



October - December 2022
Volume 65 – Issue 4 Winter Issue

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hello all the Garden Clubs in Nebraska

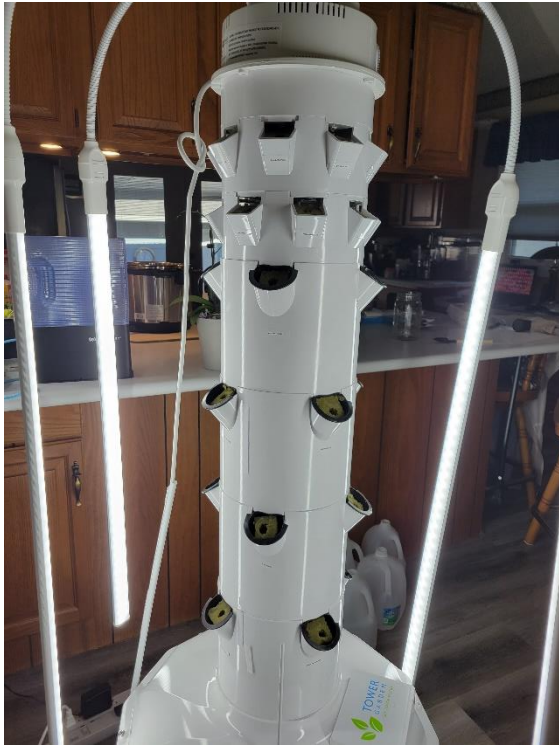
I don't know about you but it certainly turned winter where I live in Ogallala, so I cleaned my Tower Garden and did some planting indoors. Lettuces, kale spinach, swiss chard, tarragon, rosemary Thai basil sweet basil and even got my Aerogarden out and planted cherry tomatoes. I want fresh produce. (see pictures on next

page.)

While I was planting, I was thinking about volunteerism and how Nebraska Garden Clubs have some of the best volunteers. We have people that take on projects and work at it like a full time job. One example is Mary Carlson and her team from the Sunset Garden Club. Just look what those volunteers have done and they are not done yet!

My club which is the Ogallala Garden Club has jump on the band wagon of volunteerism also. At our meeting the other night, I reported on what Mary's team was doing and that we also need the poles painted for the Blue Star Memorials and one our members raised their hand and said "I would be willing to paint the poles" and with that an idea started. Now we are going to plan road trips to those out of way areas to paint the poles. More that half of the garden club members got very excited and wanted to join in.

When I went to the West District meeting in September, I was amazed, first of all that all the clubs except one were represented and all of their members were present. Instead of having such a formal meeting they did a "think tank" kind of meeting talking about how to gain members and what kind of programs they would all like to see. In the West District, they have gotten a new club and let me tell you they are very busy with all types of projects. One of the clubs volunteered to buy butterfly kits for the grade school and teach the children about butterflies and at the end of the year they release the butterflies after they have gone through the elusion process.



Tower Garden



Aerogarden

West Central district is excited about having the State meeting this year and is already planning fun things to do at this end of the State. We are hoping that you from the Eastern part of Nebraska will come out since your new president will be Chris Martin. We are getting some great volunteers for this meeting.

Volunteerism is not dead in Nebraska. We might be considered a small state, but we have stood up and National Garden Club, I assure you, have taken notice. Let us keep up the good work and please everyone take a minute to pat yourselves on the back and thank your other garden club members. This is my way of THANKING YOU ALL.

Robbie Kupper
President of the Federated Garden Clubs of
Nebraska



NEBRASKA GARDEN NEWS

Official publication of
The Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.

Published at Kearney, Nebraska,
four times yearly:
Jan-Feb-Mar, Apr-May-June
Jul-Aug-Sep, Oct-Nov-Dec

Deadline for Copy

15th Feb, May, Aug and Nov

NGC Headquarters
401 Magnolia Ave,
St. Louis MO 63110

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2021-23 President

Mary Warshauer
mary@warshauer.com
57 Buena Vista Ave
Rumson, NJ 07760-1202
732-530-1310-732-513-27-671 (c)

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.

