

1975 - 1983

Under the guidance of five Regional Directors, Mrs. Myrick Crane, Mrs. James L. Pettit, Mrs. Ralph H. Davis, Mrs. Francis Stone and Mrs. Richard D. Wagner, the New England Region responded to the needs and challenges of its organization, National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. from 1975 to 1983.

The Regional Annual Meetings, Symposia, and Breakfasts at the NCSGC Conventions were considered by the membership to have value and were consistently well attended. The meetings rotated in proper sequence. In 1983 the final state, Rhode Island, synchronized its annual election to coincide with NCSGC.

Unified Regional Activities were, "Herbs, Heritage to Horizons" – "Preservation of our Heritage" – "Operation Pink Cloud" – planting of flowering crabapple trees (malus) – Conservation of Natural Resources through particularly endangered native plants – "Natural Beauty in a Healthy Environment."

Special national promotions in the Region were a Triple E Conference in Vermont in 1980, all Energy Awareness Conference, promoting clean air and solar energy, in Providence, R. I. in 1982, endorsement by 100% of New England's Senators and Representatives for National Garden Week to be the first Sunday in June, and bottle bill legislation passed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and Rhode Island.

Attempts at coordination of dates of Annual Meetings for the Region and State Garden Club plus Symposia, Flower Show Schools, Landscape Design and Gardening Study Courses were stressed and as a whole, accomplished.

During Mrs. James L. Pettit's term of office (1975), the NER Judges' Council was established at the NER Symposium in Newport, R.I.

In 1982, to encourage conservation and preservation of natural resources, the majority of the states updated their Conservation Lists of native wild plants. From the leadership of the Regional "Operation Wildflower" workshop in 1981 at Ogunquit, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont held State Workshops.

For better communications in the Region, a new NEWSLETTER was published. New Awards for the Region were: Helen Hussey Champlin Bowl for the largest number of new members; Mildred Black Pettit Award for the largest percentage increase in new members; Harriet Field Award for the most outstanding activity in the area of landscape design; and the Mary Stone Garden Therapy Award.

Lina F. Wagner, 1983