AMERICA - GROWING FOR FOOD PANTRIES

- Award #1 \$50.00 to the Garden Club, donating to their food pantries, the largest total amount of fresh fruit & veggies grown in their club garden and in their personal gardens by September 15, 2022, plus the amount (not weight) of canned and packaged good donated.
- Award #2 \$50.00 to the State having the largest total amount of fresh fruit & veggies donated to their Food Pantries throughout the State and grown in their personal and club gardens by September 15, 2022, plus the amount (not weight) of canned and packaged goods donated.

Name of Applicant_

(State or State Garden Club- enter name exactly as it should appear on any award received)

Contact Person		
Address		
Telephone	Email	

• Application is limited to two pages – application & one page, front side only. No cover, binder or plastic sheets.

- Give brief summary of project, including letters, financial information, publicity or other supporting data.
- Photos are acceptable and may be attached to pages or inserted electronically.
- 2021 Winners are not eligible for the 2022 contest.
- Send the completed two pages electronically or by postal service to: Central Region Unified Project Chair, Laurel DeBoer, 421B South Barrington Road, Wauconda, IL 60084-3486, H. 847-526-8320 <u>crzygrma@sbcglobal.net</u>.
- Must be Postmarked or Submitted by September 15, 2022



Why does Central Region offer awards?

Some clubs and members do not feel awards are important; they would contribute their time even if they were not to get a cash prize, rosette or certificate. Why spend time compiling a year book, filling out the applications or doing a book of evidence? Take a look, as the award applications are not as cumbersome as they were in the past. I suggest to you, if the clubs did all the good works and no one knew, in time, garden clubs would no longer exist. Young people would never learn about nature. They do not study geography in school any longer, let alone earth sciences.

Your club is an organization of people who share common goals, provide courses for the members and the public. They offer their expertise and knowledge to the community and mentor young people so there will be someone tomorrow to help conserve natural resources for present and future generations.

It is important that your community has some understanding of the work you do. Use a press release for your local papers, announce the award on your club's web site or Instagram. The awards are the affirmation of the clubs commitment to society.

We hope that next year every club will be a winner of at least one award. You can find the award guide on the <u>https://www.ngccentralregion.com/awards</u>

Susan Cooney



Invasive Plants by Jane Buck

HAZARDS OF THE WILD PARSNIP

Wild parsnip *pastinaca sativa I.,* is an invasive plant from Europe and Asia that has become naturalized in North America. It is well suited for colonizing disturbed areas but can also be found in open fields and lawns. Wild parsnip sap can cause painful, localized burning and blistering of the skin. It can cause continuing skin problems when sap affected skin is exposed to sunlight.

There are chemicals in wild parsnip called psoralens (precisely, furocoumarins) that cause what dermatologists call "phyto-photo-dermatitis." That means an inflammation (itis) of the skin (derm) induced by a plant (phyto) with the help of sunlight (photo). When absorbed by skin, furocoumarins are energized by ultraviolet light (present during sunny and cloudy days) causing them to bind with nuclear DNA and cell membranes. This process destroys cells and skin tissue, though the reaction takes time to produce visible damage. In mild cases, affected skin reddens and feels sunburned. In more severe cases, the skin reddens first, then blisters rise – some are impressively large – and for a while the area feels like it has been scalded. Places where skin is most sensitive (arms, legs, torso, face, neck) are most vulnerable. Moisture from perspiration speeds the absorption of the psoralens.

Blisters appear a day or two after sun exposure. Soon after blisters rupture and the skin begins to heal. One of wild parsnip's "signature" effects is a dark red or brownish discoloration of the skin in the area where the burn occurred. This hyper-pigmentation can persist in the skin for as long as two years. Parsnip burns often appear as streaks and long spots. These reveal where a juicy leaf or stem drags across the skin and is then exposed to the sun. Animals can be burned in a similar manner to people if the animals have lightly-pigmented skin covered with little hair so both plant juices and sunlight reach the skin.

TREATING A WILD PARSNIP BURN

If you get a parsnip burn, relieving the symptoms comes first. The affected area can be covered with a cool, wet cloth. If blisters are present, try to keep them from rupturing for as long as possible. The skin of a blister is "nature's bandage," as one doctor put it, and it keeps the skin below protected, moist and clean while healing occurs. When blisters pop, try to leave the skin "bandage" in place. To avoid infection,

KEEP THESE POINTS IN MIND WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER WILD PARSNIP

• Everyone can get a rash. Unlike poison ivy, you don't need to be sensitized by a prior exposure. Wild parsnip causes a non-allergic dermatitis that can occur with the right combination of plant juice and sunlight.

• You can touch and brush against the plant – carefully – mostly without harm. Parsnip is only dangerous when the juice gets on skin from broken leaves or stems. Fair-skinned people, however, may be extrasensitive to tiny amounts of juice.