2021-2023 President

kupperro@gmail.com
Robbie Kupper
315 East 6th Street
Ogallala, NE 69153
308-289-6051

Editors & Mail Circulation

Del and Alice Hemsath
dhemsath@charter.net
110 East 39th Street E1
Kearney, NE 68847
308-224-3771

E-mail Circulation

Robbie Kupper
315 East 6th Street
Ogallala, NE 69153
kupperro@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

**DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE
MARCH 15, 2023**

Any Chair, member or Club President may
send a report, article or announcement
that seems timely!

Up Coming Events:

**April 1, 2023 State Dues to Lorraine Patrick,
3716 Schuemann Dr.
Bellevue, NE 68123**

May 1 = Award Entries due to state chairs.

**May 15 = all awards to Chris Martin, Box 86
Friend, NE 68359**

June 9-11, 2023 FGCN Annual Meeting, Ogallala

May 2-5, 2023 Annual Convention, White Sulphur
Springs, WV



Find Us On The Web

[www.federatedgardenclubsof
nebraskainc.com](http://www.federatedgardenclubsofnebraskainc.com)

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska is: to plant seeds of interest in gardening, landscaping, flower shows, environmental issues, community beautification, charitable activities and to cultivate those seeds through sponsored schools, correspondence and sharing of knowledge for the good life of Nebraska.



**Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska (FGCN)
Treasurer's Report
Lorraine Patrick**

October 1, 2022- October 31, 2022

		Debits	Credits
General Account #9967			
10/1/22	Beginning Balance		\$2,199.51
10/3/22	Check #1309	\$165.26	
10/10/22	Check #1311 to R. Kupper for travel expenses to NGC Fall Board Meeting in Sept. 2022	\$716.39	
10/10/22	Check #1312 to Chris Martin for Zoom subscription	\$160.39	
10/12/22	Check #1313 Transfer to Blue Star Account #9410 For T-shirt sale on 8/31/22	\$14.01	
10/12/22	Check #1314 NE Statewide Arboretum Membership Renewal	\$55.00	
10/31/22	2 New PGC Members – K. Hopkins & Terri Cunningham-Swanson		\$20.00
10/31/22	Ending Balance		\$1,108.46

		Debits	Credits
Scholarship #9451			
10/1/22	Beginning Balance		\$5,079.41
10/7/22	West Central District Silver March		\$55.74
10/26/22	Interest		\$.04
10/31/22	Ending Balance		\$5,135.19

Blue Star #9410			
10/1/22	Beginning Balance		\$6,038.39
10/4/22	Donations from Georgia Stettner (\$50) & Edward Carlson (\$20) for Blue Star Restoration Project.		\$70.00
10/7/22	Donation from Jacobson (from Grand Island) for Blue Star Restoration Project		\$50.00
10/7/22	Donation from German American Women's Group		\$100.00
10/7/22	Donation from Sunset Hills Garden Club member for Blue Star Restoration Project		\$50.00
10/8/22	Donation from Millard American Legion Post 374 for Blue Star Restoration Project		\$200.00

10/12/22	Transfer from General Account #9967 for T-shirt sale	\$14.01
10/12/22	Deposit from Member of Post #32 for Blue Star Memorial Restoration Project	\$20.00
10/14/22	Donation from Marine Corps League Cornhusker Detachment for Blue Star Memorial Restoration Project	\$750.00
10/15/22	Donations from Marine Corps League #1466 (\$225.00), Leslie & Robert Koenig (\$100.00), FGCN District Acct. D. Griffith (\$150.00), NE Military Retiree Council (\$200.00), and Detachment #7466 Anonymous (\$20.00) for Blue Star Restoration Project	\$695.00
10/21/22	Harris-Farley VFW Post #131	\$750.00
10/26/22	Interest	\$.05
10/27/22	Funds from Central District Treasury	\$2,285.21
10/31/22	Ending Balance	\$11,022.66

