

Key Notes

South Atlantic Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 17, Issue 7 March 2025



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Dearest Friends,

Since being presented at the 2022 SAR Convention at Boone Tavern, as the incoming SAR Director for 2023-2025, it has been a wonderful journey for me. I have met so many new friends by talking, emailing and zooming! It has been an honor for me to serve this sisterhood of our five states in the South Atlantic Region. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity.

We just had the second annual convention of my term, and it was so special, just as the two previous conventions in Berea, KY and Greenville, SC! And I have beautiful programs as keepsakes from these conventions! The tour and program for the reception at the JC Raulston Arboretum was very memorable, as was traveling with my baby brother, Jon Carloftis, who was the speaker at the installation banquet. NGC President Brenda Moore, used her four books to install the following incoming officers for 2025-2027 who will begin their term after the NGC Convention in May: Linda Howle, SAR Director; David Stoudenmire, Alternate Director; Debbie Skaggs, Recording Secretary; and Peggy Benton, Treasurer. SAR is in good hands.



Our own Donna Donnelly will be installed at the NGC Convention. SAR will have had three national presidents since 2015: Sandy Robinson, KY; Brenda Moore, WV; and now Donna Donnelly, SC. And currently serving as NGC Corresponding Secretary from Kentucky is Bud Qualk. I think that says volumes for the leadership in our five states.

Again, I know several of you could not attend this year because of illness, surgery or caring for a loved one. And we saw at the lovely memorial service that so many of our members are no longer with us. Marty Bowers, SAR Director 2021-2023, and SAR Treasurer during this term, was one of those dedicated to service to her community and beyond.

And again, because you were missed, I want to share my report.

Carcille C. Burchette
2023-2025 Director

2025 SAR Director's Report

Greetings to all of you who have come together for this 63rd Annual SAR Convention! It seems like forever ago, and yet like yesterday, since our last convention in Greenville, SC. This convention here in Raleigh, too, is a lovely venue for us to meet up with friends and make new ones. Many thanks go to Ms. Frances Cain and Ms. Marilyn Wright, President Linda McLendon, their 'Dream Team', and all the other NC Club Members for providing the good times and memories we have shared while here. Yesterday's tour and reception at the JC Raulston Arboretum was one of those that will forever be remembered! Beautiful music, stories, food, meeting new friends...what a memorable time while wearing a lovely wrist corsage!

Since our last SAR Convention in Greenville, SC, I co-chaired our GCKY Convention three weeks later. We have a sweet group of officers and other club members that make work easier! Still, it was a welcome retreat for me to head to the WV Convention a little over a week later. They told me the first night was a fun time with a theme and for me to join in. My biggest stress was trying to find me an outfit suitable for the evening's fun time theme of Hee Haw! I am so glad I rounded one up, because I had a great time with the WV crew! A few days later, I headed down to SC where southern hospitality abounded. The afternoon reception was in their enchanting Memorial Garden, eating freshly picked, sweet strawberries and whipped cream...how could I forget that? A month later I was at the VA Convention, getting to enjoy all the excitement that included a flower show!

Much planning goes into each convention and most members are not fully aware of the time and effort that it takes to make an event that is enjoyable and educational at the same time. I thank all of our sister states for welcoming me.

My theme has been Go Green-Plant Natives! It is important for us to use native plants in our yards, gardens, and encourage our states to plant the roadside medians. About a third of our food results from natural pollination. This cannot occur if our little pollinators such as birds, insects, butterflies, bats, and furry critters don't have enough food to sustain them. My special projects have been to create a wildlife habitat and create a community native plant garden. These projects are so important because new home developments, businesses, shopping malls, and roads are taking away the natural habitats.

