

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Volunteer Gardener

Fall 2025



tngardenclubs.org



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The ***Volunteer Gardener*** is the official
publication of the
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



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Guidelines for *Volunteer Gardener (VG)* Submissions



Deadlines for Submissions:

- **January 1 for *Winter VG***
- **April 1 for *Spring VG***
- **July 1 for *Summer VG***
- **October 1 for *Fall VG***

- A “Message from the District Director” is welcomed from all Districts in each VG edition.
- The VG editor wants to be fair to all four TFGC Districts in sharing information in the magazine. If the editor receives a disproportionate number of articles from one District, articles & photos will be included in the order they were received, and some articles may be saved for the next VG edition.
- **Format of articles:** Because there are many levels of technologic sophistication among club members, the editor will accept a full spectrum of submissions:
 - simply a text or email with photos and a description of the club project without any formatting, and the editor will format it for you.
 - Please list names of club members in the photos, L. to R.
 - Word or Adobe PDF document is acceptable.
- If there are photos of youth and your club does not have written parental consent to publish the youth’s photo, the youths’ faces will be obscured.
- **Length of article:**
 - Max of 3 pages if submitted in Word or PDF format
 - Max of 10 photos if photos and text/article are submitted without formatting
- If you have creative club members who like to write or take photos, please encourage them to submit articles, poems or photos that would be of interest to TFGC. The member and their club will be recognized in a “Special Feature”. At the end of each year, outstanding articles, photography and poetry will be nominated by the VG editor for a #68 B, C or D TFGC State Award.

Thanks,
Anna Marie Allen
Volunteer Gardener Editor
annabanana7@comcast.net
text: 615-477-3030



Message from the TFGC President

Lelia Johnson



Hello and Hallelujah, TFGC !

The autumn equinox was September 22. Summer is gone and hopefully taken with it our hot dry weather and sporadic floods! Gardening is equally unpredictable. My feathered neighbors laced my beds with sunflowers. They are cheerful and sometimes large surprises.

I cannot help but begin by sharing the news that TFGC acquire 68 new members from April to August. The 2025 ETF Grants have been awarded. The Environmental, Garden and Landscape Schools are gearing up. Read this VG to see the myriad projects our Districts and Clubs are accomplishing. Flower Shows and Judges Councils and Junior Garden Clubs Oh, my !

And now I hope to put some wondering minds at ease. First, may I explain the TFGC Racheff House and Gardens status. The first hour of my administration I was asked, "What will happen to Racheff?" At that moment I stated that my plan was to ask the 2025 Executive Board members to serve as interim officers. They agreed along with other members of District II and District IV. That is precisely what has happened. Accounts have all been retitled to TFGC but remain separate from the other state accounts. The interim officers have welcomed former Racheff team members and their vast experience. An interior inventory of the house condition was made. Immediately some serious repairs began (for example, water pouring into the main meeting room from a terrace leak above). KUB Internet has been installed. Several needed garden projects are underway. While shouldering their elected and appointed positions your TFGC officers are also focusing on the needs of our headquarters. The Racheff meetings are on the second Monday of each month, with some exceptions. While Zoom is in place, absentee committee members should read the monthly emailed minutes and treasurer's reports. Then there should be few questions about operating costs.

Perhaps you recall my August request for clubs to add Racheff as a charitable donation to their budgets. My motivation is the sizeable cost of running these shareable gardens. Keep in mind that the property is on 3.5 acres and the three-story house was built in 1902. My \$3,000 monthly budget number was challenged. It was low. July Racheff expenses were \$4,471.87. \$811 were

house related, including the yearly fees of \$226 for the post office box and \$57 for the safe deposit box. All the other July expenses were garden related. Again, if you have questions, I recommend reading the monthly treasurer's reports sent to the Racheff Committee members. Ask your District Directors to share them if you are interested.

Another area of member concern is my Ways & Means project. Every TFGC president has one. The profits from her project are disbursed at her discretion. As I prepared to be your president, I opened my drawers containing former TFGC Ways & Means items. I purchase these to support former presidents. My drawer has 10 packs of note cards, 4 scarves, 3 TFGC shirts with our logo, and more. I wanted a project in which everyone could participate but not leave overstocked or personally unusable items and make a profit. My project allows all of your voluntary 2025 and 2026 Ways and Means donations to go directly to our Treasury, not in a drawer.

How will I direct the disbursement of Ways and Means funds collected during my administration? They will all support the expenses of TFGC and Ivan Racheff House and Gardens. This is my project, approved at my first Board Meeting in April. In order to take care of our expenses we need revenue. If you have never supported Ways & Means in the past this is a bargain. Choose any amount or none. YOUR CHOICE!!

October is a busy month. The Districts are having their fall meetings and I plan to visit each one of them. Your wonderful club and district news items bring me joy and a sense of justification for the labor involved in our serious business concerns.

October 28, 2025 is our Fall Board of Directors Meeting. You will receive your call letter in a few days. Again we will meet in Murfreesboro at Through the Grapevine at 10:30am CST. All Board members will receive an email invitation. With a limit of 99 attendees, other TFGC members will be sent the meeting credentials upon request to Diane Ryder. You must have a direct Zoom invitation to attend.

My gratitude is boundless for all who labor for TFGC.

As we travel this journey let us remember that we are a TEAM. I pray that we can continue in an atmosphere of congeniality and mutual support.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE!!

Lelia Haley Johnson

2025-2027 TFGC President



Message from the TFGC President-elect LaQuita Misner

Dear Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs,

In 1972, the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs was bequeathed a property and home/office in the Lonsdale community of Knoxville. The property was quite unique along with its history. An Austrian immigrant, Ivan Racheff had come to this country with nothing, worked to get educated, well-educated in fact, and made something of himself. When asked to inspect an iron works mill in Knoxville, he came down from Chicago and must have had a vision. For he returned a short time later determined to purchase the floundering mill and adjoining property. He built an office with living quarters for himself and set about restoring the mill to prosperity.

And he did.

An iron works is a dirty business with much detritus left behind. This leftover debris covered his new property and the processes used in the business did not make for a healthy breathing environment either. Way ahead of his time, Mr. Racheff made a plan to clean the air in his corner of the city, protecting his neighbors at the same time. But how? What could be his solution? What could he do as one person to change the environment? He could plant trees and shrubs and flowers from all over the world and create a beautiful garden oasis out of this property.

And he did.

Seventy-six dollars. Seventy-six dollars is the amount Mr. Racheff used to start his garden. And before he was finished, he had covered his three and-a-half acres with all manner of horticulture. He had a pond, structures and areas in the gardens and enough different trees to be designated a level one arboretum. Bringing bulbs from his native Europe, he covered areas in color as well. And this brought what was once a blighted eyesore into a sanctuary of beauty and respite. To facilitate meetings and business hospitality, he added a meeting hall to his home. And through it all, his vision was to share his bounty with the neighborhood around him, especially the children.

And he did.



Time has a way of passing and as it did, Mr. Racheff began to think about how to preserve his haven for posterity. Who could be entrusted with the responsibility? He had been honored with a Silver Star award from the National Garden Clubs for the novel transformation of his property. And so, when the University of Tennessee was unable to take on the responsibility for continuing his vision, the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs was approached to carry it forward.

And we accepted.

The federation accepted. At almost fifty years in existence, they now owned property. Mr. Racheff's home, office and gardens became the state headquarters of the Tennessee federation. What a gift. What a responsibility. As time passes, like it or not, it also provides an education. With the acceptance of the gift of the property from Mr. Racheff, the federation would have been wise to set plans in place, or rather funds in place to take care of the magnificent gift we had been given. But, alas, that was not the case. While it was a proud accomplishment to be able to tout the ownership of a physical state headquarters, lip service may have been most of what the new state headquarters received. Tennessee, as states go, is a long way across and it was and is a commitment to make a trip to Racheff. But commitment is what a building and gardens require. Attention is what they have to have to be healthy. When we accepted the gift of the property, we should have expected to have to take care of it. All of it.

