



AFGC Avenues and Adventures

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



(A member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.) Volume 5, Issue 58



Greetings from our AFGC President, 2023-2025

AFGC Office: 501-831-0576



Pam will be attending the AFGC Annual Convention in the spring. The SCR Annual Convention will be interesting.

During this busy Holiday Season, take time to live well, gather holly, wear a Santa hat, sing a carol, nap, count your blessings, read all day, choose your tree, light a fire, walk in the woods, hang twinkling lights, enjoy the season, laugh and then laugh again. Please let me know how many of you are able to fill this Bingo Card.

*A Warm
and
Tender Hand*

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand.

I hope that everyone is having a fun and exciting holiday season. We finally finished the turkey. When there's only two of you, a turkey can last a very long time.

REMINDERS...

Please remember that we have a new AFGC Office Manager. When you are paying dues for new members, sending donations for non-profit organizations, updating directory information, sharing President Packet information, or keeping in touch for special events, please contact:

SAVE THE DATES...

Feb. 21-22, State Flower Show, LR.

Mar. 24-26, Flower Show School, Course 4, LR.

Apr. 16-17, SCR Convention, Albuquerque, NM.

Apr. 29-30, AFGC Convention, LR.

May 19-21, NGC Convention, Charleston, SC.

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—Henri Nouwen

We have been invited to be a part of the Central Arkansas Home and Garden Show at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in the Hall of Industry. The schedule is complete and has been shared with the Club Presidents across the state.

AFGC membership dues are \$8 per person. Please pay attention to deadline dates.

Merry Christmas to All!

Pam



POSSIBLE PROJECTS...

Many garden clubs will begin 2025 by giving donations to non-profit organizations or to funds of AFGC. Most clubs donate funds to help with projects that are an interest to their members. Many clubs send their donations to AFGC during Jan. and Feb. It's just a good time to continue the joy of giving that we experienced during the Christmas season.

Review the possibilities below...

Non-profits

AR Nature Conservancy: Restores the lands and waters of Arkansas.

Habitat for Humanity: The goal is to enhance the environment with native trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers.

Heifer International: Empowers families worldwide to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity.

NGC Natural Disasters Fund: Grants to garden clubs for help to replant public areas damaged by natural disasters.

NGC Plant-a-Tree: For many years, National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the USDA Forest Service have maintained a partnership sustaining our national forests through the Plant-A-Tree program. Plant-A-Tree, formerly known as Penny Pines, is a reforestation and forest education program.

NGC Plant America: Grants awarded to garden clubs to help with community projects they are involved in.

Garvan Woodland Gardens: Located in Hot Springs. Provides learning opportunities.

AFGC Funds

Blue Star Memorial Program: Your donation to AFGC helps garden clubs in our state place markers or refurbish them at welcome signs, National cemeteries, parks, and veteran's facilities.

Book of Remembrance: With a donation of at least \$10 a person's name is placed in the book of Remembrance. All donations go into the Scholarship fund of AFGC.

Flower Show Fund: This is helpful in funding a state flower show.

Flower Show School Fund: This is used to fund AFGC Flower Show Schools. Schools prepare our members to serve as NGC Accredited Judges. Four courses are required.

Scholarship Fund of AFGC: Each year we try to award at least one college student a \$2,000 scholarship depending on available funds.

Sponsor an AFGC Award for adults or youth. This is a great way to encourage clubs and our youth to show more interests in awards and contests.

Become a Life Member of AFGC, SCR, and/or NGC: Become an AFGC Life Member for \$50, an SCR membership is \$50 +\$5 for a pin, and NGC is \$200.

(Involve members in an ornament and wrapping paper workshop. Be creative.)



Restoring a Butchered Crepe Myrtle

If you've beheaded a big crepe myrtle to within a few feet of the ground, there's only one solution. Cut the sorry plant completely to the ground. It will grow back very quickly. The next winter, select three to five well-spaced trunks, and cut off any others at ground level. Follow the instructions on how to prune a crepe myrtle, and you'll have an attractive tree within five years.