In order to help our pollinators survive and thrive, we need to make sure they have a wildlife habitat that provides them with food, shelter, water, and a place to raise or feed their young. It should contain native plants and shrubs that will provide food all year round. No pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides should be used. Encourage your garden club to create a wildlife habitat in your community. Start small and keep adding to it or create other small wildlife habitats

Members can plant native plants, shrubs, and trees in their yards, and this is beneficial to the little pollinators passing through. To make a bigger impact, your club can create a community native plant garden where a variety of different natives can be planted. When a native shrub or tree is included, you have provided a potential shelter for caterpillars, birds, and wildlife. Many modern hybrid flowers are bred for color-pretty but may not be beneficial to pollinators. We heard last evening from both Brenda Moore and David Johnson of the importance of planting natives and other beneficial plants and not keeping the perfect lawn.

Carcille C. Burchette
2023-2025 Director

We, as gardeners, teach by example and by promoting education. People notice when we are out working in our public gardens and promoting good stewardship of our earth. We do make a difference in our communities. Planting natives sends a message that gardens exist for more than just beauty. They are vital to pollinators and wildlife survival.

The byline for my theme has been ‘And Plant Seeds for New Clubs’. Growing membership is vital to the survival of our gardening organization which is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. In the 1960’s there were more than 425,000 members in our national organization. Today we have much less than half of that number. Fortunately, we are seeing an increase. Many of the younger generation are concerned about what they put in their bodies and see the importance of outdoor activities. This is a good change. We need to promote garden clubs among this group. They may not want to attend a convention but would prefer to Zoom. For our important work to continue, we must adapt to reel them in as active members. They may gradually see why meeting in person at a gathering such as a convention, is actually enjoyable and productive.

When you ask people to come to garden club, many will say ‘but I kill all plants’. Just answer with a smile that garden club is definitely where they need to belong. Tell them, belonging to a federated garden club has so much to offer. Didn’t Brenda give us ‘50 Shades of Green’ last evening? Remember, we are about education! There is a niche for everyone, even if they don’t grow a single plant! We just need to be aggressive and diligent in inviting potential members and encouraging the formation of new clubs. And I heard yesterday morning that SC is on an upward march with new clubs forming and old ones finally federating. Please share with all of us what is being done in SC.

Let’s not forget that we are an all-volunteer organization. We are here because we want to be a part of something that promotes goodness, and we want to have a fun time doing it!



PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND THEMES



The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc.
Susan Throneberry
Theme: "Go Green...Plant Kentucky!
Plant Kindness and Beauty, Harvest a Garden of
Friends."

Greetings from the Bluegrass State, The Commonwealth of Kentucky. In the last year, Kentucky has weathered many storms with the help of our members. The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. has reached out to our communities through the Natural Disaster Re-Leaf Fund which was the brain child of then president, Carcille Burchette. Along with the Natural Disaster Grant from NGC, our friends in Mayfield, Kentucky continue to receive financial assistance after a devastating tornado hit December 10, 2021. This Spring brought flooding to our state and we stood ready to help our neighbors with assistance.

The GCKY officers, known as "The Pack" by our club members traveled to Raleigh for the South Atlantic Region meeting. It was perfectly presented and hosted by our friends in North Carolina. The food was great, the accommodations were lovely and we enjoyed the speakers and special programs presented. Kentucky celebrates Linda Howell as incoming SAR Director and proudly thanks Carcille Burchette for her commitment and service as Director 2023-2025.

The President's Special Projects during my term were the Blue Star Markers and Blue Bird Trails. One Gold Star Byway, one Gold Star Memorial Marker and six Blue Star Markers have been ordered for Kentucky in the last two years. One Blue Bird Trail was established and I've given many programs to clubs while distributing several hundred Blue Bird houses (thank you to my husband, Robert for his patience and help in building the houses). I also say "I have the vision, my husband helps make the vision a reality." These President's Special Projects were established with the future in mind to honor our military and promote conservation.

Kentucky is fortunate to have our own state headquarters located at Paris, Kentucky in a beautiful historic home. We obtained a grant from the Historic Trust of Historic Preservation and are working with an architect to continue the preservation of The Wallis house which was built about 1850 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The property also features a Level One Arboretum and is open to the public.

