



TGC Keeping in Touch

Sarah's E-Blast - Tx KIT #3
September 2013

TGC President's Letter to Club Presidents

Opportunities Abound - See you at "Fall Faire - Far Out" TGC's Fall Convention October 18-19 in Houston. Come hear about new services and projects. Info was in Summer LSG and on line at texasgardenclubs.org. Early registration by Oct 10. New Life Member pins are available from Trustees and TGC. This graphic is dark, but the pin has TGC and Life Member on it.  TGC Life Membership fee benefits TGC Endowment Fund and General Fund.

As we start regular meetings, reach out to members to meet their needs. Younger, upwardly mobile potential members may no longer join or remain with an organization that does not meet some need in their lives. They also don't want to stay on the sidelines with no role to fill or challenge to meet. Welcome and involve new members, hear their opinions, and use their talents. Give them a chance to provide real leadership. Ask them to do a specific job; praise them for their performance.

Sarah McReynolds
2013-2015 Texas Garden Club President
"Changing Our World Through Education & Friendships"

Air - Have cleaner fresher air in your home - plants help. Mother - in - law's tongue (*Sansevieria trifasciata*) will clean the air of cigarette smoke and natural gas. Also azalea, spider plant and golden pothos will do the trick. Warnecke (*Dracaena deremensis* 'Warnecke'), gerbera daisy and peace lily remove Trichlorethylene found in printing inks, paints and particleboard. Benzene can be found in oils, paints and synthetic fibers and can counteracted with English ivy, gerbera daisy and peace lily plants. Have a generous mix of plants to be most effective.

Life Membership - To be a Life Member is a privilege, an honor and a responsibility. Life Memberships may be given by clubs to honor members who have given outstanding service to their club, district or state organization. Life memberships may also be purchased by individual club members for themselves or by friends and family for a club member. Honor an outstanding garden club member, outgoing president, or just treat yourself. Tell your husband or children to treat you for your birthday, anniversary, or a Christmas gift.

Your donation goes to a good cause. Life Memberships provide funds to help young people continue their education and supports GC. Life Memberships are available for:
National - \$200, benefits NGC Scholarship Fund and Permanent Home and Endowment Fund.
South Central - \$50, pin \$5, benefits Scholarship.
Texas - \$100, benefits TGC Endowment Fund and General Fund.
District - check with your District Director.

Apply for yourself, a friend, and your mentor. For application forms, contact Eleanor Floeck - elfloeck@verizon.net or 979-542-3749.

Strategic Planning - Leadership training helps develop our future leaders and provides an opportunity improved communication. Come to Fall Convention for reports to help you be better informed to lead your club.

Define your clear vision of what your club and TGC should be in the future. Change is constantly happening around us. Take action to deal with that change and keep your club, members and TGC growing. Clubs can define/review their own mission statement and vision for the future. Why does your club exist? How do you know if you are succeeding?

If you don't have a plan for the future, anything you do will take you there. Missions, goals, plans, visions - these help keep everyone on the same team and moving ahead in the same direction.

Mason Bees - Crown Bees & NGC Partner to Add Gentle Mason Bees to Gardens

The honey bee crisis affects one-third of our pollinators. As part of NGC President Linda Nelson's President's project, Making a World of Difference - Choices Matter, NGC is partnering with Crown Bees, a Washington bee pollination company. NGC has the opportunity to be part of the solution. Crown Bees can help gardeners worldwide raise gentle mason bees to pollinate their gardens, thus helping saving our food supply one garden at a time.

The partnership will increase native bee awareness and encourage gardeners to add gentle, rarely stinging mason bees for food and flower pollination. Help create edible landscapes and bee-safe habitats in backyards to help save the food supply threatened by declining honey bee pollinators.

NGC President Linda Nelson says that this new partnership will help make a world of difference in our environment. Debbie Skow, NGC Native Bee/ BeeGAP Chairman) is working with Crown Bees on:

- 1) NGC Bee Speakers Bureau: increase bee awareness and practices. Use a presentation package and support to become a "teaching" bee expert for GC, nursery and community events. A great outreach to increase your membership, too!
- 2) Fundraising Opportunity: Receive discounts on bee products to enhance your club's plant sales. Encourage bee products in annual plant sales by your garden club.
- 3) Education Program: Learn best practices for healthy garden yields.
- 4) Youth Program: Continue educating youth about pollinators.
- 5) BeeGAP Program (Gardeners Adding Pollinators): Raise mason bees to pollinate your garden. Crown Bees will purchase excess bees for commercial farms to supplement honey bee pollinators. "Bee" sure to explore www.crownbees.com to learn how you can Make a World of Difference.

President Nelson says "The hallmark of NGC activities is to protect and conserve our natural resources, and to promote education so we may all be better caretakers of our beautiful planet." She also says "Increasing bee awareness and promoting the use of bee safe products allow us to be part of this powerful solution."



Crown Bees is a mason bee pollination & education company and NGC is the largest worldwide nonprofit organization of volunteers pursuing gardening's best practices and education for a sustainable environment.

Dave Hunter, founder of Crown Bees, said "This is a groundbreaking alliance to reach communities everywhere with an easy backyard garden solution to the declining honey bee population. Nearly 1/3 of our food supply is threatened by lack of pollination. We need more alternate bee pollinators to keep food on tomorrow's table. Bees flourish in an edible landscape, and that is a great solution in which we all benefit."

For more information, visit:
NGC - www.gardenclub.org
Crown Bees - www.crownbees.com

Dragonfly - Water is essential for dragonflies, but the size of the source doesn't matter. An in-ground pool, a water garden in a container, like a half wine barrel - both bring dragons and damsels to your garden. A mini water garden is an easy project and will help dragonflies. Add flat rocks where they can bask in the sun and warm themselves.

