

Message From Your District II Director Becky Fox Matthews

As gardeners you have probably heard of "host plants." A host plant is a plant species that insects, particularly butterflies and moths, rely on for their survival and reproduction. By providing the specific host plants the butterflies and moths need to lay their eggs on and for their caterpillars to feed on, you can support these pollinators' entire life cycle. By planting host plants along with nectar plants, which provide food for adult butterflies and bees, you create an even more attractive and beneficial garden for pollinators.

In Middle Tennessee, some native plants that serve as excellent host plants for butterflies and moths include oakleaf hydrangea, purple coneflower, buttonbush, pawpaw, spicebush, bee balm, and milkweed. Trees and shrubs like oak, dogwood, cherry, plum, willow, poplar, magnolia, redbud, maple, pine, and blueberry also play a vital role in supporting these insects. Add a few native host plants to your garden, whether in the ground or in containers, and you will take one important step toward supporting our pollinators.



Becky

Echinacea tennesseensis (TN Coneflower), Cedars of Lebanon State Park, July 1, 2025



Great Spangled Fritillary on *Monarda fistulosa* (Bee Balm), Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Jul 9, 2025





Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest!

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest!

POSTER RULES AND TIPS

- 1. All poster entries must be sponsored by a recognized local garden club.
- 2. Posters must feature Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and may NOT feature both together.
- 3. Smokey Bear posters MUST include Smokey's wildfire prevention message:

Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!

4. Woodsy Owl posters MUST include Woodsy's conservation message:

Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!

- 5. Each poster **MUST** be **11x17** inches in size.
- 6. A good poster has a bold and simple design. The message should be easily understood, both in picture and in text.
- 7. Materials that can be used include crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors, etc. The choice of paper is up to the child. Posters may include artwork pasted upon a second piece of paper. However, they must be flat. No three-dimensional posters, computer-scanned, or electronically-generated material will be accepted.
- 8. The artist's name, address, phone number, grade, school, teacher's name, city, and state must be printed on the back of the poster in the lower right corner. Please print the poster sticker from the NGC website; then paste or tape to the back of each poster.
- 9. Each poster MUST also show the sponsoring local garden club name and city.
- 10. Posters are created by individual student artists.
- 11. Students should check spelling. Posters with spelling errors will be disqualified.
- 12. Posters are judged for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message. **NOTE:** Since Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl are official icons protected by law, the colors of their clothing MUST be accurate. Check the colors on www.symbols.gov. For free participation certificates, click "NGC Poster Contest" on this site. A poster may include just the head of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl or their whole body. Woodsy Owl vintage images may also be used.
- 13. Winning posters should be copied as they will not be returned.
- 14. Visit the National Garden Clubs website and the symbols website for further contest details.
- 15. Only 5 first-place posters in the TFGC competition will be entered in regional competition. Regional winners will be entered in the national competition. National entries become the property of NGC.
- 16. Please complete the *Local Winning Poster Report* and *Local Accountability Report Form* and send with posters. These forms can be printed from the NGC website, under Projects, Youth and Scholarships, Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest.

IMPORTANT: TFGC clubs participating in this contest should have their Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl chair mail only 5 posters. Those 5 first-place posters should be sent to the TFGC Chair, Phyllis Allen, by Jan. 20, 2026, to 2975 Devonshire Cove, Germantown, TN 38139. Posters can also be sent via FedEx or UPS.





The District II Presidents' Meeting was held on July 8, 2025 at Harpeth Presbyterian Church in Brentwood.



At the Officers Table were, I-r:
Lelia Johnson—TFGC President,
LaQuita Misner—TFGC President-elect,
Ken Roberts—Program speaker
Becky Fox Matthews—District II Director
Karen Dawson—District II Vice-Director
Linda Peterson—standing in as Recording Secretary for Jennifer Kidd







Fifty-eight ladies & one gentleman attended the meeting!