GCKY continues to grow and several new clubs have joined and established clubs added membership. As all of us know, Spring brings the excitement of planning and planting and the interest in Garden Clubs spreads. Boone County Garden Club received a coveted Plant America Grant this year and we encourage our clubs to take advantage of those opportunities to improve their communities. The Kentucky Council of Nationally

PRESIDENTS' REPORTS AND THEMES Susan Throneberry

Accredited Flower Show Judges School has begun and six students are working to become judges this year, while Landscape Design School will be held in

-person in August. We appreciate the NGC on-line classes which allow our members to attain consultant status and to refresh. Flower Shows are being held all across Kentucky along with amazing Garden Tours. Our webpage serves as a one stop shop for our clubs to stay up to date with events while providing a distribution point for forms and current information.

A paver sponsored by The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. was installed on the Path of Success at NGC Headquarters and I was thrilled to be at the ribbon cutting by our President, Brenda Moore. The connection to the South Atlantic Region and National Garden Clubs is an important one as we continue to grow and improve by networking with those organizations and their members. Who would have believed just 20 years ago that we would have the ability to not only speak to anyone around the world, but video conference, sharing ideas and meeting new friends? Here's to continued growth and alliances from The Garden Club of Kentucky, Inc. to our friends and their clubs across the United States as well as our International members. Thank you for the opportunities and best wishes to all of you for continued growth and success.



PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

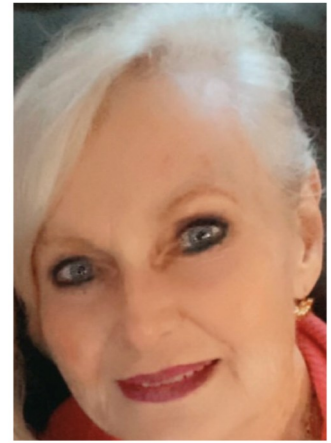
AND THEMES

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The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.

Linda McLendon ,

Theme: "Cultivating Inspiration" in Gardening by Communicating, Educating and Participating ”



North Carolina: Adventure, Innovation, and Southern Hospitality. First in Flight, Forward in the Future! A state of Beauty, a state of progress, welcome to North Carolina. We have the beautiful Mountains and Sea's beautifying our glorious state of North Carolina. We were hit hard when Hurricane Hellena hit our western part of the State, causing great damage to many of our beautiful mountains. There was loss of many lives, loss of many homes and places of businesses, etc. This is a Disaster Relief Project where so many states, companies and people are helping to rebuild this area. It will take years of hard work and monetary donations to help get any kind of normalcy back in this area. Please keep the people in the western part of our State in your prayers. We have increased our total membership and are in the process of recruiting 2 more clubs soon. Our Life Membership has tripled over the last 2 years in North Carolina, SAR and National. This is one of the President Projects we are working on. We have tripled our Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers which have been placed all over the State from the mountains to the sea as well. Our (DOT) Department of Transportation has kept our roadsides looking great. In the summer we, in partner with (DOT), have this "Wildflower of the Year" project where our highways are planted with wildflowers and are in competition for winning the top Awards. These Awards are supported by the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. and the Department of Transportation. A book has been written on the history of The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. from 1925 to 2025 to be sold and given out at our SAR and 100th Year Annual meeting this year. We are very excited we will be hosting the (SAR) South Atlantic Regional Meeting on March 9-10, 2025, in Raleigh, NC. We will be welcoming our National President, Brenda Moore and our (SAR) South Atlantic Regional Director, Carcille Burchette. We are planning a great SAR annual meeting and hope lots of people are planning on attending. We are planning our Garden Club of North Carolina 100th year Anniversary Convention on May 4-6, 2025, in Winston Salem, NC, where it all began. Lots of wonderful plans have been made for this Convention. We are eagerly awaiting hosting this special event and are looking to have a great turnout, so please try to make it. I can assure you that you will have a good, informative and fun time for sure. We will have the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. 100th Anniversary Pins and the 100th year History book for sale at the convention. We also are planning a Flower Show Symposium on October 27-28, 2025 in Raleigh, NC at "The JC Raulston Arboretum". We welcome you to come to one, if not all, of our upcoming events. We will be so happy to see you and to enjoy our southern hospitality.

