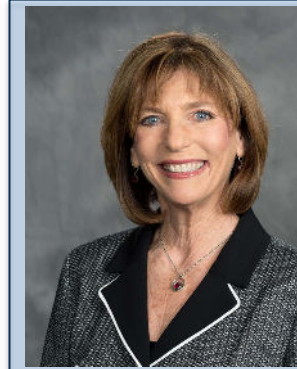


Speaker Lineup includes Keynotes, Design, Gardening and Leadership

From water rights to protecting food sources to floral designs, there is a lot to discuss and learn at AFGC Convention 2023.



Opening Keynote

Karen Novak Cesare
Central Arizona Project
Arizona's Water Future



Mary Warshauer
National Garden Clubs
Protect Natural Resources



Zach Brooks
Arizona Worm Farm
Ecology of Soil



Robin Pokorski
Pacific Region Garden Clubs
Leadership Workshop



Wendy Hodgson
Desert Botanical Garden
Restoring AZ Agaves



Danielle Carlock Cowan
South Mtn Community Coll.
Pollinator Pathways



Steve Sheard
Mesa East Valley Rose
Society
Rose Grafting



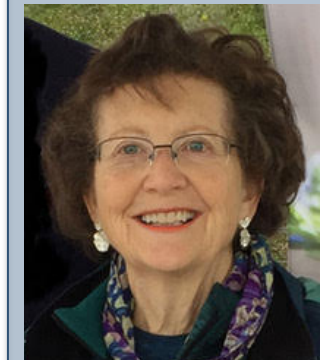
Renee Waite
Master Flower Show Judge
Floral Design



Liz Lonetti
Arizona Herb Association
Wicking Gardens



Jennifer Moreland
Tucson Garden Club
Identifying Native Plants



Lee Ann Aronson
Maricopa Master Gardener
Pollinator Gardening



Opening Keynote
Saturday, April 15, 2023
9:00 – 10:15am
Encantada Ballroom



Karen Novak Cesare

Karen Novak Cesare was elected to her first six year term on the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) Board representing Pima County on November 4, 2014, and re-elected to a second term on November 3, 2020. Ms. Cesare was born in Phoenix and is a third generation Arizonan and descendant of a pioneer family. She is a registered Landscape Architect in Arizona and California and has owned and operated Novak Environmental, Inc. since 1998. Ms. Cesare graduated from the University of Arizona with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Landscape Architecture from the College of Agriculture – School of Renewable Natural Resources.

Ms. Cesare previously served on the City of Tucson's Citizens' Water Advisory Committee and CAP Oversight Committee and served and chaired the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration. Ms. Cesare is currently serving on the Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee, the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission and is 2014/2015 Chapter President for AzASLA.

Ms. Cesare is married to Jeffery J. Cesare. They have three young adult children; Nick, Cristi and Angelique, who all live in Tucson. Ms. Cesare volunteers her time as an event supervisor for Science Olympiad. She enjoys cycling, hiking, birding, watching UofA basketball and football and spending time with her family.

Come hear about Central Arizona Project's impact to the state, as well as an update on the Colorado River water shortage and the future of Arizona's water supplies.



Gala and Officer Installation
Saturday, April 15, 2023
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Encantada Ballroom

with Keynote Speaker



Mary Warshauer

Mary Warshauer, President of National Garden Clubs, Inc., is a lifelong gardening and floral design enthusiast who is dedicated to promoting initiatives focusing on civic and environmental education. Through her volunteerism at NGC, Mary aspires to spread awareness throughout schools, groups, clubs, and communities regarding the need to educate future gardeners and help the next generation with tools to develop creative ways to sustain our world.

Born in Patuxent River, Maryland to a military family, Mary quickly learned to adapt to new communities, cultures, and climates. As a perpetual “new kid in school,” local organizations became a bedrock of support, instilling in Mary a deep understanding of community service-oriented projects and the impacts they can have.

This passion led Mary to join the Garden Club of Fair Haven, NJ in 1987, where she participated in many community projects, including earning her flower show judge accreditation. Mary has served garden clubs at the district, state and regional levels becoming President of the Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc., from 2009 to 2011 and Central Atlantic Regional Director in 2013-2015. Joining the NGC Board of Directors in 2007 as Water Quality & Conservation Chair, Mary has held a variety of positions, including Blue Star Memorial Highway Chair, and culminating in her most recent position as First Vice President.

Come hear about our treasured natural resources need protection and restoration. NGC is dedicated to preserving our earth's natural resources through our communities' civic beautification and our environment's conservation.