• Some sources indicate the plant can excrete crystal like particles on stems, leaves, etc. which, when brushed against, could also cause skin irritation.

The reaction appears to be enhanced if skin is moist from damp plant material, sweat or humidity.

HOW TO AVOID WILD PARSNIP BURNS

Become familiar with the wild parsnip plant and know it by sight.

Teach children to recognize wild parsnip.

When working around wild parsnip wear goggles, rubber gloves, rubber boots and coveralls.

Thoroughly wash boots and gloves with soap, water and a scrub brush before taking off your protective clothing.

Do not pet an animal that may have been running through wild parsnip.

PREVENTION

Mechanical – mowing, rotor-tilling, root cutting Hand Pulling Burning Herbicide Control Biological Control

The best way to control wild parsnip is by early detection and eradication. Removing a small or new infestation early will prevent a much larger problem from developing. Regardless of the method used, the goal is to prevent growth.

IDENTIFICATION

- **Stems & Roots:** Stems erect, 50-150cm (20-60 in.) high, branched, hollow except at the nodes; seedlings with small ovate leaves on long stalks, later rosette leaves pinnately compound with broad leaflets; plants remaining as a rosette during the first season and developing a thick white to yellowish taproot.
- Leaves: Stem leaves alternate (one per node), pinnately compound with usually 2 to 5 pairs of opposite (2 at a place), sharply toothed, relatively broad leaflets that may be somewhat mitten shaped, and a single, somewhat diamond-shaped leaflet at the tip; all leafstalks broad and completely encircle the stem; uppermost leaves reduced to narrow bracts with flowering branches from their axils.
- Flowers & Fruit: Does not flower in its first year of growth (biennial). Flowers yellow, small, clustered in compound umbels 10-20cm (4-8in.) across; seeds round in outline, flat and winged. Flowers from late June into late autumn (resembles dill).

Membership Committee by Diane Dawson

A lot is happening with programming from the NGC Membership Committee that is targeted to local clubs and tips and tricks to recruiting, retaining, and revitalizing membership across the Americas. Join the monthly free workshop Zoom event, held on the second Monday of every month.

How to join? Go to the NGC website, <u>https//:gardenclub.org</u>. Right on the home page there's an invite to subscribe to *The National Gardener*. Once registered, you will be on the invite list.

While you are on the website, please check out our Membership Resources Section, which has 17 helpful tabs, which include the blog, parliamentary tidbits, video library, and Membership Monday. We hope these initiatives help you achieve your club goals! Please feel free to contact me at <u>dianedawson@dawsonsales.com</u> to share any comments and questions.

Plant America

By Terri Ewers

So...what do Central Region Garden Club members do in the midst of our below zero temperature months to "Plant America?" We make more plants to share come spring! Plant propagation comes in many forms and allows us to continue to promote plant(ing) America, only in an indoor form.

Vegetative propagation is the most common means of propagation for indoor plants.

- Part-leaf cutting is slicing a leaf in half length wise and lightly pressing the cut edge into moist soil. New plants should form along the cut edge. Cape Primrose is just one example to try.
- Stem cutting is a way to trigger root formation. Philodendrons are effortless plants to root in water and make for easy sharing with others.
- Whole-leaf cutting works well with plants such as succulents. The end of the leaf can be pushed into moist soil (after a 24 hour drying period). Crassula and sedum are two examples that work well with this method.

Other means of propagation include:

Division of plants is suitable for any indoor plant that forms a clump as it grows. Sanseveria (Mother-inlaw's tongue, Snake Plant) do well for this.

- Offsets severed from the parent plant can be planted in moist soil once they resemble the parent plant. Spider plants and Ribbon plants are undemanding choices for this method.
- Plant segments work well for starting plants such as Christmas cactus and Easter cactus. Using at least two segments broken from the original, push deeply into the soil mix to stand upright and then water gently to settle.

Let's divide and conquer or try one of the other ways to create new plants to share. Let's all "Plant America!"



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Karen Hix 2/19/1943 to 10/9/2020

Karen Hix served as President of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. from 2001-2003. She was a member of the Portage Garden Club and Vale of Paradise GC. She founded South Haven GC and served as leader of the South Haven Boys and Girls Junior Club for many years, helping them receive the Club Achievement Award many times. Karen was elected Central Region Alternate Director and became the Director when Marie Potts passed away.

Karen had a major role updating the Central Region Bylaws and enjoyed the only NGC Convention that was held on a cruise ship. Her accomplishments included winning a blue ribbon at the Flower Show held at NGC Convention in San Diego, and writing a poem that was published in a book at the NGC Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Garden in Austin, Texas, Karen also was an Environmental Consultant, Award of Honor entrant from Indiana, and winner of the Honevwell Award.