Annual Meeting #4113

Debits

Credits

10/1/22	Beginning Balance	\$802.85
10/31/22	Ending Balance (No activity)	\$802.85

NGC Schools #4097

10/1/22	Beginning Balance	\$7,131.77
10/31/22	Interest	\$.03
10/31/22	Ending Balance	\$7,131.80

General Savings Account – 9191

10/1/22	Beginning Balance	\$6,389.76
10/31/22	Interest	\$.05
10/31/22	Ending Balance	\$6,389.81

Education Savings from Judges Council – 7322

10/1/22	Beginning Balance	\$3,245.23
10/26/22	Interest	\$.02
10/31/22	Ending Balance	\$3,245.25

Summary:	General Fund- 9967	\$1,108.46
	FGCN Scholarship- 9451	\$5,135.19
	Blue Star Memorial Fund-9410	\$11,022.66
	Annual Meeting-4113	\$802.85
	NGC Schools- 4097	\$7,131.80
	General Savings Account -9191	\$6,389.81
	Education Savings from Judges Council- 7322	\$3,245.25

TOTALS	\$34,836.02
Scholarship CD ACCOUNT 6593	\$10,000.00
TOTALS from Deposit Accounts, Savings Acct. & Scholarship CD Acct.	\$44,836.02

Scholarship Ameriprise Account #52911377:

10/1/22 Beginning Balance	\$18,524.96
Ending Balance 10/31/22	\$19,081.18

Total from All Accounts: \$63,917.20

<u>Summary:</u> General Fund- 9967	\$2,749.84
Annual Meeting-4113	\$ 634.28
NGC Schools- 4097	\$7,131.57
Blue Star Memorial Fund-9410	\$4,066.12
FGCN Scholarship- 9451	\$ 2,418.15

ACCOUNT TOTALS	\$ 16,999.96
CD: 6593 Opened 1/31/22	\$ 10,000.00
Matures 12/31/26	

TOTALS FROM DEPOSIT & CD Accounts \$26,999.96

Please note the following:

1. Ameriprise account will be created in February 2022 with a beginning balance of \$20,812.95.
2. The Blue Star Memorial Loan of \$2,746.53 was paid back.



CHAIR REPORTS

Blue Star Memorial Article 4 by Mary Carlson

Last year I was appointed the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska Blue Star Memorial Representative. In my first article in this role, I introduced myself to the garden clubs and asked for volunteers to assist me. To get me started, Linda Shaw, past representative, sent me the Blue Star notebook and materials that she had.

My first task was learning the locations of the 14 Blue Star Memorials in Nebraska, and I visited a few sites. I learned the five memorials at rest stops along I-80, a Blue Star Highway, had been placed 50 years ago and were each in need of “a facelift”. This defined my first mission.

From National, I was given the name of Tom Stelling, a veteran, who has made it his mission to restore memorials on site for \$750 each. I contacted Tom to get more details and then established a goal of restoring the five memorials at rest stops along I-80.

From the Sunset Hills Garden Club, a small team was formed - Vicky Cerino, Sharon McLean, and me.

Vicky wrote a news release that was sent across Nebraska, and it resulted in articles being published in the Ogallala and Grand Island newspapers. In addition, she presented to her military organization. Sharon McLean presented to the German-American Club. I presented to the Marine Veterans, American Legion Posts Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Garden Clubs, Lions Club and friends. Our goal was met and exceeded in three months. We raised enough money to add two more memorials to our restoration list. Restoration work on seven memorials will begin early 2023.

“Refreshing” the poles for the memorials was not included in our initial restoration project. However, volunteers from Marine Veterans Leagues, Veterans of Foreign War Posts and Garden Club members have agreed to paint the poles. Members from the Ogallala Garden Club are looking forward to taking road trips with sandpaper and paint to restore the Highway 83 Memorial poles as well as taking care of the Ogallala and Brady Memorial poles. Sidney, Nebraska Garden Club is working on getting a Blue Star Memorial in their town and we hope someday there can be one in Scottsbluff.