**PRESIDENTS' REPORTS
AND THEMES**
(Continue)

The Garden Club of South Carolina.
David E. Stoudenmire, Jr. , President
Theme: "Legacy Gardening" Past - Present - Future "



Work continues moving forward of bringing several more existing clubs into the federation family. Additional Meet and Greet events are already planned in high growth areas where interest has been identified to justify the start of additional new clubs. A non-federated club in our Upstate that has been in existence since the 1930's hosted our Membership Chairman for a Program on "What are the Benefits of Federation?" This club, approximately 25, have agreed to move forward on joining the Federation Family this year and will officially be voted on at our April Board of Directors Meeting before our State Convention. Another urban area in our State Capital has signal that they have already voted to move forward on the establishment of a new club in our West Sandhill District which likely will result in a very large new local club.

Our State Installation Convention will be held in Greenville April 28-30, 2025. Dynamic workshops, keynote speakers, a moving Memorial Service, Youth winners of scholarships and other contests will be presented, awarding our state and SAR winners, and the culmination of the installation of our 2025-2027 Officers will highlight the close of this administration's term.

As a final note, all the members in our Garden Club of South Carolina await with great anticipation and excitement as we complete the preparations for hosting the National Garden Clubs, Inc. annual convention in North Charleston, May 2025. Not only is it an honor to host an NGC Convention and a major undertaking, but with the installation of South Carolina's former GCSC President from 2017-2019, Donna Donnelly, we are able to witness for only the third time a South Carolinian have ascended to this important position. We could not be prouder of Donna Donnelly and our love for her dedication to this organization, we know, will be felt by all our federation family in NGC.

PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

AND THEMES

(Continue)

The Garden Club of Virginia,
Inc.

Val Storie, President



“Every Person Makes a Difference” and this has been accomplished!

Hello SAR Members,

Thank you so much for a wonderful South Atlantic Region Convention sponsored by North Carolina. Job well done! I am sure many of us had a great time. And thank you Carcille, for your guidance, your low-key meetings and the ability to take “thing” as they come.

Being the Virginia President has been an honor and just plain fun. Not only does every person make a difference, every club, every district every state makes a difference. Without you, we would not be what we are today.

With NGC, SAR and VFGC there have a lot of goals and objectives, which I know Virginia has accomplished. VFGC needed to be more visible and have members work further within the communities...this has been accomplished with the increased number of flower shows, the booth at the State fair and working with youth and adult.

This administration, including all the VFGC Chairman, District Presidents and clubs worked together to express the objectives and goals. I always looked forward to meetings, communicating and working with VFGC members to make this an even better organization. We supported each other.

The list below are important objectives met:

- Increase VFGC social media presence
 - Revitalize the VFGC Web, making it more attractive, easier to navigate with a wealth of information
 - Work on different methods for ODG circulation
 - Decrease printed material in the yearbook (placing more information on the Web)
 - Review and update the Bylaws and Standing Rule
 - Support NGC's National Garden Week and Plant America programs
 - Continue participation in the TREX program
 - And, very importantly, increase clubs/districts/councils having flower shows.
- VFGC is a wonderful organization.

I, for one, look forward to the next administration in SAR and NGC...the future looks bright

PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

AND THEMES

(Continue)

The Garden Club of West Virginia, Inc.

Martha Hilton, President

Theme: "Go Green,, Grow With the Flow"



The members of the West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. have had a productive year. Not only have the various garden clubs served their communities in their own special way, completed a wonderful fundraising project, but the members throughout the state have been planning for a very special upcoming Convention.

This year we will be hosting our very own National Garden Club President, Brenda Moore. While at our Convention, we will do our various meetings and programs. We've added a hands-on event where we'll leave the facility and do a planter that will enhance a nearby Nursing Home as well as give a little sunshine to its residents! We started this tradition last year for a neighborhood where it sparked great community participation. It didn't hurt that we got a little press coverage as well!! Having local communities see us working – which I know so many of you do – is important others understand that we can celebrate the service and the work of our gardening community.