Closing Keynote
Sunday, April 16, 2023
10:30am – 12:00pm
Encantada Ballroom



Zach Brooks

Zach Brooks is the owner and founder of The Arizona Worm Farm in Phoenix, Arizona.

This 10 acre, fully sustainable off-the-grid farm uses waste by-products to generate spectacular food and produce castings and worm castings tea and compost. Zach has an MBA and has completed extensive course work in Sustainability from ASU's School of Sustainability.

Zach has build The Arizona Worm Farm into one of the United State's largest and most respected worm farms. They provide training in soils, microbes, and worm breeding to farmers all over the US and the world.

Come hear about living soils and the lazy way to spectacular growth in your garden.



Leadership Workshop
Friday, April 14, 2023
2:00pm – 5:00pm
Redrock Conference Room



Robin Pokorski

Robin Pokorski is Director of the Pacific Region Garden Clubs. She has earned accreditation as a Master Gardening Consultant, Master Landscape Design Consultant, Master Environmental Consultant and a Master Flower Show Judge, making her an NGC 5-Star Member.

Robin joined Southern California Garden Club in the San Fernando Valley District in 1989. She served her club as President for 12 years and served her District as Director. She joined the California Garden Clubs, Inc., (CGCI) Board of Directors as Workshop Chairman prior to being elected *Golden Gardens* Editor, a position she held for two terms. Following the editorship, Robin was elected Recording Secretary and then began the six-year journey 'up the chairs' to the Presidency. Robin served as CGCI President 2007 – 2009 which she says was the happiest two years of her life. She went on to be Recording Secretary for NGC from 2009-2011 and served as WACONIAH editor for Pacific Region Garden Clubs for 14 years.

Her husband Greg, joined her on the CGCI Board in 1998 and both have served on the Pacific Region and NGC Boards for many years. Robin and Greg are parliamentarians and members of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Robin enjoys gardening in San Fernando. They have a large compost pile and a thriving veggie garden and tend more than 75 rose bushes. Besides gardening Robin delights in cats, needlepointing, collecting watering cans, and trying to sing the correct words to *God Bless America*.

Come hear about club leadership, parliamentary procedure and conflict resolution.



Lunch and Learn
Saturday, April 15, 2023
12:00pm – 1:30pm
Encantada Ballroom



Wendy Hodgson

Wendy Hodgson has lived in the Sonoran Desert for 54 years and worked at Desert Botanical Gardens one year shy of 50. Her areas of interest include Southwest US and northern Mexico floristics, including the Grand Canyon region. She also studies rare/endemic plants, taxonomy/systematics of agaves and yuccas, including the study of pre-contact agave domesticates, and southwest US cacti, having been the coordinator for the Cactus family treatment for Intermountain Flora. Of the 33,000+ herbarium species she has collected, many are those spiny and hard to press plants in agave and cactus families. Wendy is a believer in collaboration, especially with Indigenous peoples whose voices we have ignored far too long.

During lunch, Wendy will share how researchers have long recognized the importance of agaves to central Mexico and its cultures, the plants providing food, fiber and beverage. However, their significance to the cultures has over shadowed and distorted the plants' role for indigenous peoples north of the US-Mexico border. Wendy will share the remarkable story of no less than six or more agaves early pre-Columbian farmers domesticated and grew in Arizona that are still in the landscape today hundreds of years later.

Come hear about Arizona's deep history of agaves and its importance to the Indigenous peoples.



Civic Initiatives Lecture
Saturday, April 15, 2023
4:00pm – 4:45pm
Encantada Ballroom



Danielle Carlock Cowan

Danielle Carlock founded the [Maricopa Native Seed Library](#) in 2020 as a way to distribute free seed to the community and promote the use of native plants in the landscape with a special emphasis on supporting pollinators. She recently launched the [Maricopa Pollinator Pathway](#) that provides education about native plant gardening for pollinators, certifies local pollinator habitat, and helps build interconnected pollinator habitat. She is an avid native plant gardener, has taught biology at the high school and college level and is a library faculty member at South Mountain Community College.

In **“Harnessing Gardens to Support Pollinators: Building Pollinator Pathways in Our Communities”**, Danielle explores an increasingly important initiative that every community should take on. With increasing threats to wildlands, what we grow in urban spaces has

become critical to conservation efforts such as supporting pollinators. In this presentation we will further explore this paradigm shift in how, what and why we garden and the benefits for the gardener, the community and the environment. We will explore practical ways that gardeners can support pollinators in their own spaces while joining with like minded gardeners to form pollinator pathways, discussing the newly launched Maricopa Pollinator Pathway and the opportunity to form other pathways in Arizona and beyond.