We did not.

And so, my story comes to the conclusion that the primary responsibility for Racheff House and Gardens, the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs headquarters, the gift Ivan Racheff so carefully bequeathed to us to care for has fallen on District Iv to maintain. That responsibility includes the maintenance, the expenses, the work hours and almost all of the fundraising to take care of our historic property. One district out of four has tried to provide everything the property needed for the last fifty plus years.

We have tried.

Now, it is time for the entire federation to take on more than the honor of having a state headquarters before it is too late. It is time for it to act to support the headquarters with physical and financial support that should have been in place since the acceptance of the gift.

It is time to take responsibility as stewards of the house and gardens in the manner Mr. Racheff believed we would.

For the gift, for the children, for the future, it is time.

~ LaQuita Misner





Ivan Racheff House & Gardens & Arboretum

Tennessee Federation of
Garden Clubs, Inc.
State Headquarters



**Ivan Racheff House & Gardens
TFGC Headquarters Arboretum Level II
1943 Tennessee Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921-2686
865-522-6210
racheffhouseandgardens.com**



Ivan Racheff House & Gardens News



from The Interim Racheff Committee

September 30, 2025

Since April 2025, the TFGC Executive Board and volunteers have been hard at work at your state headquarters. The directive to address and take care of the house and gardens has been taken very seriously and with much enthusiasm. Here are just a few things that have been accomplished in the five short months we have been on the job.

- ✓ All locks with previous access have been changed and keys distributed to the officers working on the committee or staff. Anyone needing access to the house and not in possession of a key should contact the TFGC President Lelia Johnson to gain access to the house. Locks not found in good working condition have been replaced.
- ✓ All financial accounts now have TFGC signatories along with Racheff officers per the TFGC bylaws. All financial account reports are distributed, reviewed and discussed in detail at each meeting.
- ✓ Investment firms are visiting the meetings to present information and discuss our strategy for supporting the house and gardens in a more proactive manner.
- ✓ The house sub-committee has inspected and evaluated the house for needs and repairs and reported to the entire committee for prioritization.
- ✓ The Knox County/Knoxville Planning Commission has visited and spoken to the committee about the historic guidelines that we need to follow when repairing the house and expressed interest in being a part of our mission to restore the house and gardens to their best.
- ✓ Monies have been located that are available for use to repair the balcony leak, the project re-evaluated and work begun to mitigate the leak and repair the damage from it. The company entrusted with this work has been respectful of our non-profit status and is eager to assist in restoration along with us.
- ✓ Members of the board have been in discussion with our supporters at the CMC mill and employees have assisted in helping with the Children's Garden restoration project. We hope to include the representative working with us on the committee.
- ✓ KUB has been enlisted to inspect the valves in the garden for leaks. We are currently awaiting the final report so that we might take action to resolve the problem.
- ✓ Internet, Wi-Fi and phone services have been updated and meetings are now being held on Zoom to enhance the opportunity for TFGC member involvement across the state.
- ✓ Visitation is up and member clubs as well as outside groups have used and supported the house and gardens with their funds. Events have been held and are planned by the committee to continue this positive trend.

Much credit goes to the new TFGC president and her board, TFGC advisors and volunteers dedicated to the house and gardens for the heroic efforts being put in to this restoration and revitalization of not only the house and gardens and the committee to care for them, but the mission of Mr. Racheff.



Ivan Racheff House & Gardens

July 24, 2025

TFGC Garden Workday



Hello ladies,

Thank you for the GREAT turnout and volunteer spirit for our statewide garden workday July 24th! It takes a village to get things accomplished! Five master gardeners (four of which are TFGC garden club members), nine TFGC garden club members, and three employees from CMC joined us for a very productive and fun morning in the garden.

Please see the list of all those who participated. A big shout out goes to Chris Miles, Cassidy, and Roger from CMC (the steel mill behind Racheff gardens). They brought rebar and put up the festive fence in the Children's Garden.

It is really appreciated that you made the trip and worked in the humidity and heat to make our historic garden the gem it is.

All the best,

Janie Bitner

TFGC, Inc.

Racheff House & Gardens

KCMG Horticulture Liaison

865-474-0882

janie.bitner@live.com



Ivan Racheff House & Gardens

July 24, 2025

TFGC Garden Workday

Attending Racheff Gardens Special Work Day Thursday, July 24, 2025

Master gardeners-
Nancy Howell, KCMG + Chapman Highway Garden Club
nhowell@utk.edu
865-661-0091

Gina Bond, KCMG + Lakemoor Hills Garden Club
volphan87@gmail.com

Barbara Price, KCMG intern
thisisitprice@gmail.com

Janie Bitner, KCMG + Tuckaleechee Garden Club
janiebitner@live.com

Karen Dawson, Wilson County MG + Town and Country Garden Club
fdkd70@bellsouth.net

Garden Club members-

Laquita Misner, Dixie Highway Garden Club
lgmisner@aol.com
865-719-5677

Peggy Miles, East Side Garden Club, Greeneville, TN
peggymiles@gmail.com
423-422-4482 OR 423-422-4182

Virginia McKinney, West Hill Ten O'Clock Garden Club
vmckinney43@outlook.com

Linda Wimbrow
lwimbrow@tds.net

Carole Whited, Noweta Garden Club
ccwhited@aol.com

Lori Emery, West Hills Ten O'clock Garden Club
laemery@hotmail.com

Evelyn Davis, Garden Club of Signal Mountain, Chattanooga
evelyndavis112@msn.com

Leila Johnson, Harrogate Garden Club, Cleveland & TFGC president
ljohnson924@yahoo.com

Jan Brown, Chapman Highway Garden Club
drjanw@comcast.net

***KCMG = Knox County Master Gardeners**



"Plant it Pink" Event Recap

On Monday, August 11, 2025 we hosted the first ***Luncheon with Program*** event at **Ivan Racheff House & Gardens** this summer. The luncheon menu selection included several dishes featuring the color pink.

The program centered around the existing “Pink Garden” area in our Arboretum. Denise Thorne was our presenter explaining pink plants to use that would provide a continuous pink theme throughout the year.

There were twenty-four paid Garden Club Members attending this event, with those attending paying a total of \$360. Additionally, two individuals matched the \$360 for a total of \$720.

A plant sale brought in \$60, and \$50 from the gift shop.

Our “Plant it Pink” event raised a total of \$830. Congratulations to everyone who came to this event!

Don't worry if you missed this one, we plan on having multiple ***“Luncheon with Program”*** events.

Submitted by Karen Dawson
Ivan Racheff House & Gardens
Interim Treasurer



Welcome to our new club

Racheff Garden Club



First Meeting

Monday, October 13, 2025

10:00 am EST

Ivan Racheff House & Gardens

1943 Tennessee Avenue

Knoxville, TN 37921

Fall Bulb Program

Bulb Sale Program

Refreshments

Info: Denise Thorne

(615) 289-2138 denise@tec63.com



Bulb Sale

Monday, October 13, 2025

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Ivan Racheff House & Gardens

1943 Tennessee Avenue

Knoxville



Tulips

Daffodils

Allium

Lilies

Iris

***All proceeds go to IRH&G**

Racheff House and Gardens Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs

Bulb Sale List

	Bulb		number per bag	price per bag
	Allium Shuberti	Minor Bulbs	3	\$ 12.00
	Allium Shuberti Artie Snow		1	\$ 9.00
	Giant Orienpet Lily		1	\$ 8.00
	Claude Shride Lily		1	\$ 8.00
	Fritillaria Mix		10	\$ 6.00
	Leucojum		5	\$ 7.00
	Iris Reticulata Blue Hill		5	\$ 7.00
	Iris Reticulata Blue Alida		5	\$ 7.00
	Apeldoorn	Tulip Bulbs	5	\$ 6.00
	Black Parrott Tulip		5	\$ 8.00
	Catherina		5	\$ 8.00
	Double Blue Spectaclet		5	\$ 8.00
	Early Avant Garde		5	\$ 8.00
	Golden Parade		5	\$ 7.00
	Princess Irene		5	\$ 7.00