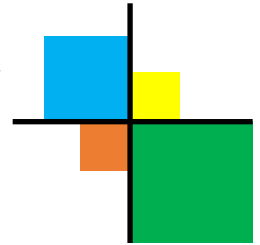
I look forward to handing the reins over to a very capable young lady who will bring more vision to our members in the coming term. Pam Simien is prepared & ready to implement a number of new ideas which I'm looking forward to!

I've enjoyed being the SAR Awards Chair for the last 4 years and look forward to helping our incoming Awards Chair in any way that she desires. Each of the State Chairs have been a pleasure to work with – thanks to each of you for what you've done for the past several years! Thank you so very much to those who have prodded me along the way - I need it more than most as I tend to go down rabbit holes in business as well as in my volunteer duties – you all are much appreciated!

Finally, West Virginia has already started preparing for the 2026 SAR Convention which will be held at the Blennerhasset Hotel in Parkersburg, WV – March 20-21st, 2026. We will be having our 2026 State convention follow it immediately, so there may be some blended workshops so more of our members get to meet others from our neighboring states. There will be more to come and hope you'll be able to join us!

CHAIRMAN REPORTS CONTINUE

Environmental Education / Recycling



Karen Padgett Prewitt
843-607-7772
kpadgett4c@gmail.com

At the convention I left our members with a few sentences of information about each of the four chairmanships I have under my umbrella... Environmental Education, Recycling, Water Conservation and Energy Conservation.

I financially support all four of these SAR awards:

#5, Environmental Conservation,

#11 Roadside Improvement,

#15 Water Conservation

17 Litter Recycling.

As we begin a new administration and our clubs begin a new year starting in May, I urge members of SAR to encourage your local clubs to apply for each of these awards.

They are not difficult and the rewards of having planned and accomplished a simple project goes well beyond just the financial reward.

There is a feeling of accomplishment and pride that even our smallest clubs can achieve by helping save our beautiful world.

Right now I will remind you that Earth Day is coming up on April 21st and this would be the perfect time to get your club to do a one day project that could qualify for one of these four awards.

As the simplest of examples: All those plastic bottle caps from bottled water, and colas don't usually qualify for most recycling numbers... but they can be 'recycled' by using them as 'feet' under your terra cotta flower-pots, or using them to stop up the hole in the bottom of your flower pot.

If someone in your house drinks beer, then the aluminum bottle caps can also be used for the same purpose, instead of buying those expensive terra cotta "pot feet" at the garden center.

There are so many ways each of us can do tiny little things that will make a difference.

A more effective way to help is to not just turn off ..but UNPLUG appliances when you are not at home. One if the worst offenders is our computers. Many people leave them on 24/7 . By unplugging them at night you can save energy any save yourself about \$100.00 a year also unplug cable boxes and countertop appliances.

I would love to hear from you about your ideas for helping save the environment. I promise I will share them with our members.

I will leave you with the quote from Gaylord Nelson that continues to inspire me: "The ultimate test of our conscience is our willingness to sacrifice something todayfor the sake of future generations...whose words of thanks we will not hear."

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)

GARDENING

Children's Gardens/School Gardens

Eaton, Glenda

202 Shangra-La Place

Glasgow, KY 42141

270-361-9092ggeaton1948@gmail.com



Gardening Schools Report

Charles McLendon

SAR Gardening School Chairperson

NGC GS AC SC/P Regions

mcledonc@nc.rr.com

We currently do not have any Gardening Schools scheduled within SAR States.

We do have Gardening Schools scheduled on the NGC Website. Most are in-person schools. There will be online Gardening schools coming available soon.

You will find Gardening, Landscape Design and Environmental schools.

Via zoom online soon. You will have the opportunity to hear from some impressive presenters and instructors.

There is something for everyone, where it be Zoom, Hybrid or in-person schools.

