



**Linda Jean Smith**  
**44<sup>th</sup> GCFM President**  
**2009-2011**

**“Moving Towards a Greener Future, Together”**  
**188 clubs – 12,083 members**



A financial analysis was made of GCFM projects and changes made to make programs better. The *Mayflower*, went to 4 issues instead of 5 and pages set at 48. All silver awards were appraised, photographed, insured, repaired, and a committee set up to decide whether to continue giving out the silver. Finances were revamped to cover costs without a major fundraiser. Donations of \$2448 were given to NGC Penny Pines reforestation. A collection of \$882 was given to the Dover Project in Delaware to create a memorial garden at Dover Airbase for families of returning deceased soldiers. \$1000 was donated to Wafa (World Association of Floral Arrangers) for their June 2011 world flower show in Boston. A Tornado Relief Fund was established and \$928.61 was raised to aid local garden clubs whose civic projects were damaged during the tornado the day before the meeting.

In addition to the 5 programs/workshops in existence, programs were added including; a Floral Technique workshop on new European techniques; an Environmental Workshop to reinforce “green” habits; a Native Tree Contest to encourage the planting of native trees, an Environmental Contest with points given to clubs for projects and a workshop on how to put on a flower show including a CD. The new Natalie Wolfe Forum was held at the annual meeting. Eleven major flower shows were held. A 1-inch membership pin was designed, produced and sold. Two lists were compiled; a list of gardens for the visually & physically impaired and a list of conservation lands or trusts worked on by garden clubs. A President’s Binder was created that held all important data a sitting GCFM president could use. A copy went to the incoming president and one went to the office.

The process of cleaning out the Federation office in Wellesley was begun. The Scholarship Trustees sold the gardening and other books in the office for scholarship funds. Documents in the GCFM storage facility damaged by mice were put in plastic containers.

Four new clubs were welcomed: Southern Worcester Country Gardeners, Laurelwood GC, Canton’s Paint the Town Green GC and West Springfield GC. There were 102 clubs brought under the Federation umbrella exemption. Clubs planted 38,723 daffodil bulbs in conjunction with the NGC Golden Days project.

As a result of an inquiry by our States Attorney General's office, we held nine Treasurer’s workshops throughout the state to explain State and Federal regulations and bring clubs into compliance, including a binder of information for all clubs. GCFM hired a lawyer and a grant was obtained to cover costs. Financial changes were made to be in compliance with state and federal rulings including a new Financial Policy, a Document Retention Policy, a Conflict of Interest Policy and Whistle Blower Policy. All bank accounts using the GCFM Federal ID were checked and brought under the elected GCFM

treasurer's control. The Savings Fund, lost by a clerical error, was reinstated and funds given at the end of each fiscal year to the account to grow the funds. A new accounting firm was hired: Smith, Sullivan & Company of Westborough.