	Red Dress Crown		5	\$ 7.00
	Sweet Valley Double		5	\$ 8.00
	Accent	Daffodils	5	\$ 8.00
	Aspasia		5	\$ 10.00
	Barrett Browning		5	\$ 7.00
	Holland Sensation		5	\$ 8.00
	Jetfire		5	\$ 8.00
	Kedron		5	\$ 8.00
	Marieke		5	\$ 10.00
	Popeye		5	\$ 9.00
	Rijnveld's Early Sensation		5	\$ 8.00
	Starlight Sensation		5	\$ 8.00
	Sun Disc		5	\$ 8.00
	Tahiti		5	\$ 8.00
	Tete Boucle'		5	\$ 7.00
	Thalia		5	\$ 7.00
***Bulb Sale Preview October 13, 2025 - 11:00am to 3:00pm				

YOU ARE INVITED TO
The Ivan Racheff House
& Gardens

Greens Tea

PRE-SALE EVENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

NOON - 3:00 PM

TICKETS \$10 AT THE DOOR

COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE
& REFRESHMENTS

1943 TENNESSEE
AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921



Shop for beautiful holiday wreaths, topiaries, bulbs, & bake goods.
Visit the gift shop for vintage & garden-related items.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

The Ivan Racheff House
& Gardens

Greens Tea

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2025

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM



1943 TENNESSEE
AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

TFGC, Deep South & NGC Information & Events





Important Flower Show Information

TENNESSEE FEDERATION of GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

October 2025

This is a reminder for Flower shows:

*In the future, if judges want to claim exhibiting and judging credits at any Tennessee State or County Fair Flower Show or any Plant Society Flower Show, you must send the schedule four (4) months in advance of the show to the TFGC Schedule review chairman Kathy Rychen kathyrychen@gmail.com for **review and approval**. If there are any issues, the schedule will be submitted to NGC Flower Shows and Flower Show Schools Committee Chairman Gina Jogan for final determination.*

Judges and garden club members are encouraged to participate in non-NGC Fair Flower Shows, as a courtesy, to support the community, and to establish, maintain, and serve as good public relations for the garden clubs.

*Thank you,
Lelia Haley Johnson
TFGC President
2025-2027*

**TFGC 2025 State
Board of Directors Meeting & Luncheon**

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

10:30am

“Through the Grapevine”

630 Broadmor Boulevard

Murfreesboro, TN 37129





TFGC Gardening School

Instructors Needed



TFGC is planning to offer an online Gardening School this winter so all our gardening friends can be ready for the new season next spring. This NGC sanctioned School will offer Certification for new Consultants and Refresher Credits for those who are already certified.

Instructors are needed and we are asking your help to identify those individuals you know would be knowledgeable enough and would present good programs. Specific course content is set by NGC and will be provided to each instructor. Since the Courses will be virtual, we would like to involve instructors from across the state. Please send the name and email address (or other contact information), along with anything you might know about the individual's credentials to the TFGC Gardening School Chairman Marilyn McDonnell at mmcdonnell25@comcast.net. Be sure to mention the topic you feel would be best for this individual. Instructors might be college/university/technical college professors, extension agents, individuals employed in a specific field related to the topic, master gardeners, etc. Let's see if we can have all our Districts represented!

The following is a list of topics to be addressed over the 4 Courses (most will only be a 1 to 2-hour topic). We need instructors for each of these.

- Basic Botany
- Soils
- Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers
- Plant Propagation
- Plant Diseases and Garden Pests
- Irrigation and Water
- Lawn Alternatives and Growing Grass
- Growing Fruit
- Growing Vegetables
- Factors that Influence Plant Growth
- New Plant Development and Evaluation
- Outdoor Container Gardening
- Houseplant Basics
- Native Trees and Shrubs
- Plant Classification and Nomenclature
- Outdoor Identification of Plants
- Specialized Styles of Gardening
- Techniques for Growing Woody Ornamentals
- Pruning Techniques

APPRENTICE NEEDED

Needs to be

Familiar with Computers, scanning, uploading

Able to communicate via computer

Able to keep charts and records

Able to work with Wonderful Members

Must be able to attend conventions etc.

Enjoy presenting awards to great people and clubs

THEN THIS JOB IS FOR YOU

Are YOU our next Awards Chairman ?

Contact me at
buffiescorner@bellsouth.net

and we can get you started.
You will have one year to learn and gain experience

WE NEED YOU
—from Debbie Shaver

JUDGING AWARDS

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

starting at 9:00 CT

Through the Grapevine
630 Broadmor Blvd. Suite 190
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
615-890-7346

*Lunch will be \$20.00 and you can bring cash or check
if doing check make it out to Through the Grapevine*

Ideally we need at least 5 from each district
total of at least 5 Flower Show Judges

Members need to study awards rules
and be familiar with the requirements

Remind everyone if you are sending in awards
for Deep South and National

YOU MUST SEND THEM TO ME BY JAN 1

NGC or DS will not accept awards from individual clubs

Send names of who will be attending to me as soon as possible

Any questions Please email me at
buffiescorner@bellsouth.net

Debbie Shaver



TFGC Endowment Trust Fund Grant Recipients for 2025

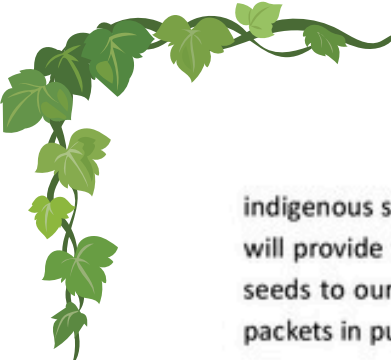
Congratulations to the eight clubs receiving matching grants from the TFGC Endowment Trust Fund. Matching grants are awarded up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 per club or organization with grant awards presented at district fall membership meetings. The clubs receiving matching grants for 2025 are Blossomway Garden Club, Memphis Garden Club and Scenic Hills Garden Club in District I, Flower Growers Garden Club in District II and Chapman Highway Garden Club, Kanunsita Garden Club, Mountain Laurel Garden Club and Sevierville Garden Club in District IV. The total grant money awarded to the eight clubs is \$6,965.00 with grants ranging from \$1,000.00 to \$250.00 per club.

Following are brief descriptions of the projects the clubs will soon be starting or continuing. Blossomway Garden Club will be continuing a project they started in the fall of 2024 improving a piece of property next door to AMVET Post 45 on Highway 79 N. The club plans on adding more plants, installing another arbor for vertical interest, adding another whimsical raised bed and picnic table to provide more seating and work surfaces for meetings, special events and working on projects.

Memphis Garden Club has partnered with the Church Health Center (CH) to revitalize its native perennial gardens. Through their collaborative relationship, the garden space is being transformed into a vibrant community gathering and educational area. A multipurpose pavilion has been constructed on the garden site where gardening classes are held using staff volunteers and employees of CH. The grant money will be applied toward the purchase of limestone benches providing seating for the classes and support the space's function as a community gathering area.

Scenic Hills Garden Club will use their grant money to redo a garden bed outside the sunroom of Alzheimer's Day Services in Kennedy Park. The beds will be cleaned out, landscape timbers replaced and soil amended with new plants such as Encore Azaleas, Drift Roses and possibly Hydrangeas incorporated into the new garden.

The Flower Growers Garden Club (FGGC) will be using their grant money to continue a project called "The Free Indigenous Seed Heirloom Planting Project. With Rutherford County having been the fastest growing county in Tennessee for eight years in a row, the club believes their project is their way of "Planting America" starting in Murfreesboro. The club plans to double an area planted last year at Middle Tennessee Christian School adjacent to bee boxes which is an education program offered. Last year's grant money was used to plant 1/3 acre with the help of students in the school's Bee Education Classes program. The club feels it is a great opportunity to teach the students about indigenous plants, flowers and their environmental impact. The Murfreesboro Airport would like the club to plant a stretch of runway with a mixture of pollinating and indigenous seeds as well as the Domestic Violence Center who is anxious for the club to plant



indigenous seeds at their headquarters and in the playground areas at the family shelters which will provide the club the opportunity to teach the children at the center the importance of the seeds to our environment and the creation of beauty. The club will continue placing free seed packets in public places in their community which has been very successful.