I write this during Veterans Day week - a couple days after the *Omaha World Herald* published my Public Pulse letter on the Blue Star Memorials. Part of our mission is to educate the public about the meaning of the Blue Star Memorials and the importance of recognizing women and men who have served our country and those who are now serving.

I have recently learned I also represent the Gold Star Memorials in Nebraska. There are three - the first one was in Lincoln and recently Papillion and Plattsmouth each added a Gold Star Memorial.

Our mission includes adding new memorials, maintaining memorials, and especially educating the public about their meaning. This takes many hands, and our garden clubs are up to the tasks. Thank you.

Please feel free to contact me with comments and ideas at marylcarlson5@gmail.com.



Gold Star Memorial Dedicated on 9/11 Date

Timothy Rohwer
September 13, 2022
The Plattsmouth Journal

PLATTSMOUTH – “We will remember.”

It is those three words that all Americans should hold dear to those who paid the ultimate price in keeping this country free.

It was those words that symbolized a special ceremony in Oak Hill Cemetery under a clear blue sky on Sunday, exactly 21 years after 9/11.

Dozens gathered for the unveiling of a Gold Star Memorial Marker, the creation of which was overseen by The Plattsmouth Garden Club.

Sharon Muller, a local garden club member, and her son, Morgan, unveiled the memorial located on the western edge of the cemetery near a flagpole and old cannon.



“We will remember,” said Donna Rouch, second vice president of the National Garden Club, Inc.

The title, Gold Star Families, which is reserved for families of military members who have died in the line of duty, is meant to not only honor the service members’ sacrifice, but also acknowledge their family’s loss, grief and continued healing.

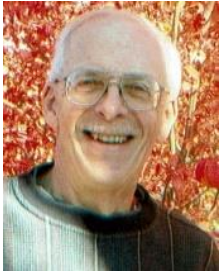
“Let us never forget,” said Mayor Paul Lambert, adding that the memorial is a great addition to the cemetery and the community.

The ceremony included the presentation of colors by the Plattsmouth High School ROTC, and the playing of Taps by Charles Jones and Bob Wills.

HORTICULTURE CHAIR by Del Hemsath

How time flies!! Yes it is that time of year for cold temperatures and that fascinating white stuff. I am repeating some things from last year's article that I deem appropriate for us gardeners and add a few extra new things. So, here we go!

You probably have next year's garden planned based upon what worked and did not work this year. How about your compost piles? Did you have one? If not, try next year, it is a great way to get rid of food items that decompose rather than throw the waste into the garbage going to the landfill.



Oh! The leaves this year were wonderful colors and we enjoyed for about a week or so and then that wind came up and poof, they were everywhere except on the tree. Nature is wonderful because it provides the nice bright colors for you to enjoy as a notice that fall is here. Now what? Almost everyone gets the rake out, the mower or other device to rid the lawn of the leaves. But, according to Elizabeth Exstrom, extension horticulturist, it is best to use the mower to create fine pieces of leaves and allow the leaves to infiltrate into the standing grass and provide organic matter and nutrients for the grass. Leaves can also be used as a mulch for various flower beds,

or in other areas where weeds seem to have the upper hand. Dense thick layers of leaves can protect bare soil areas, prevent weeds in the spring, reduce water evaporation and reduce erosion of your precious soil. Those living in communities realize that leaves can create some pollution problems when getting into water drains and plugging the drainage pipes and eventually causing pollution of streams and rivers. So, in basic sense, use the leaves as an advantage for you instead of a problem to rake off the grass and disposing of them in the landfill. I rake the leaves off the cement parking lot and sidewalks in our living complex, bag them, take them to the garden and create a mulch for next year. Some are saved in plastic bags for the spring and summer to help the garden survive and reduce weed problems. God created some wonderful items in nature to enjoy and we just need to use those items to benefit nature as it was designed, not transferred to a landfill.



Another note of interest, Japanese beetles are our next big pain as a bad insect. Latest research suggests that the best way to have some control is to treat for the grubs that live in the ground over the winter and emerge to create havoc on a variety of plants.