Evening Belle Garden Club Members: Asha Joyce—club president, Susan Murphy, Meera Maliakkal & Ro Shulenberger



Three Murfreesboro Presidents:
Judy Rickman—Garden Lovers Club,
Lillian Hibbett—Optimistic Gardeners
Club & Patty Compton—Flower
Growers Garden Club



District II Presidents' Meeting



Gayle Jaggers



Becky Fox Matthews















Photos by Asha Joyce, Lillian Hibbett & Anna Marie Allen 10

2025-2027 District II Executive Board

Director

Becky Fox Matthews Gateway Acres Garden Club, Judges Council 1006 Waller Road Brentwood, TN 37027-8349 becky@lostfrogs.com 615-838-1359

Vice Director

Karen Dawson Town &Country Garden Club fdkd70@bellsouth.net 615-594-2455

Recording Secretary

Jennifer Kidd New Neighbors Garden Club jkkmd@comcast.net 615-478-4854

Corresponding Secretary

Kay Wells Rachel Jackson Garden Club wellsonhill@comcast.net 615-419-3718

Treasurer

Theresa Bray Beachaven Garden Club tlbray1@bellsouth.net 931-542-7362

2025-2027 District II Committee Chairmen

Awards

Gayle Jaggers Oak Hill Garden Club bgaylejaggers@comcast.net 615-772-5611

Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial

Markers

Pam Dowd Optimistic Gardeners Club pamldowd@aol.com 615-896-8663

Chaplain

Annette Shrader Clarksville Garden Club annette.shrader@yahoo.com 931-801-8832

Door Prizes

Anna Marie Allen Harpeth Bend Garden Club annabanana7@comcast.net 615-477-3030

Endowment Trust

Becky Fox Matthews District II Director becky@lostfrogs.com 615-838-1359

Grants

Lola Eslick Franklin County Garden Club eslickla@aol.com 931-808-5754

Hospitality—Co-Chairs

Tove Rawlings Country Homes Garden Club info@therawlings.net 615-876-2169

Jan Vester Country Homes Garden Club janvestertn@gmail.com 615-870-2788

Newsletter Editor

Anna Marie Allen Harpeth Bend Garden Club annabanana7@comcast.net 615-477-3030

Parliamentarian

Gwyne Ellis Powers Country Homes Garden Club plantprincess2005@yahoo.com 813-833-5907

Vision of Beauty Calendar

Kandee Walker Harpeth Bend Garden Club twalker10@aol.com 615-403-5053

Ways & Means

TBD



The Evening Belle Garden Club July 9, 2025 Meeting





2025 -2027 Officers President: Asha Joyce Vice president: Ro Shulenberger

Secretary: Susan Murphy Treasurer: Lesa Cannon



Evening Belle Garden Club

met at the home of Meera Maliakkal for a wonderful evening of fun and learning. The member-led program by Frankie Cowan taught wreath making techniques using items foraged from members' gardens.









Horticulture was judged by Teri Wrenn.

Evening Belle Garden Club



Club Member Irene Fuerer's yard was certified by the

National Wildlife Federation as a Certified Wildlife Habitat.













We met at Morna Conway's home in Murfreesboro, where her gardens contain 300 roses and also feature Hemerocallis, Oriental lilies, and native plants for pollinators, including Asclepias. Morna's close friend and neighbor Lynn Smith catered a wonderful lunch of quiche, salad, and crudités, with dessert provided by Mary Forrest, Margaret Mainardi, and Rachel Bush. Co-hostess Marchelle Butler provided the refreshments.

Special guest, Karen Dawson, Master Gardener, former TFGC treasurer, and Vice Director of District II, surprised Patty Compton, our president, with a Lifetime Membership in TFGC. Karen praised Patty's many years of service and her dedication to TFGC as co-treasurer, as well as her 10 year serving as president of Flower Growers Garden Club.



FGGC President Patty Compton receives a TFGC Life Membership Award from Karen Dawson



National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Convention for
"Welcome to Peter Rabbit's Garden"
Horticulture Specialty Show.



Flower Growers Garden Club

Our classifications were "Intertwined" and "Garden Blooms in a Basket", both Designer's Choice, and "Floating Flowers", a Petite Design 12" or under. We also had many beautiful specimens from members' gardens. Karen was gracious enough to act as judge for the Horticulture and Classifications, and gave us very detailed and helpful critiques, inspiring us all to keep trying!





Pam Martin, Classification Chairwoman continued Flower Show Education with a handout on how to fill out an entry card, and Kim Orrand, First VP assigned each member a unique entry number to use for future classifications.



Melanie Heston





Karen Dawson & Morna Conway





Flower Growers Garden Club

Morna presented her approach to flower gardening (emphasis on roses), including composting kitchen and floral waste in an Electric Composter by Reencle, keeping a detailed written record of what she plants and how each plant does, her feeding and spraying program (all organic), and her use of beneficial insects—ladybugs, green lacewings, and nematodes. She reported that she has not seen an aphid or whitefly since she let 3000 ladybugs loose in her garden this spring!