Chapman Highway Garden Club (CHGC) will be using their grant money to redo a front flower bed at Woodlawn Christian Church, a meeting place not only for the club but a meeting place for the City of Knoxville Neighborhood Association, youth groups and community police feedback sessions to mention a few. The club will add pollinator plants, perennial plants and annual plants to increase the beauty of the facility once a soil test is conducted, amend the soil according to test results with mulch added after plant installation with a soaker hose and timer installed to maintain proper soil moisture. The club will provide maintenance and replanting as needed.

The Kanunsita Garden Club will refresh a section of the front gardens and landscape of McMinn County Living Heritage Museum to enhance the building design, permit unencumbered exit in compliance with fire codes, require less maintenance and give preference to native plants.

Mountain Laurel Garden Club will use their grant money to improve the existing Wildlife Pond Garden at Fairview Elementary School for better accessibility for students and teachers of all abilities. Emphasis will be on reducing maintenance, display good sustainable garden practices for attracting and supporting local wildlife, provide a place for teaching moments such as observing nesting birds and insect life and enjoying the blooms of native flowers. The over riding purpose of the project is to make the pond area part of the school that the staff, students and parents will take pride in and use more.

Sevierville Garden Club (SGC) will use their grant money to purchase two commercial grade tables that will withstand the elements with attached seats to accommodate 8 to 12 children per table. SGC members for the last 18 years have provided lessons from March to November and during the summer months weekly to over 80 children each year. The children served are from kindergarten to 8th grade. The tables are needed for when students are creating plant signs, potting plants, tasting foods they are growing or have grown and for any written lessons. Lessons provided have been from the Junior Master Gardener curriculum titled, "Learn, Grow, Eat, Go.

Hopefully with these brief descriptions of projects underway, it has served as an inspiration for other clubs to apply for TFGC Endowment Trust Fund Matching Grants up to \$1,000.00. The trustees look forward to awarding more grants next year in 2026 helping our garden clubs to make a positive impact in their communities. We can all be participants in the Endowment Trust Fund Program as financial contributors. Donations to the fund can be made in memory or in honor of someone or as a gift from a club member or club. With your financial support, the ETF can continue to grow providing grants for club projects for years to come improving our communities and creating an awareness of the good work and value of garden clubs.

Submitted by Chris Kelyman District I ETF Trustee and Chairman



Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc
ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND
CONTRIBUTIONS

2025- 2027 Deposits	Donor Name	District	Garden Club	Honoring	Remembering
1	Country Homes Garden Club	II	Country Homes Garden Club	Jan Vester	
2	June & Jim Gilmore	II	Volunteer Garden Club		Michael J. Ryan
3	Sevierville Garden Club	IV	Sevierville Garden Club		Aileen Fowler
4	Volunteer Garden Club	II	Volunteer Garden Club		Carolyn Simmons Matusek
5	Oak Hill Garden Club	II	Oak Hill Garden Club		Faye True
6	Arisa Garden Club	IV	Arisa Garden Club		
7	Andrea Cantrell	IV	Sun-Up Garden Club		
8	Pamela L. Dowd	II	Optimistic Gardeners Club		Katherine Dowdy
9	Pamela L. Dowd	II	Optimistic Gardeners Club		Pat Smith
10	Pamela L. Dowd	II	Optimistic Gardeners Club		Betty Walker
11	Pamela L. Dowd	II	Optimistic Gardeners Club		Loraine Beasley
12	Pamela L. Dowd	II	Optimistic Gardeners Club	Dixie Highway Garden Club	

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

**ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND (ETF)
CONTRIBUTION FORM**

I/We would like to make a gift to the TFGC Endowment Trust Fund:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/ZIP: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Garden Club: _____ District No: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

In Honor of: _____

OR

In Memory of: _____

Send an acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Mail gifts to: TFGC ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND
 Evelyn Davis, ETF Treasurer
 280 S. Crest Road
 Chattanooga, TN 37404-5539

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



2025 - 2027 Scholarship Program



Please read the following pages carefully for information about the
TFGC Scholarship Program
which offers financial aid to full-time college juniors, seniors and graduate students who are residents of Tennessee and attending a Tennessee school.



Application Submission Deadline is December 1, 2025.

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION POLICIES—2025-2027

1. These scholarships are available for college juniors, seniors, and graduate students. No doctoral candidates may apply. Sophomores may make an application for the junior year.
2. The applicant must be a resident of Tennessee and attend a Tennessee school.
3. TFGC is proud of its scholarship program, which offers financial aid to students and promotes study in:
 - Agribusiness (Dairy Farming, Animal Science, Food Production, etc.)
 - Agriculture Education
 - Agronomy
 - Biology, Botany
 - City (Rural and Urban) Planning
 - Economics
 - Environmental Concerns (Environmental Sustainability, Horticultural Resources, Environmental Behavior)
 - Environmental Conservation (Engineering, etc.)
 - Floriculture
 - Forestry
 - Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology
 - Horticulture
 - Horticulture (Fruit Science and Environmental Communications)
 - Land Management and/or related subjects
 - Landscape Design
 - Plant Pathology, Development
 - Science Resources
 - Wildlife Science

NOTE: Applicants must be **majoring** in one of the fields of study. The TFGC Scholarship Committee must grant approval for applications to be made in any major other than the ones listed.

4. The applicant must be a full-time, currently enrolled student at the school through which the application is being made.
5. Applications must be mailed to the TFGC Scholarship Chair as a **complete package prior to December 1**. No application received after that date will be considered.
6. The TFGC Scholarship Chair will submit applicants or the number of scholarships to be awarded to the TFGC Board for approval at the Winter Board Meeting.
7. The TFGC Scholarships will be in the amount of \$1,500 each, limited to a total of \$4,500 in any fiscal year, if funds are available.
8. All applicants must have at least a "B" average to apply (3.0 on a 4.0-point scale).
9. A complete official academic transcript.

The following Scale of Points will be used for the evaluation of each application:

ACADEMIC RECORD: A complete official transcript of grades is required (40% of total). Emphasis is placed on the strength of courses related to the student's major in required field.

APPLICANT'S LETTER: Discussion of background, goals, personal commitment (25% of total) to chosen career and financial need. (Limited to one typed page, single spaced.)

A list of this information should be supplied on a separate sheet of paper. Each page (3 in total) should be titled "EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, HONORS RECEIVED, AND WORK EXPERIENCE" (10% of total).

FINANCIAL NEED: Signatures of Financial Aid Officer and student are required on fully completed *Financial Aid Form* (25% of total).

RECOMMENDATIONS: Two letters of recommendation (example: department heads, professors, or employers).

Funds are available for a District III Brainerd Scholarship. The recipient is decided upon by District III for an applicant from HAMILTON COUNTY, TN. (Funds for this scholarship were donated by Brainerd Garden Club of District III.) Deep South Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs also have scholarships. Their applications are on their respective websites ([Deep South](#) and [NGC](#)) and must be received by the TFGC Chair by the state deadline, **December 1**. Qualified applicants may apply for all.

NOTE: Should you have trouble with a website, please notify me. Applicants for TFGC, DSGC, and NGC must be Tennessee residents and attending schools in Tennessee.