These grubs have an early time getting into the soil so treatment is earlier than for other grubs. So starting in August is a better time to try and get some control on the population. Check with the extension in your area for the best times. The adults are best controlled by picking them off the roses or other plants and putting them into soapy water. Foliar sprays are a no-no as the sprays will kill off the beneficial insects and allow other pests to feed.

Hoping for some snow this winter and some wonderful spring rains!!



THE GREAT BLUE by Marlene Mahoney

There are periods in life when one might become obsessed with an idea, project or whatever, and that idea, project or whatever would consume a lot of one's time. Well, that happened to me in early October for about two weeks with a bird. I called him "great blue". It may not be a he, I'll never know. He captured much of my mornings.

I live on a lake and love the wild life it presents. Last month for several weeks, nearly every morning I would wake up and saw a blue heron standing on the farthest point across the lake. Not a common site in the city and not always year around. I would get my binoculars and check him out. He stood very still, neck stretched high with his feet in the shallow water very near the bank of sloping grass. He must be on the hunt for his breakfast. I only saw him spearing a fish once with his long pointed beak. I would sit on the patio to be present when he would walk up the bank, and take off across the lake to a large grove of trees, with a wing span flapping so magnificent to watch. Unfortunately, that only happened once. The "great blue" would outlast me every time, no matter how long I sat to watch for his flight. One day I sat for over 45 minutes. Another day I sat for over an hour as he stood still, then he searched around the bank and then flew up to the top of an evergreen tree and outlasted me another half hour. I finally gave up. Who was this bird that fascinated me so?? Time for a Google moment.

In Nebraska the Blue Heron is common in spring and fall statewide; a local breeder in the western and central portions of the state. Migrants are found along all water areas supporting a fish population and having shallows for foraging. Herons forage mostly by standing still or walking very slowly in shallow water, waiting for fish to swim near, then striking with a rapid thrust of the bill. They also forage on shore and in grassland. They may hunt by day or night. Great blue herons catch much of their prey by spearing fish with their long bill and sometimes a heron has been known to choke to death trying to eat a fish that was too big. They eat mostly fish, but also frogs, salamanders, turtles, snakes, insects, rodents, and small birds. They have been seen stalking voles and gophers in field.

Heron usually breed in colonies. Parenting is quite the commitment. The nest site is usually found in high trees above ground or water; sometimes in low shrubs. The male may choose the nest site and the large stick/leafy nest is built by the female with materials gathered by the male. They may have 3-5 pale blue eggs. Incubation is 25-30 days; dutifully warmed by both parents. Both parents feed the young by regurgitation. The young are capable of flight at about 60 days. Hopefully, the parents encourage departure by 65-90 days. A pair usually have one brood a year in the northern hemisphere and sometimes 2 in the south.

Adult birds are mostly grey, with narrow long plumes over the back and breast. They have a long neck, small head with a long dagger-like beak and long skinny legs. Their wing span is large and they fly with the long neck coiled back onto itself in slow graceful wing beats. A Magnificent event to watch. I hope you will have or have had the opportunity to visit with a "Blue Heron".

Great Blue has not been seen for a long time since the weather has cooled and we had some snow flurries. My Heron obsession has passed and I miss sitting on the patio in warm sunshine, till spring comes again.

THANKFUL FOR BIG TREES

Happy Thanksgiving! Something we should all be thankful for is big old trees since they do so much good for us. A few of us were fortunate to hike some native woods south of Nebraska City yesterday to find and re-measure the state's largest known shagbark hickory. It's over 90' tall and with a trunk circumference of 8.6 ft.! The shagbark hickory is a slow growing, climax species, so it could be well over 200 years old. In these same woods are some enormous chinkapin oaks, including the nearby state champion measured at 75' tall and with a trunk circumference of 13.5'. Wow. The land owners are Dave and Julie Zahn and they work tirelessly to manage these woods for benefit of large trees and other native species. They remove a lot of red cedar and other invasive species and work to reduce overgrazing and deer browsing.