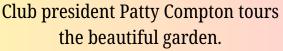






Some of Morna's roses: 'Love at First Sight', 'Handel', & 'Anna's Promise'







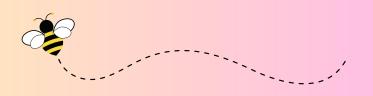




Marchelle Compton, Margaret Mainardi, Morna
Conway, Linda Sebolt,
Pam Martin & Melanie Heston

Flower Growers Garden Club

In Other News:



Our seed project (The Free Indigenous Seed and Heirloom Planting Project, funded by a generous grant from TFGC) is moving into high gear, with Middle Tennessee Christian School (MTCS) partnering with us to educate students about native plants and heirloom, non-GMO vegetables, and to establish a Native Wildflower Garden at the school, using a special mix of seeds for honey bees.

The School has a Bee Club, and, thanks to Melanie Heston, who used to teach at MTCS, we are planning several projects. Cynthia Allen of MTSU is also helping with publicizing our Native Seeds Project, by creating flyers explaining why **pollinators** are so important to our food supply. And Kim Orrand has created beautiful Seed Boxes to display the seeds. She is placing seeds in Little

Libraries and schools.













Lake Forest Acres Garden Club



At the Lake Forest Acres Garden Club's June 23, 2025 Monthly Meeting, members Doris Wyatt and Lucricia Cole invited Ron Daniels who is a Master Rosarian with the American Rose Society. Master Gardener of Sumner County, member of the Nashville Rose Society, and author of Rose Therapy to speak at their monthly program. Mr. Daniels shared about his history. his garden of 160 rose bushes and his work with restoring gardens at Belmont University, Belle Air Mansion, and The Hermitage. Ron is a 3rd generation gardener who loves and enjoys growing roses. In his book, Rose Therapy, he shares his experience with others who have the same desire to grow champion roses and other plants and to do so successfully. His book also reveals the "bigger picture" behind growing and caring for roses, their power to bring different people together, and communicate profound emotional depth without saying a word. (As pictured, Doris Wyatt made miniature rose arrangements for the members

to take home.)

Lake Forest Acres Garden Club



Doris Wyatt with Ron Daniels

Book Signing: Ron Daniels & Anice Rouse

The Club had a great turnout and was very fortunate to have Ron Daniels share his stories and expertise. Many thanks to him for sharing his valuable information and for giving his book and the beautiful rose bush as door prizes. Members were able to purchase his book and have him sign it at the meeting. Kudos to both Doris Wyatt and Lucricia Cole for planning such a great program!! (Due to an extended illness, unfortunately, co-hostess Lucricia Cole was unable to attend the meeting. As a special gift, Ron Daniels made her a beautiful flower arrangement [pictured]. We wish her well and pray she recovers soon.) 🙏



Arrangement to Lucricia Cole

New Neighbors Garden Club

Nineteen New Neighbors Garden Club members met on the last Tuesday of June at member Kathie Knight's home (former New Neighbor's Garden Club president) for a meeting, lunch, and to tour her gorgeous gardens at Green Chapel Road in Franklin.







Submitted by Jolly Sinha



Hostess Kathie Knight



Kathie explained that empty land was purchased in 2014, with "bones" of the garden added first (large trees & fencing) then perennials and annuals. There are now too many plant species to count! Kathie says that she tends to see a plant that she likes, and then finds a place for it or reads about a plant and then tries to find her favorites. Her house, guesthouse, garden, greenhouse, and newly built garden shed sit on twenty acres with half woods.





New Neighbors Garden Club















New Neighbors Garden Club







Horticultural Specimens



Club member Jolly Sinha gave a presentation on "What to Do & Not to Do when Displaying Horticultural Specimens".

July 2, 2025 Meeting



A Welcoming Display!



Hostesses: Jenny Reid, Carole Reynolds, Carol Hargett, & Shelby Moore



Festive Table Decor









Kay Clark had a wonderful succulent display using teapots and cups.