SEND TO:

TFGC Chair Candace Wells
P.O. Box 325
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350-0325

EMAIL: cfw1865@gmail.com

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM—2025-2027

Name: _____

Date of Birth (Month/Year): _____

Female: _____ Male: _____ Marital Status: _____

Home (Legal Address): _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ College/University: _____

Dept. in Which Enrolled: _____ Major: _____ Minor: _____

CURRENT GRADE LEVEL AT TIME OF APPLICATION (Circle One):

Sophomore Junior Senior Fifth Year Landscape Architect Graduate

CURRENT CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE: _____

Colleges Attended: _____

Dates: _____ Previous GPA: _____

When Do You Expect to Graduate? _____ Degree: _____

Occupational Objective After Graduation: _____

Financial Aid Officer/Representative: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

Date: _____

Submit this form with the additional required documents to the TFGC Scholarship Chair.

DEADLINE: Must be received by the chair by **December 1.**

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Guidelines for College/University Financial Aid Office Administering the Scholarship

1. Scholarship funds are to be sent to the Financial Aid Office of the college or university the student is attending. Checks will NOT be sent directly to students from TFGC. Funds will be disbursed according to the specific school's term system, unless the student has only one term remaining before completion of the degree.
2. Funds may be disbursed only to students who are attending school full-time or as defined by TFGC.
3. Funds may be applied to studies overseas provided that the study is a condition of the recipient's degree plan and that payment continues to be made to the accredited U.S. college or university.
4. The student and Financial Aid Officer/Representative will determine how the money is to be spent, e.g., tuition, food, housing, books, etc.
5. After the scholarship funds have been submitted to the college or university of the student's choice, the funds cannot be transferred to another college or university.
6. The student must be planning a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design, or horticulture.

Suggested Studies

- Agribusiness (Dairy Farming, Animal Science, Food Production, etc.)
 - Agriculture Education
 - Agronomy
 - Biology, Botany
 - City (Rural and Urban) Planning
 - Economics
 - Environmental Concerns (Environmental Sustainability, Horticultural Resources, Environmental Behavior)
 - Environmental Conservation (Engineering, etc.)
 - Floriculture
 - Forestry
 - Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology
 - Horticulture
 - Horticulture (Fruit Science and Environmental Communications)
 - Land Management and/or related subjects
 - Landscape Design
 - Plant Pathology, Development
 - Science Resources
 - Wildlife Science
7. In the event of a change in the student's major to one other than those listed above, or if the student withdraws from school, the balance of scholarship funds must be returned to:

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Treasurer
Marilyn Smith
279 Pine Hollow Road
Dayton, Tennessee 37321
Email: mgsmith50@aol.com

The scholarship application for Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., is available on the TFGC website: <https://www.tngardenclubs.org/>.

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

FINANCIAL AID FORM — 2025-2027

ANTICIPATED SOURCES OF FUNDS: Please use the following form to show all, including scholarships other than the anticipated one from TFGC, assistantships, educational insurance policies, etc., as well as all projected costs involved for attending college in the above academic school year. It is not required that projected resources and expenditures balance.

NOTE: If information is not available before the application deadline, information from the previous academic year may be used with the notation that it is an estimate based on the previous year.

- This form must be completed and signed by both the Financial Aid Officer and by the student making the application.
- ALL questions on the form must be answered since actual financial need is one of the determining factors in the awarding of scholarships.
- The student and Financial Aid Officer will determine how the money may be spent: tuition, food, housing, books, etc.
- The student must mail this form, along with other required application materials, to the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship Chair.

ANTICIPATED FUNDS

_____ From Parent or Relative
_____ From Personal Savings
_____ Educational Insurance Policies
_____ School-Year Earnings
_____ Grants/Scholarships
_____ Loans
_____ Other

_____ TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

_____ Tuition & Fees
_____ Housing & Living Expenses
_____ Books/Supplies
_____ Transportation
_____ Other

_____ TOTAL EXPENSES

FINANCIAL AID OFFICER

Is this student eligible to receive financial aid at your institution?

Grants/Scholarships: Yes _____ No _____

Student Loans: Yes _____ No _____

Has this student applied for financial aid at your institution? Yes _____ No _____

FINANCIAL AID OFFICER'S SIGNATURE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____ DATE: _____

This will authorize the release of my *Financial Aid Form* to: Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

News from the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.



We would like to introduce the new Editor-in-Chief, Kennedy Pope, of the *Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.* quarterly magazine for the next two years.

We are proud and excited that she has agreed to lead our team in this endeavor to promote communication and convey fresh ideas for us in this great region.

Kennedy has Deep South roots. She is native Tennessean, member of the Town and Country Garden Club, enjoys gardening, cooking and entertaining. She began her journalism experience while still in high school writing for her school paper, and was invited to write a weekly fashion column for the county paper before she left for the University of Mississippi and earned her Journalism degree. She was accepted to the London College of Fashion, studied textile design and fashion media in London, England and then travelled and studied in Dublin, Ireland at Trinity College. While abroad she traveled to eleven countries. Returning to the States, she used her skills for Policy writing for the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in our nation's capital of Washington, DC.

Now she resides in Nashville where she designs and sells custom barns for The Barn Store. We welcome her expertise and talent to build for the future for the Deep South Region.

DSGC Chairmen will be asked to submit timely articles for their chairmanships.



**The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is hosting the
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. 2026 Convention
with an Eastern Caribbean Cruise from Port Canaveral, FL
March 16-21, 2026**

For details, go to: deepsouthgardenclubs.com

Fundraising Initiatives and Opportunities

Introduction



My name is Kathy Sudduth, and I am honored to serve as the Chairman of Ways and Means for Deep South Garden Club. Previously, I held the position of president of the Garden Club of Alabama. In my current role, my primary objective is to support fundraising efforts that will benefit the various projects promoted by our new administration.

Fundraising Options

Deep South Coffee Mugs



We continue to offer Deep South Coffee Mugs, which are available for purchase at \$10 each, with an additional \$6 for shipping per mug. If you choose to purchase 10 mugs, we will provide free shipping, while supplies last. These mugs make excellent thank you gifts for speakers or new members. To order, simply email your requested quantity and send a check for the total amount.

Deep South Membership Pin



We are pleased to announce the availability of our new Deep South Membership pin featuring our updated logo. Each pin is priced at \$20, and shipping is free. To place an order, notify us of the number you require, and submit a check for the total cost.

FlowerPower Online Fundraiser

Our latest fundraising initiative is the FlowerPower online fundraiser. The process is simple: items are purchased online and delivered directly to you, with all financial transactions handled by FlowerPower. Deep South Garden Club receives 50% of the proceeds from most items sold. Funds from this project have been designated for scholarships. The Holiday Bulb Sales conducted in Alabama over the past two years have demonstrated the high quality of these products. The link for this fundraiser is:

<https://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/marketplace/seller/profile/shop/DSGC>



Support and Contact Information

We invite you to support the Deep South Garden Club through one or more of these fundraising opportunities.

For orders or inquiries , please contact:

Kathy Sudduth

251-978-0661

kathysudduth@gmail.com

33507 U.S. Highway 31

Spanish Fort, Alabama 36527

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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](http://www.nationalgardenclubs.org) 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.

Congratulations to Tennessee's 1st Place Winners of the 2025 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Grades 1-5.