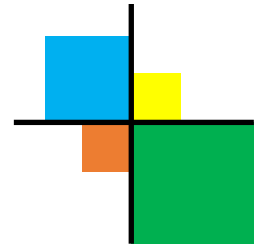
Take this opportunity to gain experience and grow, share with your clubs and community.

If I can help you in any way with school questions just let me know.

Happy Gardening.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

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HORTICULTURE REPORT



Has anyone applied for a grant from the NGC National Disaster Fund? The SAR states have been hit hard with numerous disasters in the last few years. This fund can help with up to \$5,000 for trees, shrubs, and perennials, no labor. For instance, the Laurel Oak GC in Mayfield Kentucky has received \$5,000 to replace trees destroyed by the 2021 tornado. The process is easy, the form is on the NGC website. The Chairman is Debra Turner, she can help you through the process. Sometimes she can be very busy, so, if you let headquarters know what you are doing, they can help also. And I can help you if all else fails, I have been through it and I know what to do.

Bud Qualk

NGC Corresponding Secretary

SAR Horticulture Chairman

GCofKY Arboriculture Chairman

GCofKY Disaster RE-LEAF Chairman

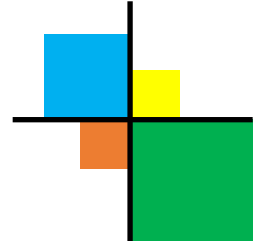
GCofKY National Disaster Grant committee Chairman

President of the Laurel Oak Garden Club

President of the McCracken Co Master Gardeners

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)



LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Dorothy Richardson, SAR Life Memberships Chairman

Phone: Cell-843-430-5205 Home-843-756-7413

dwrich30@sccoast.net

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The SAR Life Membership supports The Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship.. This scholarship is open to a college sophomore or junior for use during the junior or senior year of college. Each state within the South Atlantic Region may submit one application to be in competition for the scholarship. Qualifying students must major in the study of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Plant Pathology, Biology, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns, City Planning, Land Management, and/or allied subjects.

All the SAR Life Memberships goes to the Corrie Whitlock Memorial Scholarship, which means that you can use the entire amount as a charitable deduction for tax purposes. You will also receive a pin. The SAR Life Membership is \$65.00. I would like to encourage all of the five states or garden clubs to encourage each one to purchase a SAR Life Membership. There is a \$25.00 SAR Award to the STATE having the MOST NEW SAR Life Memberships for the year.

North Carolina had the most life memberships this year with eleven. There were a total of sixteen applications for Life Memberships. I would like to thank each one for purchasing a Life Membership..

REMEMBER: LIFE MEMBERSHIPS=SCHOLARSHIPS



NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Dixon, Mary H. National Garden Week

757-934-3420 h 757-407-6885 c

mdixon2643@aol.com

National Garden Week will be June 1 – 7, 2025.



This year National Garden Week is June 1-7, 2025. There is time to plan an event and carry it out. Please check out the possible award available to apply for and the requirements on the National Garden Clubs website. But even if you don't plan to do that plan an event to let your neighbors know that it is a special week and advertise your club. May get some new members! Let me know about your event.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS
CONTINUE

PLANT-A-TREE



Janice Clem, Penny Pines Chairman
tchokie@aol.com.
540-977-1713 - home
540-309-5596 - cell

During 2024, Penny Pines underwent a name change with the signing of a new memorandum between National Garden Clubs and the U.S. Forest Department. The new name is Plant-A-Tree. The focus of sustaining our national forests by helping with reforestation remains the same but besides a new name, there are other changes.

Donation amounts may be in any amount from \$50.00 up to \$10,000.

Donors may designate a specific National Forest where the donation will be used. However, the Forest Service reserves the right to utilize the donation where it is most needed.

After May 31, NGC Headquarters will no longer mail a Plant-A-Tree certificate but will provide information on how the donor may create a certificate.

During the first year of this administration, \$12,104 was contributed to the Penny Pines project from four of our five SAR states.

For the second year of the administration \$ 11,961.50 was contributed and all SAR states participated.

Our donations total an impressive \$24,065.50 for two years.

