

WHY BE FEDERATED?

Networking. *“One person going through a field may go unnoticed, but many going through with the same purpose will make a “path”.* Our state and our national organizations have made many such paths in many fields over the years and will continue to do so as a united front.

Fellowship. Doing what we all love to do, “gardening” with people from different walks of life—of different personalities, ages, professions, education.....We all care about our gardens and our communities. Together with our fellow garden club members, we can work to make our communities more beautiful with community garden areas, planters, and we can take measures to protect our natural spaces. Through state and national networking we can learn how to do this more effectively and be recognized for it through their award programs, some involving small monetary awards.

Civic Beautification. Many of us joined garden clubs because we care about our gardens and our communities. Being part of a national organization gives us many opportunities to beautify and protect our state and our nation in a way that we can all be proud of and receive recognition for as well.

Sharing. We constantly exchange ideas for projects and share information—including programming. Members can refer to the “Program Resource Guide” posted on the NHFGC website where hundreds of speakers and program and topics are listed with their contact information. Occasionally two or more clubs will hire a well-known (and usually more expensive) speaker together, sharing the cost and the benefit. (Several of our Committee Chairs and/or Officers also give programs on their area of expertise, such as flower arranging, Container Gardening, Bird and Butterfly Habitats, etc. just for the asking or for a very nominal fee to cover travel and/or floral expenses, etc.)

Floral Arranging. Where else can you learn the art of floral arranging from National Garden Clubs Inc. certified Flower Show Judges for almost free? You are invited to attend a **NH Designers’ Guild** meeting to observe and learn, then decide if you want to join. The cost is \$10 annually. You bring your own materials and its lots of fun—and no pressure! This is a great place to start out if you are interested in floral design but have no experience!!

Board Liaisons. We have **4 District Directors** that sit on the Executive Board. Each represents the clubs located in a specific geographic area with the Director serving as the liaison between their district clubs and the NHFGC Executive Board. NHFGC members are entitled to attend any NHFGC Board Meeting!

Communication. Our website offers ongoing notice of upcoming gardening events, e.g., flowers shows, garden tours, etc. It is available under “Members Only”, via a designated Password as is a full listing of NHFGC Officers, District Directors, Standing Committee Chairmen, Member Clubs and their Club Presidents with their contact information. There is also information about each club’s size, meeting dates and times. This information is not made public under any circumstances!

Available projects/study areas/interests:

Garden Therapy

Youth Programs

NH Designers’ Guild

Landscape Design School*

Environmental Studies School*
Flower Show School*
Garden Study School*

**Sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

Available Award Recognition

25 NH Federation of Garden Club Awards

26 New England Region Awards

36 National Garden Club, Inc. Awards

State Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month (as a rule) in May—*Annual* and September—*Fall Conference*. These meetings are held in different areas of the state and are hosted by one of the four districts in rotation.

What is expected of you as a member of NHFGC?

A commitment to honor the Federation's mission "*to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic beautification and both civic and environmental responsibility*". Every member club is free to do this in their own way,

Annual Dues are required for each member. They are currently \$3.00 which includes \$2.00 for NHFGC and \$1.00 for both National and Regional support. Payment is due to the State Treasurer on June 1st each year, based on the number of current members. (*The New Hampshire Federation operates entirely "dues funded" although we avail ourselves to various fundraising opportunities as necessary and as we are able.*)

Scholarship Program: NHFGC has a very sound scholarship program. Each year we award a minimum of \$1,500 in scholarship funds to qualified UNH students pursuing a career in environmental studies, horticulture or any career that reflects our mission. We increase the amount of scholarship money annually as available funds allow. We encourage our individual garden clubs to give at least one scholarship annually to a local high school student using similar criteria. Our Scholarship Committee selects a viable candidate from applications received throughout the year to forward to National Garden Clubs, Inc. to be considered for an NGC Scholarship, which is currently \$4,000. We are proud to say that a New Hampshire applicant has been awarded one of the available National scholarships for four of the past five years.

You may ask: "*Why should we join the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs?*"

Our response: "*Why Not?*"

For more information about the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs and/or how to join, please e-mail our current Membership Chairman at membership@nhfgc.org . Thank you.

6/24/2017