The state's largest measured Shagbark Hickory south of Nebraska City.



A large chinkapin oak with a 12.8' trunk circumference growing nearby.

Unfortunately, our big old trees don't live forever and we recently learned that the state's largest bur oak growing in the woods near Peru blew over in a storm about a year ago. It was a monster with a trunk circumference of 18.7' and 84' tall. So we're now on the lookout for the next champion bur oak. If you know of any large bur oaks (over 17' in trunk circumference at 4.5' above the ground)

please let me know and we'll get them measured up.



The state's largest known bur oak blew over in 2021. Thankfully lots of logs and sections were salvaged for lumber and utilization

FYI - the Nebraska Champion tree program relies heavily on citizen participation. The staff of the Nebraska Forest Service generally does not go around seeking champion trees but rather we respond to champion nominations NFS is seeking citizen volunteers to help measure and verify online nominations. We will train such volunteers on how to measure big trees. There are worse things to do than to spend time amongst large, old and majestic trees, so please let me know if you're interested in joining the effort. You can learn more about the champion tree program here: <https://nfs.unl.edu/guidelines>

Justin Evertson
Green Infrastructure Coordinator
Nebraska Forest Service & Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
203G Forestry Hall, UNL 68583-0815
402-472-6604 | jevertson1@unl.edu



CLUB NEWS



OGALLALA GARDEN CLUB

Fall has arrived according to the Ogallala Garden Club. We have taken over the flower bed at the Ogallala Cemetery and it was time to clean it up and get it ready for winter

We gleefully trimmed back most of the plants, leaving the rose bushes until this spring. Rod Ruzanic picked up around 50 tulips blubs so we were busy planting those for next spring.

After all of the worked we were rewarded with homemade muffins, thanks Von and cinnamon rolls, thanks Rachel.



Soil Sisters and Misters Garden Club, Kearney

The Soil Sisters and Misters Garden Club held this October meeting at Divas at Kearney Floral. They had a tour of the flower shop and had a demonstration of a floral arrangement. The arrangement was raffled off and our Treasurer, Debbi Suess was the winner!



Plattsmouth Garden Club holds PHF flower contest

Brent Hardin

Sep 15, 2022



Photos Courtesy Lorraine Patrick /
The Plattsmouth Journal

PLATTSMOUTH - Cass County residents made their outdoor efforts pay off this past week. Members of the Plattsmouth Garden Club held their annual flower show during the festival. A wide array of flower arrangements filled space inside The First United Methodist Church. Many visitors viewed the specimens on tables as part of the show.

Plattsmouth Garden Club representative Sharon Muller said members were pleased with the show. "It went pretty well," Muller said. "We didn't have as many overall entries as in some years, but we had a lot of quality ones."

Plattsmouth Garden Club members began accepting entries on Sept. 8 and the show took place on Sept. 9th & 10th. Flowers of all shapes, sizes, colors and textures were displayed during the event. Flower show judge Donna Rouch evaluated flowers in multiple categories and presented awards at the show.

Chris Broshar received awards for Best of Show and Best Horticulture. Sharon Muller received honors for Best Specimen, Best of Show Arrangement and Best Arrangement, and Karin Forrest and Reeda Dickman each earned additional awards. Forrest was honored for receiving the most blue ribbons during the show and Dickman was the winner of the door prize.

Participants captured blue ribbons for first-place awards in their respective categories. Forrest earned 14 blue ribbons and Muller and Broshar each collected six blue ribbons. Lorraine Patrick secured three first-place awards, John Williams and Heather Holland each won two blue ribbons and Carlee McCollum collected one blue ribbon.

Broshar earned five second-place awards and Williams pocketed four second-place honors. Jerry Blackwell and Charlotte Albers each won two second-place awards, and Maxine Hild, Patrick, Muller and Holland each brought home one second-place ribbon. Forrest and Patrick each won a pair of third-place awards during the show. Muller, Broshar, Williams and Hild each added one third-place honor to their totals.