

1984 - 1989

During the years above, three very able ladies were wisely chosen to hold the office of Regional Director, following the rotation prescribed for the New England Region.

The first in order was Mrs. George C. Williams, of Vermont, 1983-1985. She chose as her theme "See – Stimulate – Educate – Evaluate". The stimulation element was the unified regional project, Water Conservation. The educational aspect included programs and participation with other organizations. There were programs dealing with water contamination, cause and possible contra-action; consideration of acid rain, toxic waste, possible contamination of groundwater, preservation of wetlands, and on and on. The ramifications from this unified project extended much farther than its author first realized, indicating, as Mrs. Williams foresaw, that these projects would be pursued long after the end of this term. Preservation of water is essential to "Forever Gardening", theme of Mrs. Johnsrud, NCSGC President.

During the following administration, 1985-1987, Mrs. Granville I. Smith, of Maine, held the office of NER Director, with the theme; "The Future is in Our Hands." Connecticut hosted a Regional Meeting in 1985 in Mystic with even more excitement than planned as hurricane Gloria arrived in full force! Connecticut also hosted a NER. Symposium in Cromwell in 1985.

The second NER Annual Meeting was held in 1986 at Ascutney Mountain Ski Resort in Vermont.

New Hampshire hosted the 1986 Regional Symposium at the Wayfarer Hotel in Bedford, New Hampshire. At this Symposium, NER Judges Council was disbanded by vote of its members.

The NER Handbook, was revised and reprinted, a major task; a Waste Awareness Regional Conference was organized by Maine members; and Connecticut gave NCSGC the idea of the Statue of Liberty Fund and contributed the most money to it! All these activities supported the theme of Mrs. Fehrer: "Pride In Our Land".

With the next administration being installed for 1987-1989, at the May Convention, Bal Harbour, FL, Mrs. William K. Thurston, from Massachusetts, became the NER Director. She chose as her theme "Germinating New Generations", and the unified project; Backyard Habitat. Both were enthusiastically supported. Mrs. Thurston's personal commitment to environmental matters may have been enhanced by the fact that, due to an exceptionally heavy downpour, the lower level of the Bal Harbour hotel became flooded and the exhibits there had to be evacuated.

Soon after the Convention, fifteen New Englanders attended a groundwater conference held in Washington, DC. There we learned that groundwater and ground water meant two different things. A series of lectures and trips to research centers provided much new information to be carried back to New England, thanks to NCSGC and Shell Oil. A regional groundwater conference was held in September of 1988.

Members of the NER also attended the Landscape Design Symposium held at LSU in Baton Rouge, LA; The Environmental Education Workshop in Pennsylvania; and at

both Regional Annual Meetings held in Portland, Maine, in 1987 and in Portsmouth, Rhode Island in 1988. A very well attended Flower Show Symposium was held in Portland, Maine in October, 1989, and the International Design Symposium was held in Salem, MA.

New England was honored by a rather extended and busy visit by its NCSGC President, with hospitality graciously extended by Mrs. Thurston, Regional Director. Mrs. Carroll Griffin, NCSGC President, was a delightful and welcome guest. Mrs. Maynard Maxwell, Historian – 1991