Funds donated to the Plant-A-Tree Pines project by each state during calendar year 2024 are:

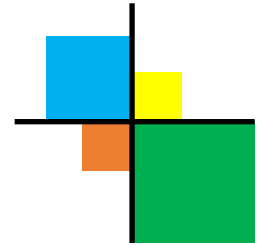
Kentucky	\$ 2,073.50
North Carolina	\$ 408.00
South Carolina	\$ 69.00
Virginia	\$ 9,293.00
West Virginia	\$ 118.00
Total	\$ 11,961.50

Winners of the SAR Award for Plant-A-Tree for the second year of the administration are:

Small Club Monticello Garden Club Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
Medium Club Madison Garden Club Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
Large Club Colonial Heritage GC Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)



At our 2024 SAR convention in Greenville, SC, attendees contributed to what was then called the Penny Pines Program to honor our SAR Director, Carcille. We collected enough funds for two Penny Pines Plantations. On behalf of our SAR members, it was my pleasure to present at the SAR Convention a Penny Pines certificate to Carcille in recognition of her distinguished service and leadership of the South Atlantic Region.

Appreciation goes to our state chairmen Brenda Underwood of Kentucky, Sandra Dutton of North Carolina, Margaret Axson of South Carolina and Violet Neel of Virginia for promoting the Plant-A-Tree project.

It was an honor to serve as the Plant-A-Tree chairman under the leadership of our SAR Director Carcille Burchette.

Scholarship



Judy Ann Fray

540-948-4220 h

540-810-8778 c

ja.fray@verizon.net

Three applications for the 2025 Corrie Whitlock Scholarship were received by this chairman. Scholarship Chairmen for GCNC, GCSC and VFGC submitted excellent candidates for our Region's financial assistance with their educational endeavors.

The SAR Scholarship of \$1,500 was awarded to Katherine Anderson Pollok of Durham, NC. Katie completed undergraduate studies at UNC Chapel Hill in 2016 in the School of Design, with a GPA of 4.0. She is presently enrolled for a Master of Landscape Architecture with a Certificate in Public Interest Design at NCSU in Raleigh. She again holds a 4.0 GPA.

Her objective after graduation in 2026 is to work in Public Park Design Using Native Plants. She will be equipped to design plant-centric spaces that enrich communities through native plantings and inclusive designs that address both humanitarian and environmental challenges. She has been recognized as a graduate assistant and successful grant writer: \$150,000 Grant to work with the NC State Park System, and \$100,000 Grant for work with the City of Durham Innovative Lab on an Urban Landscape. She is enthusiastic about connecting people to Nature.

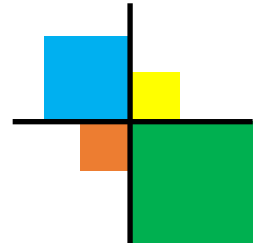
Katie says that "NCSU has helped me to grow the necessary skills to continue fostering the connection between plants, humans and place. The goal is to ultimately improve environmental and human health. Living in one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the country, I see the opportunity to develop innovative designs that integrate ecological sustainability with social well-being..."

Katie is engaged in seed-saving, planting, and all phases of gardening. Along with experience in flower arranging, we see her as a potential GARDEN CLUB MEMBER for some lucky community after her studies are completed. She was invited and attended the SAR Scholarship / awards luncheon at our recent convention. Thank you, Garden Club of North Carolina! JAF

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest



Darene Honeycutt – SAR Chair

910-567-6283

910-385-8398 c

honeycuttdarene@gmail.com

The South Atlantic Region had a total of 2564 posters submitted for the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster contest. Virginia once again submitted the most posters, totaling 1684. Thirty-one SAR garden clubs participated in sponsoring posters for the contest. Twenty-nine schools and youth organizations were contacted about this wonderful opportunity for youth. The 2025-26 challenge to all SAR garden clubs is to contact at least one school or youth organization about this contest and to sponsor local posters for competition.

This year's posters were outstanding with most entries complying with the national rules for the contest. The SAR chair forwarded all questions and concerns from garden club members and parents to the NGC poster chair.

