

NGC PLANT AMERICA

Nancy Hargroves President's Project is Focused on Educating, Supporting, Publicizing and Building America's Garden Communities

The Plant America initiative, President Nancy Hargroves's signature project, emphasizes the cornerstone elements of gardening: the variety of garden types; the elements required for healthy, sustainable gardens; an awareness of environmental issues; and resources to provide needed funds to put garden plans into action.

The Plant America project, chaired by Betty Cookendorfer, is designed to help NGC members and the public return to the "roots" of why most members join garden clubs - to learn about gardening! This focus has provided a new structure for committees and projects, simplifying and consolidating many former initiatives under new umbrellas.

Providing Financial Support to Club Projects

National Garden Clubs, Inc. has established a new grant program for clubs entitled **PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants** with a simple application process. The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial support for new or existing club projects in their respective communities all across the United States. This fund will be a permanent fund with grants being given for each two-year administration.

The first grants will be given during the 2017-2019 administration. Individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. may apply for funds up to \$1,000 for the direct expenses of projects. **The deadline for applications is November 1, 2017.** Recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by January 31, 2018. Projects must be completed by June 2019. Final reports are due within two months after the completion of the project or by July 1, 2019.

The Saved Seed, A Journey Through a Seed's Life

The Saved Seed is National Garden Club's second early reader book written to educate elementary children about the life cycle of seed plants. A North American based fall staple for thousands of years, the pumpkin is treasured in our society for being not only a food source, but also a Halloween favorite! There are dozens of varieties ranging from tiny ornamental varieties, to those weighing in at over 100 pounds each!

The Saved Seed follows the journey of a smiling pumpkin seed from Halloween pumpkin through the year, becoming a seedling, a vine and then a new pumpkin! Along the way, children learn through beautiful illustrations how to care for their own pumpkin seeds and become successful pumpkin gardeners!

Purchase The Saved Seed at the NGC Market place.