First Grade Winner
Forest Bates
Farmington Elementary
Germantown, TN
Suburban Garden Club



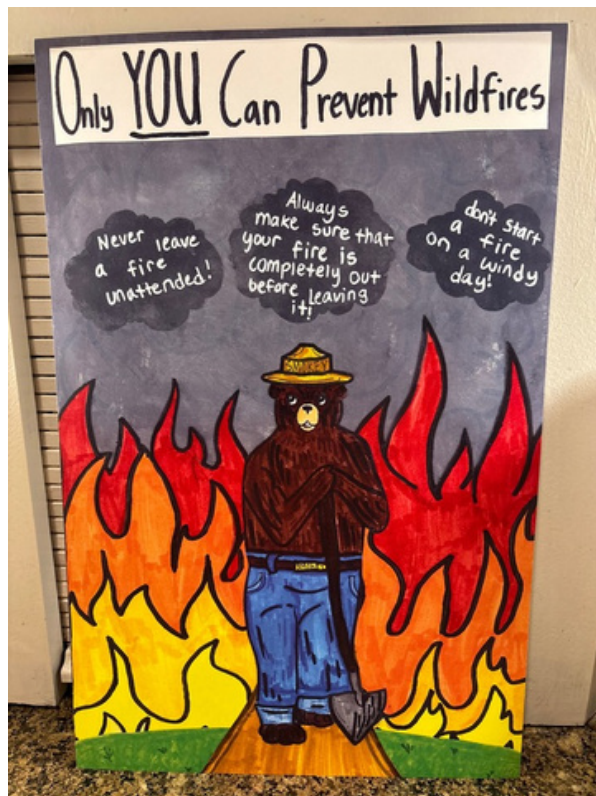
Second Grade Winner
Sadie Vail
Southwind Elementary
Memphis, TN
Southwind Garden Club



Third Grade Winner
Ruth Zhang
Farmington Elementary
Germantown, TN
Suburban Garden Club



Fourth Grade Winner
Mariana Perales
Clark Memorial Elementary
Winchester, TN
Franklin County Garden Club



Fifth Grade Winner
Madeleine French
Dogwood Elementary
Germantown, TN
Germantown Garden Club

National Garden Club Youth Poetry & Sculpture Contests

from Kay Cox, TFGC Youth Chairman

“Please forward attached information to your Garden Club members on the NGC Youth Contests that they may be interested or eligible to participate in by Grade Level. Our participation has dropped over the last year, but I am encouraging more clubs to get involved with these contests.

Please send ONLY 1st Place Entries in each Grade Level by the Deadline Date of November 15, 2025.
If you have any questions, let me know.”



My home address is:
Kay Cox
840 3rd Street, SE
Cleveland, TN 37311-2811
tlake12384@gmail.com
cell: 423-584-7245



August 5, 2025

NGC YOUTH POETRY & SCULPTURE CONTESTS – 2025



POETRY CONTEST

Theme: Plant America for the Next 100 Years

ELIGIBILITY: Youth in Grades K-12 compete by grade level in one of three categories: General Education, Special Education or Speakers of other languages.

Guidelines:

- 1) Poems do not have to rhyme.
- 2) Poems should be no more than 24 lines (including title) with a maximum of 42 letters/spaces per line in order to fit on a single page.
- 3) The theme should NOT be used as the title to any poetry.
- 4) Poet's Family does not have to be a member of the local garden club.
- 5) Youth can be sponsored by a parent, grandparent, church, school, etc.

Poems should be sent to Kay Cox, State Youth Chairman by the Deadline Date of November 15, 2025.



YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

The purpose of this contest is to encourage our youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment.

Guidelines:

- 1) Contest is open to Children in 4th through 8th Grades with a local garden club sponsor,
- 2) Sculptures must consist of recycled, reused and reduced materials.
- 3) The sculpture is limited to a size that will fit sitting on a 8 1/2 "x11 sheet of paper.
- 4) A list of materials used and a brief description included on the entry form found on www.gardenclub.org.
- 5) Entries should include (2) 4x6" photographs printed on the back of the entry form.

Entries should be sent to Kay Cox by November 15, 2025.

Additional Information



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
YOUTH POETRY CONTEST 2025



PLANT AMERICA FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Excite and encourage youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry. NGC's Poetry Contest enables youth to embrace their creativity through the art of writing. This year's theme - "Plant America for the Next 100 Years."

Eligibility and Categories

Youth in grades K-12 compete by grade-level in one of three categories: General Education, Special Education or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Submissions and Deadlines

All poems are submitted to a local garden club affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. Local clubs send their winning poems (1 per grade-level in each category) to their State by the published State deadline. State winning poems are sent to their Region Contest by **2/1/2026**. Region winners are sent to the National Contest by **3/1/2026**. National winning poems are announced in May 2026, and published online in a free digital poetry booklet.



Complete Guidelines
gardenclub.org/poetry-contest



State Deadline is November 15, 2025.



YOUTH POETRY CONTEST GUIDELINES 2025



PLANT AMERICA FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Guidelines

- Include name, address, age, grade, school, sponsoring local garden club and state garden club of the poet on the back of entry. (Child privacy is important to NGC, and thus, published winning national poems will only identify the poet's first name, last name initial, local garden club and state.)
- Poet's family does not have to be a member of the local sponsoring garden club.
- Poems should be no more than 24 lines (including title) with a max of 42 letters/spaces per line in order to fit on single page of the booklet.
- Poems do not have to rhyme. They may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or haiku.
- When choosing a poem title, please be creative and incorporate the theme: "Plant America for the Next 100 Years." However, the theme should not be used as the title to any poetry. When judging, the title is worth 10 points.
- Poets should be strongly encouraged to proofread their work for grammatical and spelling errors.
- All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Sending Region winning entries to NGC: All Region winning entries must be typed, titled, and sent to the National Chairperson (James Pavelka, jamespavelka@comcast.net) in Word format via email, and the original hard copy mailed for judging.
- National winners will be announced at the NGC 2026 National Convention and the local garden club contact person will be contacted regarding any winning entry.

Submissions and Deadlines

All poems are submitted to a local garden club affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. Local clubs send their winning poems (1 per grade-level in each category) to their State by the published State deadline. State winning poems are sent to their Region Contest by 2/1/2026. Region winners are sent to the National Contest by 3/1/2026. National winning poems are announced in May 2026, and published online in a free digital poetry booklet.

Eligibility, Categories and Judging Criteria

- Youth in grades K-12 compete by grade-level in one of three categories: General Education, Special Education or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).
- Scale of Points: Title 10%, Content 40%, Creativity 30%, Style 20%. Total 100%

gardenclub.org/poetry-contest



State Deadline is November 15, 2025. 46

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2026 Convention

May 4 - 6, 2026



St. Louis, Missouri

Hotel Information & link will be available after October 1st.

Registration & Tentative Schedule will be available after

December 1st.

Club News & District Events

**Thanks to all who submitted photos,
articles & events for the
Fall edition of the
*Volunteer Gardener Magazine!***

**Please send your club's news,
upcoming events and triumphs to:**

Anna Marie Allen

annabanana7@comcast.net

text: 615-477-3030

**Deadline for submissions for the
Winter *Volunteer Gardener Magazine* is January 1, 2026.**



TFGC DISTRICT I



District I Officers

Director:

Jackie Walker

j.walker653@gmail.com

Vice Director:

Pam Reiners

affordablemedicalcredentialing@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:

Peggy Turnipseed

pjturnipseed@bellsouth.net

Corresponding Secretary:

Brenda Hise

mudville45@aol.com

Treasurer:

Lois Hobby-Clayton

llhclayton@gmail.com

Chaplain:

Barbara Dodge

dodgebj@aol.com

District I Garden Clubs

- **901 Garden Club**
- **Bartlett Garden Club**
- **Blossom Way Garden Club**
- **Collierville Garden Club**
- **Cordova Garden Club**
- **Dyersburg Garden Club**
- **Garden Club of Rosemark**
- **Germantown Garden Club**
- **Interpreters Study Group**
- **Kennedy View Garden Club**
- **Little Garden Club of Memohis**
- **Memphis Garden Club**
- **Paris Garden Club**
- **Pearl Hooper Garden Club**
- **Poplar Estates Garden Club**
- **Scenic Hills Garden Club**
- **Shelby East Garden Club**
- **Southwind Garden Club**
- **Suburban Garden Club**
- **Tipton Fleur de Lis Garden Club**
- **Trenton Garden Club**



Message from the District I Director

Jackie Walker



When hot dry weather changes to crisp cool mornings we know fall has arrived. Autumn brings fun gardening activities along with TFGC Fall Membership Meetings. Fall Membership Meetings are a time to reconnect with our garden club friends across West Tennessee. District I's Fall Membership Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6th at The Memphis Botanic Garden from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm with lunch provided by a local caterer. This fun and exciting meeting will have a program provided by "The Delta Divas." The program is titled "Floral Design—Making Do with What You Have". This entertaining program will be a welcome reminder of the fun you can have creating floral designs. You will not want to miss it!