But maybe your sin wasn't so acute. You've only rounded off, or "hat-racked," your crepe myrtle, cutting back all of its main branches to about the same height. In this case, follow our four-step process to get beautiful plants.

1. Examine the tops of the stumps you have left. If there are knuckled knobs, cut them off.
2. Within weeks, bunches of thin shoots will grow from the cut ends of the stumps. Prune off all but a couple that you will let grow.
3. Keep doing this every spring for the next three years. Don't let any new shoots grow from the ends of the stumps next to the ones you saved.
4. Train the saved shoots to grow up and out. Remove any side branches that grow from them towards the center of the tree. The saved shoots will become the new main trunks.

Eventually, your crepe myrtle will look beautiful again. Go and sin no more. —*Southern Living*

SAVE THE DATES... you are invited to any or all!

May 1, 2025: Visit Moss Mountain Garden & Home

Contact Nancy Voyles or Nancy Rana to make your reservation for the tour and luncheon to be held at the end of the AFGC Convention in Little Rock. We will be making final plans for this special event. Cost is \$110.

nvoyles62@aol.com or nancygmrana@gmail.com



What is Christmas?



*What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past,
courage for the present, hope for the future.
It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with
blessings rich and eternal,, and that every path may
lead to peace.*

—Agnes M. Pharo

2023-2025

Members of Executive Committee

OFFICERS: (Members of Executive Committee)

President: Pam Ellis, Pamela271@gmail.com
1st Vice-President: Nancy Rana, nancygmrana@gmail.com
2nd Vice-President: Ann York, annvork@gmail.com
Secretary: Kathy Phillips, Ctandkathy@gmail.com
Treasurer: Sherrie Eoff, skeoff@hotmail.com
Historian: Rosie Huddleston, huddler@sbcglobal.net

DISTRICT DIRECTORS: (Members of Executive Committee)

Northeast, Hallie Orr; hallie.orr123@gmail.com
Northwest, Deb Williams; debwilliamsfnp@gmail.com
Pulaski, Anita Mounger; anitamounger@gmail.com
Southeast, Joanne Hopper; mail4jo40@yahoo.com
Southwest, Terri Waterman; terriafgc@gmail.com

OTHERS: (Members of Executive Committee)

Immediate Former President (Terri Waterman)
Three Members-at-Large (appointed, non-voting)
(Nancy Voyles, Rose Knight, Nancy Rana)
Parliamentarian (appointed, non-voting) (Sandra Bradberry)
Editor of *The Arkansas Gardener* and *AFGC Avenues and Adventures* (appointed, non-voting) (Bobbie Verser)
President of AFGC Judges Council (appointed, non-voting)
(Phyllis Byrum)

LOOKING AHEAD...

ARKANSAS FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

SLATE OF OFFICERS 2025-2027

President: Nancy Rana, NW District
1st Vice-President: Ann York, NW District
2nd Vice-President: Sherrie Eoff, NW District
Secretary: Ellen Rowan, SE District
Treasurer: Laura Whitley, SW District
Historian: Hallie Orr, NE District

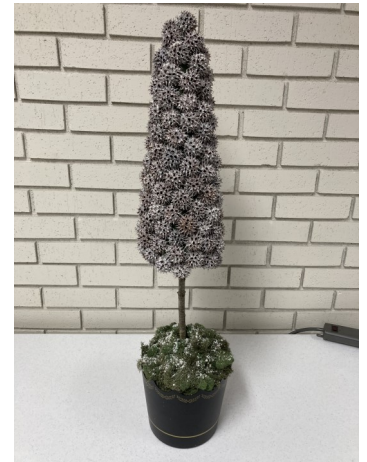
Designers Study Club Meeting

December 3, 2024

Program: Creating and Judging Topiaries



Terri Waterman



Lisa Sweet



Nancy Rana



Nancy Voyles