Come hear about civic initiatives to link together to support important pollinators.



Gardening Education Series
Saturday, April 15, 2023
Galleria A
With Educational Speakers



Wicking Garden Beds
10:30am – 11:45am

Liz Lonetti is a Certified Permaculture Designer, Maricopa County Master Gardener and Desert Landscaper through the Desert Botanical Gardens. Liz is currently President of the Arizona Herb Association and has taught many classes on gardening, sustainability and design.

Liz Lonetti will discuss growing edibles using principles of wicking beds and other very low tech watering devices to garden responsibly in our low desert.



Gardening for Pollinators
1:45pm – 2:30pm

Lee Ann Aronson is a Maricopa County Master Gardener and Arizona Herb Association newsletter editor. She enjoys teaching at Desert Botanical Garden, The Nature Conservancy - Hassayampa River Preserve and elsewhere.

Lee Ann will share facts about the decline of pollinators and what you can do make a difference. Learn specific gardening techniques to support pollination in AZ desert gardens.

Identifying Native Species
3:00pm – 4:45pm

Jennifer Moreland is President-elect of Tucson Garden Club and Past President of Sedona Area Garden Club.

She has been a Yavapai County Master Gardener and worked with community organic farms.

Jennifer will share multiple resources for identifying plants, insects and birds using online groups. The presentation will focus on iNaturalist and Merlin Bird ID apps for smartphones and tablets. Bring your smartphone and passwords to install these apps.

Permaculture
4:00pm – 4:45pm

Liz Lonetti will share details how using sustainable gardening practices can reduce your environmental footprint, contribute to plant, animal & soil biodiversity and store carbon while at the same time, creating a garden you can enjoy, admire and EAT!

Come hear about techniques and tools to improve your gardening success.



Flower Show & Design Series
 Saturday, April 15, 2023
 Galleria B
 With AFGC Leaders



Rose Grafting Workshop
10:30am – 11:45am

Steve Sheard is a Master Consulting Rosarian with the American Rose Society. He is a member of Mesa East Valley Rose Society where he cares for over 10,000 roses. His own garden includes 150 roses.



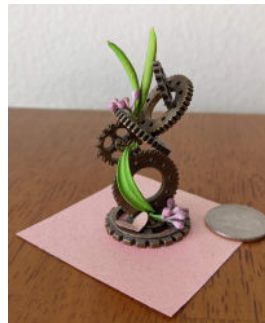
In this 1-hour workshop, create your own multi-colored rose bush. Steve will share expert techniques for grafting on a root-stock rose bush. All materials

will be provided including root stock, bud wood, knives and tape. Bring a box to transport your new rose bush back home.

NGC Schools: Become an NGC Consultant or Flower Show Judge

1:45pm – 2:30pm

Nancy Gahtan, Sheila Parcel and Peggy Ahola will host this panel discussion. NGC offers schools for Flower Show, Environmental Science, Landscape Design and Gardening. Come hear from this panel about how the schools work and why you want to pursue being an NGC Consultant.



Floral Design Workshop

3:00pm – 4:45pm *(extended duration)*



Renee Waite is a Master Flower Show Judge and club member of Desert Designers and Weeders Garden Club. She has blue ribbon awards from

Philadelphia Flower Show and New Jersey flower Show.

In this 2-hour workshop, you create a stunning **LINE-MASS** floral arrangement. Renee will guide you through the design principles. All materials will be provided including flowers and containers. Bring a box to transport your design back home.

Come hear about NGC school guidelines and create your own floral designs.



Club Leadership Series
Saturday, April 15, 2023
Encantada Ballroom
With AFGC Board and Chair Persons



Leadership Roundtables

10:30am – 11:30am

AFGC Board Members (past and present) will host 5 roundtables of discussion. The topics for discussion are

- Publicity,
- Membership,
- Programs,
- Website/Social Media, and
- Fundraising.

Everyone will participate at each table for 15 minutes and then switch to the next table. Table hosts will have a list of questions to facilitate the discussions.

Club Presidents, Vice Presidents and District Directors

1:45pm – 2:30pm

Club Secretaries and Treasurers

3:00pm – 4:45pm

Meet fellow current and incoming officers at these 2 AFGC-sponsored training sessions. Walk away with all the forms and motivation you need to make next year a success.

Come discuss and participate in how clubs are run and how the state organization can help.