The District I Flower Show School, hosted by District I Flower Show School Judges Council, was very successful. Instructors Frances Thrash and David Robson provided information on Design and Horticulture. There was a total of 46 attendees from 5 different states. A big thank you to all the Judges Council members who worked so hard to make this event such a success.

Rosemark Garden Club always has a delightful Flower Show the last Saturday in September. The Flower Show is held in conjunction with the Rosemark Country Fair. This year was no different.

Tipton Fleur de Lis Garden Club is having a Blue Star Memorial Ceremony at the Munford Veteran's Park Memorial Service on Tuesday, November 11th at 2:00 pm, located at 1483 Munford Avenue, Munford, TN with a reception immediately following.

Our garden club members always enjoy The Memphis Botanic Garden Fall Plant Sale scheduled for October 9-11. There will be many unusual plants, along with the regular fall plants, plus native trees, shrubs and perennials.

Some of District I garden club members are also very active in the American Daffodil Society. The Daffodil Society will be selling daffodil bulbs at Dixon Gallery and Gardens on Saturday, November 15th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Please come join us at these fun events as we celebrate the fall season!

Jackie

DISTRICT I

Germantown Garden Club



Germantown Garden Club Celebrates National Garden Week



Members of Germantown Garden Club began preparations for celebrating National Garden Week 2025 in March this year by working with students at Madonna Learning Center. These students have Downs Syndrome and various other neurological disorders. The school director, Jo Gilbert, wanted a student garden and outdoor classroom so that her students could practice their fine motor skills and learn healthier eating habits by growing vegetables. Germantown Garden Club partnered with the school and was awarded a Plant America grant in 2019 along with an Espoma Award to help the school establish the Student Vegetable Garden, a Herb Sensory Garden and outdoor classroom. A few years later the Pollinator garden was planted by Germantown Garden Club next to the Student Vegetable Garden. The pollinator garden has been designated a Monarch Way Station. Additionally a club bird trail of 4 houses was established by the club on the school grounds in 2019 and a very active house is in the middle of the pollinator garden. A multitude of stimulus sources await the students of Madonna Learning Center to help in their yearly lessons.

On March 18, 2025 club members brought seeds, potting soil, markers, and planting cups to the school and helped each class of students plant seeds. The containers were marked and teachers carried the planting cups to their classrooms to grow the seeds under grow lights. Members then cleaned the outside beds in preparation for planting and the irrigation lines were checked. The pumpkin patch area was cleared for June planting and the perennial zinnia bed was weeded for a big summer showing.

Planting day in the garden arrived on May 15, 2025. GGC members helped direct the students planting their classroom raised plants. Additional plants were provided by members to supplement the beds as some plants died in the classroom.

As the school year was coming to an end on May 23, National Garden week was celebrated early on May 15th by planting with the students and then again on June 6th during National Garden Week. On June 6th, all GGC members were asked to bring a plant to add to the various Madonna garden beds. Lemonade and cookies were provided for the club tour and club members planted donated plants. A club member's husband built and brightly painted 3 climbing towers and placed them in the beds for zucchini squash and cucumber plants. Another member purchased a Peace Pole with the words "Live, Love, Garden" and presented the pole for placement in the garden to Assistant Director, Theresa Murray. Plant material in each bed was labeled with plant markers by club members.

These gardens at Madonna Learning Center were featured for tour on June 15, 2025 as part of the day tours of Experience Memphis Gardens. On that Sunday, the school opened their gates and welcomed the public for viewing from 11-5pm. Germantown Garden Club was proud to have helped in the preparation of these gardens for the Memphis and greater area 6 week tour. Media releases are on file for each student in the school office.

Submitted by Phyllis Allen, President of Germantown Garden Club

DISTRICT I

Germantown Garden Club



Kathy Russo, Gerry Covington, Lucie Calvin, Phyllis Allen & Carol Symeon are ready to help students plant seeds.



Selecting a Seed



Gerry Covington taps the soil down.



Planting Day

May 15th 52

DISTRICT I

Germantown Garden Club



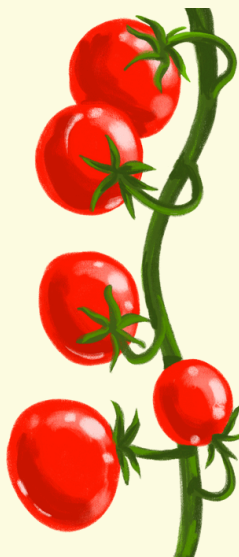
Planting the vegetable plants



Lucie Calvin, Phyllis Allen & Becky Priddy with pepper plants & Peace Pole for the garden on June 6, 2025



School Asst. Director Teresa Murray admires a new climbing structure.



Kathie Clark-Siracusa trims the herb garden.



DISTRICT I

Germantown Garden Club



The pollinator garden is tour ready on June 6th.



The Student Vegetable Garden is tour ready on June 6th for National Garden Week.



Eight pairs of clogs are hung and planted on June 6th.



Bluebird houses in the Pollinator Garden



DISTRICT I

Germantown Garden Club



Four white bluebird eggs. Usually they are blue eggs but on a rare occasion they are white. Four babies fledged from this box in the Madonna Pollinator Garden.



Becky Priddy & Lucie Calvin label the plants for the tour on June 6th.



Cherry Tomatoes



Cantaloupes



DISTRICT I

Poplar Estates Garden Club

Poplar Estates Garden Club Milestone



Poplar Estates Garden Club (PEGC) members celebrate a 10-year milestone as they reflect back to 2016 when the club members took on a new project setting up its first bluebird trail at Bobby Lanier Farm Park, a Germantown city park in the middle of the town. With permission from the Germantown Parks and Recreation Department, members of the club rolled up their sleeves and with their tape measures and Stokes Bluebird Book in hand decided on the placement of five bluebird boxes purchased from Fred Robertson, a founder of the Shelby County Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society. Each box was placed approximately 300 feet apart facing east or north and at eye level. The Farm Park is an ideal location for a bluebird trail with its wide-open spaces and easy accessibility.

Fast forward to 2019, Christopher Schmidt, one of the club's newest members, had a bluebird trail established in 2018 at Poplar Estates Park, another of Germantown's city parks. This was Christopher's first attempt at blue birding with NO FLEDGLINGS due to predator issues and competition from other birds occupying his boxes. 2019 proved to be a bright spot for PEGC with Christopher coming on board with his bluebird trail and joining the garden club. In the three years the Farm Park was monitored prior to 2019, the greatest number of babies fledging was 15. The Farm Park in 2019 had 23 babies fledging along with Christopher's trail producing 17 bluebirds fledging. It was a bluebird season to celebrate!

In 2020, PEGC established another bluebird trail at Forest Hill Elementary School (FHES) with permission and blessings from the school principal. Again, Fred Robertson's boxes were installed and monitored. In 2024 and 2023, two of the four boxes were active with 18 eggs laid, 18 hatched and 18 babies fledged in 2024 while in 2023 there were 25 eggs laid with 23 eggs hatching and 23 babies fledging while only 14 babies fledged from the school trail in 2022.