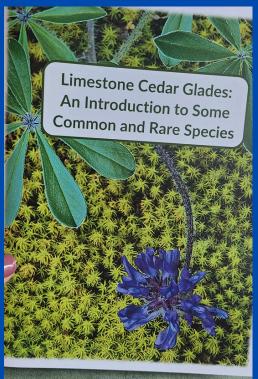


Demonstration by Joe & Lynn Rouse: "How to Do an Underwater Design Using a Fishbowl"











MTSU Professor Dr. Kim Cleary Sadler presented a program on Limestone Cedar Glades. These glades are unique, globally significant ecosystems found primarily in Middle Tennessee's Central Basin. They are characterized by exposed limestone bedrock, thin soils and extreme conditions that support specialized plant communities, including many endemic plant species found nowhere else. The Eastern Red Cedar trees that often dominate the landscape give the glades their name.





Floral Designs: Celebrate Summer & Summer Picnic



























Floral Design: Red, White & Blue



Petite Designs: Summer Joy











Tyne Meade Garden Club

A major project for the club is maintaining The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere's Herb Garden. These work days consist of weeding, staking plants, pruning unruly herbs, planting new herbs and dead heading.



Nancy Goodrich, Monty West, Kathy Brown & Betsy Abernathy



Doris Weakley trims climbing rose Peggy Martin, known as the "Katrina Rose" because it was the only living thing in Peggy Martin's New Orlean's garden after Hurricane Katrina.





Five sweatiest TMGC members ever! Carol Smith, Jan Shockey, Janet Brownlee, Doris Weakley & Sheila Turk

Tyne Meade Garden Club Hosts a Festive Luau

Never mind the steamy weather, Doris Weakley's lush garden provided a lovely setting for our get-together for members and guests on Saturday, July 12.

Members sported leis and enjoyed drinks and fabulous food items, from tabouleh to kabobs to bean dip to pork and chicken sandwiches to pineapple upside cake and pina colada cake!

This is sure to become a yearly event!



Guests Brad & Sarah Wilson and Tyne Meade members Sheila Turk & Kathy Brown

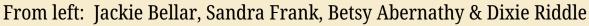
Tyne Meade Garden Club



Enjoying the luau and handmade fans are Shannon Thurman, Carol Smith, Susie Jones, and Janeene Larkin Horn









Volunteer Garden Club

The Volunteer Garden Club held its annual picnic,
Friday, July 11, 2025 at Arrington Vineyards. Nine Volunteer
members and five guests, three of which were from the Shelbyville
Garden Club, enjoyed a fun outing that included lunch and learning
about the vineyards and the wines produced there.



Left to right: Myrtle Howell, former Volunteer member and guest, Judy Smith, Aleitha Kimbro, Gwendolyn Stafford, Shelbyville Garden Club member, Aurelia Swann, Volunteer president 2025-2027, Babs Chicoine, Shelbyville Garden Club president 2025-2027, Laurel, Arrington staff member responsible for gardens, June Gilmore, Freda Head, Shelbyville Garden Club member, Patricia Shavers and Suzanne Bobo.

Volunteer Garden Club

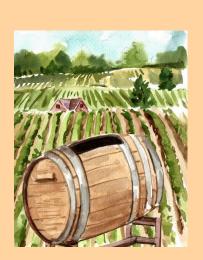




Guest, Natalie Countess, left, and Ardis Ritenberry, right, get information about the plantings around the vineyards from staff member, Laurel, middle.



Suzanne Bobo, Aurelia Swann, Ardis Rittenberry and Patricia Shavers pose with one of the decorative plantings at Arrington Vineyards.







Ardis Rittenberry, Ann Spencer, Judy Pierce, program chair for the day, Suzanne Bobo and Natalie Countess visit following lunch.

Volunteer Garden Club



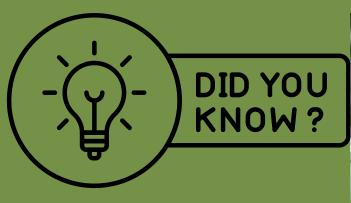
Ann Spencer, Judy Pierce, Myrtle Howell, Aleitha Kimbro, Judy Smith and June Gilmore, hostess for the picnic.



Submitted by June Gilmore



Arrington staff member Sarah informs the group about the types of grapes grown at Arrington Vineyards as well as the types of wines produced and how climate influences both production and the grape varieties grown. She also gave a brief history of the vineyards.





...this comes from the pod of an orchid?

