

As members of the Garden Club Federation of Maine board of directors, I wonder if, after a long drive to the far reaches of our state in a snow storm, we look ourselves in the mirror and ask “Why are we doing this!? It’s only garden club!! “ What do we stand for and why do a few---about 60 out of 2500 garden club members in the state of Maine forge ahead? I think because, those of us who have been active on the national level find the enthusiasm and drive that the national garden club has, to be infectious. As part of the largest volunteer organization of it’s kind in the world with ¼ of a million members world-wide, we do make an impact not only in our communities but in the world around us.

When we come home from national conventions with great ideas that we have learned from networking with other states and countries, there is a desire to share all this information with other garden club members in the state.

This is also true of state conventions and fall conference. The Garden Club Federation of Maine strives to present the best programs to it’s membership to educate and entertain. It is the hope of the GCFM board that members will take back to their clubs the ideas and enthusiasm that they got from the programs presented, and from other attendees networking.

The GCFM offers a scholarship annually to a qualified student in the field of horticulture. In addition, a scholarship is offered in the horticulture trades every other year to a trade school student. The National Garden Club offers 50 scholarships yearly to qualified horticulture students nationally. Maine’s scholarship applicant is most often a reciprocate of this scholarship.

The Garden Club Federation of Maine should be used as a tool to benefit clubs throughout the state of Maine. Yearly the federation offered 2 garden study schools, 1 landscape design school, and 2 floral design and horticulture schools. Within the New England Region, there is 1 environmental school offered annually. Beginning in 2009, National Garden Club offered the gardening study school on line in the convenience of your home at times that work for you. One way clubs are encouraging members to attend these schools is by funding part or all of the tuition, room and board.

The most valuable tool the federation strives for is communication between the national garden club, the state, the district and individual clubs. GCFM board members are available, all by e-mail and phone. Several chairmen are available as club programs, and all are available as a resource. Many chairmen submit articles to the state newsletter which is accessed on -line quarterly and through the state website where it can be accessed 24 hours a day. More and more clubs are on the website, and many chairmen submit articles there as well.

Why belong to GCFM and NGC?

Affiliation with an Internationally known Garden Organization. The largest organization of it’s kind with ¼ million members in the United States, South and Central America.

NGC provides resources and national networking opportunities for it’s members , to promote the love of gardening , floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

Nationally know designers and speakers available at national conventions and state conventions

NGC Schools: Floral Design, Environmental, Garden Study, Landscape Design

State and National Scholarships are awarded yearly to students in the areas of Horticulture Sciences

Leadership training and program resources available to club presidents both on the national level and state level...with orientation offered by the state every two years to club presidents.

Grants available to clubs for Civic Development projects
Wendy Cote, Past GCFM President