

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 2002, I was asked by Linda Wildes, my neighbor and club member, if I would be willing to put my garden on the Sogkonate Garden Club's tour. Having only been in Little Compton for four years, I said yes thinking that this would be an opportunity to meet local gardeners. I asked to join the club and was accepted. My life in

Little Compton would never be the same!

I had no idea what joining a garden club involved but thought that certainly it would be primarily about gardening. How surprised I was to learn of all the things SGC members do: picking up litter, teaching school children, raising funds, educating the public, creating and maintaining community gardens, winning awards, planning programs and publishing a yearbook to name a few. This list was fairly intimidating but the most frightening of the expected skills and tasks was *baking!* What had I gotten myself into?

Sixteen years later, I am still thrilled to be a member of this wonderful club. I have met so many fine people and learned so much. Being a member is both challenging and satisfying. Our members routinely go above and beyond to contribute to our lovely town and community. I must also note that in addition to maintaining the best of who we are and what we do, we have grown in our understanding and practice of gardening. We are learning about the importance of biodiversity, native plants, water quality, sustainability, wildlife habitat, and pollinators in maintaining a healthy environment. I am so proud to be joining all of you, new and continuing members, in *becoming ecological gardeners.*

Ann