Vanilla flavoring comes from the pod of an orchid, Vanilla planifolia. Though the pods are called vanilla beans, they're not actually in the legume family like green beans. Vanilla extract is a solution made by macerating and percolating vanilla pods in a solution of ethanol and water. The process takes about 8 - 9 months to get the extract.







Jolly Sinha is a member of TFGC, the Rachel Jackson Garden Club, New Neighbors Garden Club, T.A.G.S. & District II Judges Council. She is a regular contributor to the column "Did You Know?"

VANILLA

Gardening—A Way of Life





Your lawn is always slightly bigger than your desire to mow it.

Whichever garden tool you want is always at the back of the shed.

The only way to ensure rain is to give the garden a good soaking.

Weeds grow at precisely the rate you pull them out.

Nothing ever looks like it does on the seed packet.

Autumn follows summer, winter follows autumn, drought follows planting .

The only way to guarantee some color all year around is to buy a garden gnome.

However bare the lawn, grass will appear in the cracks between the patio paving stones.

You always need the gardening tool you forgot to take to work in the garden.





Middle Tennessee Daylily Society Best in Show Award and Best Small Award went to Hemerocallis 'Siloam Merle Kent' exhibited by Emily Robertson





District II Photos of the Month



Annette Shrader



Anna Marie Allen
Sunflower from seed that my chipmunks
"Chipper" & "Jones" planted



Morna Conway



Julia Wilson



Claudette Ryan

District II Photos of the Month



Morna Conway



Jean Pickard



Becky Fox Matthews



Denise Thorne

District II Photos of the Month



Becky Fox Matthews



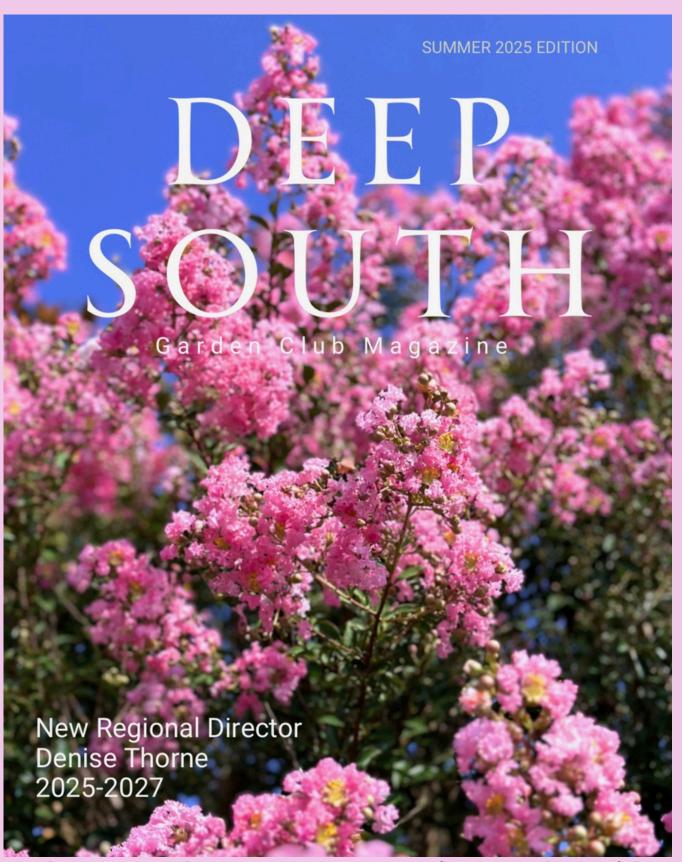
Anna Marie Allen



Julia Wilson



Claudette Ryan



The Deep South Directory Issue cover features a beautiful Crepe Myrtle that was rehomed over 20 years ago—rescued from a 150 year-old home on a job site of Thorne's Excavating Company.

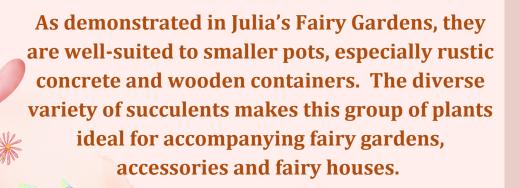
Special Feature: Fairy Gardens

Fairy gardens have become quite popular with both adults and children as a whimsical creative outlet. An endless variety of fairies, their houses and accessories is available online and in stores.

The only limit is your imagination!