The winners are as follows:

1st Grade

1st Place Addie Evans sponsored by Rose Garden Club, SC

2nd Place Angel Islas sponsored by Whiteville Garden Club, NC

3rd Place Reese Collier sponsored by Madison Garden Club, VA

Honorable Mention: Lily Rose Oswald sponsored by The Richmond Garden Club, KY

2nd Grade

1st Place Ruby Dundon sponsored by The Richmond Garden Club, KY

2nd Place Camila Watson sponsored by Caltee Garden Club, VA

3rd Place Maines Farmer sponsored by Rose Garden Club, SC

Honorable Mention: Lyam Johnson sponsored by Whiteville, NC

3rd Grade

1st Place Mika Skaggs sponsored by Merrifield's Garden Club, VA

2nd Place Dawson Jenkins sponsored by Ahoskie Garden Club, NC

3rd Place Lacy Thompson sponsored by Gateway Garden Club, KY

Honorable Mention: Greer Davis sponsored by Rose Garden Club, SC

4th Grade

1st Place Eric Xing sponsored by Southside Garden Club, VA

2nd Place Rory Chambers sponsored by Glasgow Garden Club, KY

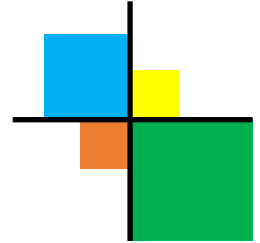
3rd Place Jade Silva sponsored by The Avid Gardeners, SC

Honorable Mention: Jethro Bryant sponsored by Coastal Garden Club, NC

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

(Continue)

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest



5th Grade

1st Place Nadia Bryant sponsored by Fayetteville Garden Club, NC

2nd Place Eve Foytik sponsored by Meadow Garden Club, VA

3rd Place Andii Bargo sponsored by The Corbin Garden Club, KY

Honorable Mention: Phobe Burdick sponsored by The Avid Garden Club, SC

Please promote this contest for the 2025-26 competition. Volunteer to host a summer program or day camp. Contact art teachers, daycares, afterschool programs, scout troops, 4-H, churches, fire departments, local libraries, and homeschool groups to share this information. Always invite Smokey as a guest. All the contest information is on the NGC website and the U.S. Forest website as well as the forms. Contact your state's garden club youth chair for information and assistance.

The national grand prize winner receives a 4 day, 3 nights stay in Washington, D.C. to attend the recognition ceremony. Mileage and accommodations for four are provided. The winner receives a trophy, certificate, and a framed copy of their winning poster. NGC awards each grade level 1st place national winner \$50. Some state and local garden clubs also offer prizes to the winners.

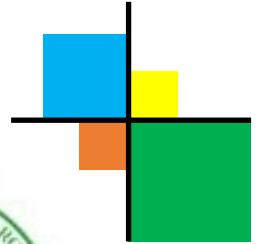
Participants do not have to be members of a youth garden club. This is an outreach program and may result in new youth garden clubs being established. Posters must be sponsored by an NGC ratified senior garden club.

It is very important for state youth chairs/poster chairs to complete the three required forms completely. Please type the forms (they are fillable forms on the website). The 2023-25 poster chair will also be the 2025-27 poster chair. State presidents are asked to submit the name and contact information for their poster chair to Darene Honeycutt asap. (honeycuttdarene@gmail.com). Text 910-385-8398

Note: Attached photo of the 5th grade winning poster. Photo 2: Thelma Lou Gaines art teacher, Nadia Bryant artist, Smokey Bear, Darene Honeycutt-SAR SBWO poster contest chair.



The South Atlantic Region



Member States



Don't forget the Key Notes Articles

Please submit your reports using Times New Roman 12 pt format. and ready for print, I will not rewrite your reports. Please do not send your written report in an image format.

Key Notes issues Deadline

March 20 Next due date

June 20

September 20

December 20

Please submit your articles by email to toddie1904@aol.com

Sharon Jones O'Connell

Please Share This Newsletter With Clubs In
Your State And With Members Of The State
Boards .Thank You