These beautifully composed fairy gardens are the creation of Julia Wilson, a member of the Optimistic Gardeners Club. She had a recent garden tour that featured the improvements to her yard & garden. Over the past two summers, the yard has progressed from four boxwoods & one arborvitae on the Watertown property to a wonderfully designed garden space.



Fairies, Elves & Mushrooms can start out in containers and gradually take over the entire backyard landscape, as in this garden designed by Anna Marie Allen of the Harpeth Bend Garden Club.













Asha Joyce, president of Evening Belle Garden Club, shared photos of her lovely fairy garden at the base of a tree.







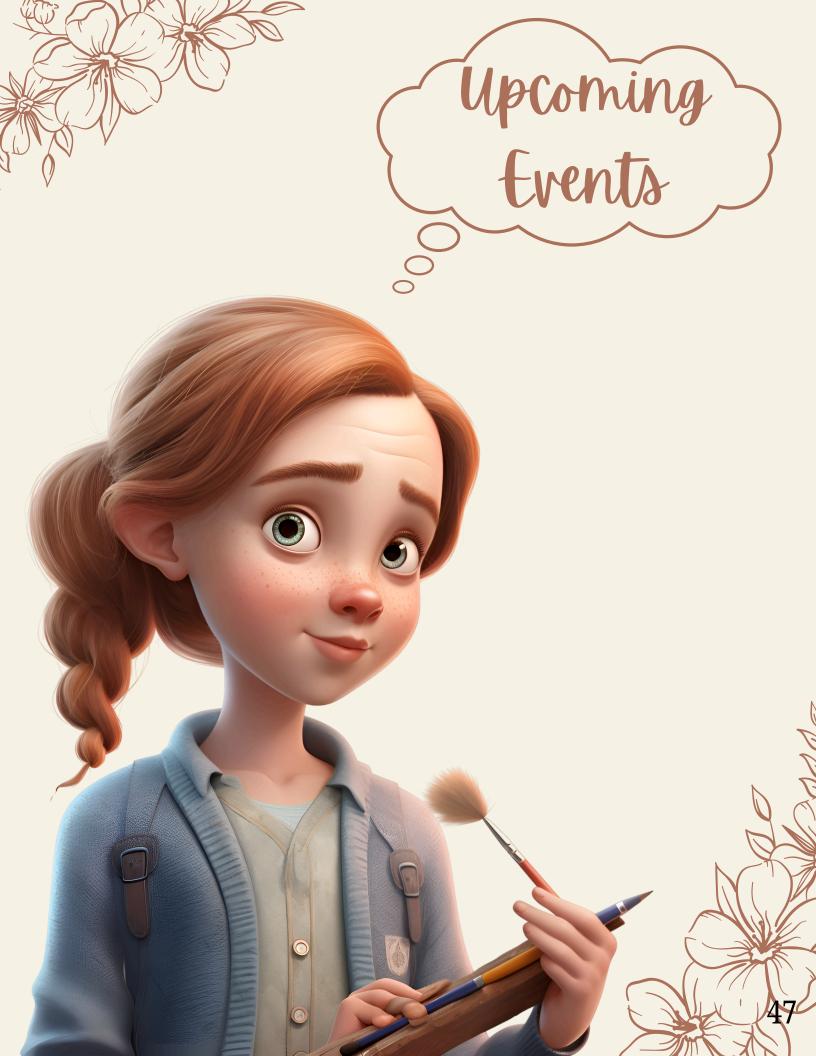




A unique approach is to incorporate real tree stumps as bases for the fairy gardens, as demonstrated by Suzanne Mickel.













FLEURS DE VILLES

ARTISTE

AUGUST 2 - 10

- · An exhibition of 12 fresh floral masterpieces
- Delight in special events and floral demonstrations
- Inspired by Cheekwood's permanent art collection
- · Vote for your favorite mannequin!













Luncheon and Plant/Seed Swap/ & Program on Pink flowers and friends in the Summer Garden

Monday, August 11, 2025 10:00 am EST

All proceeds go to restoring the Plant it Pink Garden at the Racheff House & Gardens

> 1943 Tennessee Ave. Knoxville, TN 37921 \$15.00 to IRH&G

Memo Plant it Pink Garden

Mail to: IRH&G Treasurer Karen Dawson

2499 Sugar Flat Road

Lebanon, TN 37087

Luncheon
Tea Sandwiches / Pink filling
Pasta Salad with Pink Garnish
Pink Fluff Salad
Pink Cupcake or Cookie
Pink Lemonade



2025 Music City Rose Show

presented by
The Nashville Rose Society







Saturday, September 13 (1:00pm - 5:00pm) Sunday, September 14 (11:00am - 4:00pm)



at

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
Massey Auditorium
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37205



Free and Open to the Public

52

The Nashville Rose Society is an affiliate of TFGC.



"Birds, Bees, Flowers & Trees"

Flower Show presented by



Flower Lovers Circle

at the Middle Tennessee District Fair





Meeting and Coffee "Floral Design Focus"

October 13, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Botanic Hall
Cheekwood
Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville

HSMT is an affiliate of TFGC.

The Rachel Jackson Garden Club presents



An NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show Thursday, October 16, 2025

Staged at *Through the Grapevine* Banquet Suite 190 630 Broadmor Boulevard
Murfreesboro, TN 37129-0902

Show viewing hours 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm



Show closes at 2:30 pm

OPEN AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC

The Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee and Dillard's present a

FASHION SHOW & TEA PARTY

Fashion Show begins at 12 noon
Open to public

Tea Party follows Fashion Show

Saturday, October 18, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Supporting the "Plant a Tree" Campaign

Dillard's The Mall at Green Hills Nashville

Branching Out
THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
MIDDLE TENNESSEE

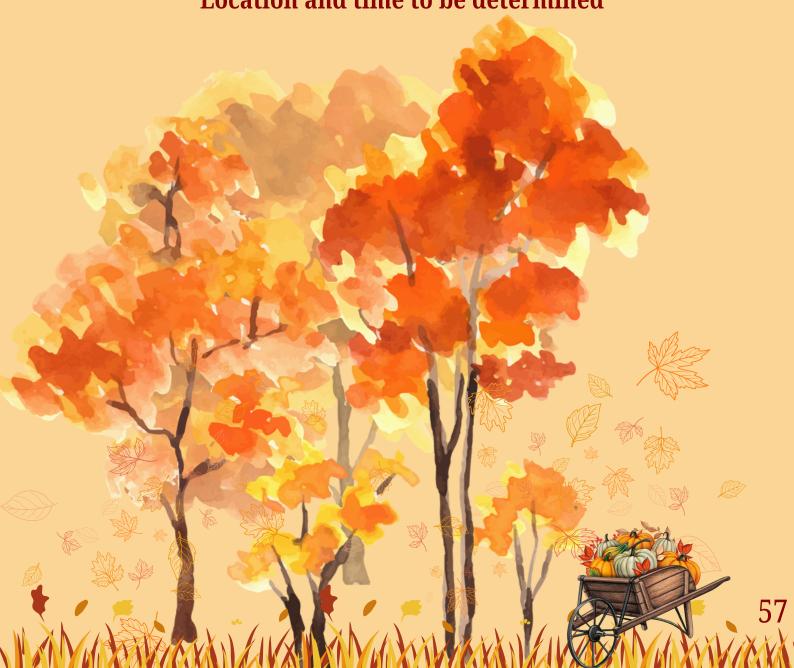
VIP Front Row Seating and Tea Party tickets can be purchased in advance.



Thursday, October 23, 2025

TFGC 2025 State Board of Directors Meeting & Luncheon

Location and time to be determined



Save The Date

Sparkling Settings

Holiday Luncheon

Monday, December 1, 2025

11:00AM - 1:00 PM

BOTANIC HALL CHEEKWOOD ESTATE & GARDENS,

1200 FORREST PARK DRIVE NASHVILLE





Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Winter Merrhership Meeting

Monday January 12, 2026 10:00 am

Horticulture Focus
& Vote on Slate of Officers







National Garden Clubs, Inc. 2026 Convention

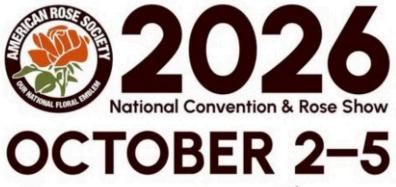
Saturday & Sunday May 16 - 17



St. Louis, Missouri

Venue & Details TBD







Sheraton Music City Nashville Airport Hotel | Nashville, TN

More information coming soon!

2026ARSConvention@gmail.com



THINGS I DO IN MY SPARE TIME Rearrange Water plants Repot plants Talk to plants Propagate plants Buy