On October 12, 2024 four members of the Shelby County Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society with one of PEGC's members on hand moved two inactive boxes to a swale behind the school with permission from the school principal. One of the boxes was also replaced by the chapter at no cost to the garden club. The 2025 numbers for the bluebird activity at the school rewarded relocating the two inactive boxes with all four boxes active with 29 eggs laid, 24 eggs hatched and 24 eggs fledged. This was one of the best years for bluebird activity at FHES. The future of the school bluebird trail was in question for 2025 with its club member, Shirley McKenzie, not able to continue monitoring the trail due to health issues. Shirley recruited a fellow member, John Vaden, of the Shelby County Bluebird Chapter to step in to monitor the club's trail even though he is not a member of the Poplar Estates Garden Club. Both Shirley and John have

DISTRICT I

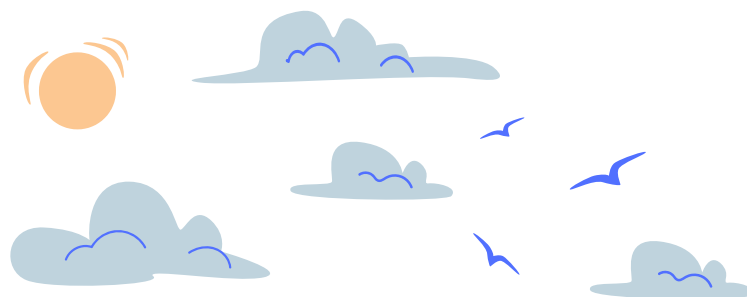
Poplar Estates Garden Club

done an amazing job weekly monitoring the school trail without missing a beat! This story is testament to the dedication of bluebird lovers and monitors. They are a breed on to their own!

In addition to the three bluebird trails Poplar Estates Garden Club monitors, at least six of its members monitor bluebird boxes placed in their own yards with weekly monitoring of activity. Pictures of bluebird activity at all locations is captured on members' phones and shared with all members along with data recorded. What started out 10 years ago with one bluebird trail, has evolved into a major bluebird project providing much satisfaction knowing the club's efforts have been rewarded with an increase in the bluebird population in Germantown and surrounding area with a dividend of numerous awards received at the TFGC state level, Deep South and National level. However, PEGC's mission remains constant with their goal of helping to increase the bluebird population which is on the rise due to a massive conservation effort.

Poplar Estates Garden Club encourages others to join the bluebird conservation effort because regardless of your age you will not regret the benefits of joining the bluebird conservation movement! There are disappointments at times with unhatched eggs, nests abandoned, predator activity and even vandalism of nests but the bluebird journey is magical and is truly an amazing education for every age. It is an experience to be embraced and cherished!

Submitted by Chris Kelyman Poplar Estates Garden Club Member



DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club

July 2025

The Shelby East Garden Club met in July in the home of Mary Malone to learn about beneficial garden insects. Susan McKnight, an entomologist, spoke on creating a favorable habitat for “beneficials” while controlling the “not so welcome” pests. Some of the common beneficials include honey bees, praying mantis, ladybugs, lacewings, and earthworms. Having year round blooming plants is another way to encourage beneficials. Bottom line: if adding only one plant to attract beneficials, let it be DILL!

Following the program, the club held a meeting, then enjoyed a wonderful homemade meal on multi-generational family china at the Malone home.



DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club

August 2025

On a very hot, dry day in August, the Shelby East Garden Club members toured the lovely gardens of Tatiana Jancov in Germantown, TN. The hostess, now president-elect of the Germantown Garden Club, transformed her large lawn into fabulous garden beds all around the property. While waving provided fans, members enjoyed seeing a huge variety of shrubs, trees, grasses, blooming annuals and perennials, all planted by the hostess. Tatiana became a Master Gardener and put her knowledge to work over several years, digging and planting most of the beds herself, while planning expansions for next year as well.

Following the tour, Shelby East members gathered at Forest Hill Grill for a brief meeting and lunch. This group just does not meet without a plan for a good meal!



DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club

September 2025

Service Project: A few members of Shelby East gathered at Page Robbins Alzheimer's Day Care Center to assist clients with arranging flowers that would go home with them at the end of the day. Members prepped flowers donated by Trader Joe's and helped clients choose colors and make unique arrangements. The activity is always enjoyed by club members, clients and staff.



With the feel of fall in the air, the Shelby East club met at another lovely home in Germantown to participate in another “hands on” project. The invitation referred to “Preserving the Harvest” and asked that members bring a fun apron to wear during the activity. Members gathered at a large kitchen island where stations were set with knives, funnels, cutting boards and cucumbers. Pickle making was underway with leadership provided by Lauren Wells, from the University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Service. She provided supplies, recipes and “know how”. While several members sliced cukes, a few members chose to create the brine, using all kinds of spices for creating either dill or bread ‘n butter pickles. Each member went home with a jar of pickles created by their own hands.



DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club



Following pickle making, the club held its monthly meeting. Horticulture included reblooming azaleas, Bishops Hat, Loropetalum, sunflowers, Lantana, Abelia, and a caution about ever planting aggressive spreaders. Several members signed up for the District Meeting coming up in October at the Memphis Botanic Garden.

Submitted by Barbara McAdams



DISTRICT I

Southwind Garden Club

Southwind Garden Club kicked off the fall season with a fabulous meeting! We met new members, shared horticulture from our gardens, and enjoyed an inspirational message from meteorologist Wendy Howell-Nations.



DISTRICT I

Suburban Garden Club

Suburban Garden Club of Germantown has been a whirlwind of activity this summer and early fall supporting our community, learning, and deepening our friendships with one another! We had a large group of members put on a lovely luncheon for the Memphis Fling at the Bobby Lanier Farm Park. After touring area gardens, including those of our members Pam Beasley and Susan Thompson, Flingers made their way to the beautifully decorated barn and enjoyed a meal made by our club members. Member Diane Callahan-Edens designed a fantastic arrangement for the Germantown Charity Horse Show in early June. Suburban also provided floral arranging for the Germantown Education Foundation's Soiree in July which raised \$60,000 for Germantown schools. The club donated \$1050 to Germantown's Living Legacy tree project which will plant seven trees in Oaklawn Garden honoring our late members.

Our September meeting kicked off our club year at the Germantown Performing Arts Center where we enjoyed a lovely tea table that featured recipes solely from our 2016 cookbook, *Simply Suburban!* We heard from Parke Kennedy, GPAC's Executive Director, about their upcoming programming. Suburban Garden Club partners with GPAC to provide floral arrangements throughout the year to support their events. Barbara Armstrong, one of our Flower Show chairs, announced this year's show theme, *Weather Update: 100% Chance of Color*, on March 25, 2026. Members also participated in a vase drive for 901 POP, a local charity that repurposes event florals into small bouquets distributed to area senior living communities, hospices and shelters. Our club donated over 70 vases for use in spreading encouragement throughout our community!

Suburban gathered at multiple pop-ups to learn and have fun! Fifteen members had an evening viewing party of member Susan Thompson's cereus "Queen of the Night" cactus in bloom. Thirty members attended our "Garden to Glass" event at Restaurant Iris where we learned ways to use fresh seasonal fruit and herbs in cocktails and enjoyed dinner together. We also had twenty members attend an evening gathering at member Elyse Grant's home to view her spectacular candlestick trees and learn more about this annual she grows from a small plant to a tree each year. Suburban Garden Club members love to spend time together serving our town and learning!

DISTRICT I

Suburban Garden Club



**Memphis Fling luncheon decor by
Suburban Garden Club members**



**Memphis Fling garden
of member Susan Thompson**



**Memphis Fling garden
of member Pam Beasley**



**Members Rhea Clift (L)
and Liz Thomas (R) greet
Flingers in Pam Beasley's garden.**

DISTRICT I

Suburban Garden Club



Member Diane Callahan-Edens designed this stunning arrangement for the Germantown Charity Horse Show.



Members spent a wonderful evening learning about member Elyse Grant's candlestick trees.



Suburban gathered to view member Susan Thompson's Queen of the Night cactus blooms!



Suburban provided floral arranging for Germantown Education Foundation's Soirée.

DISTRICT I

Suburban Garden Club



**“Garden to Glass” event
at Restaurant Iris**

SEPTEMBER



**Our September meeting
at Germantown Performing
Arts Center featured
a buffet of recipes
prepared from our cookbook!**



2025 TENARKY DISTRICT ROSE SHOW

**SEE THE
JEWELS**



**OF THE
SOUTH**

**PRESENTED BY
THE MEMPHIS ROSE SOCIETY
OCTOBER 4TH, 2025
GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEMPHISROSESOCIETY.ORG**

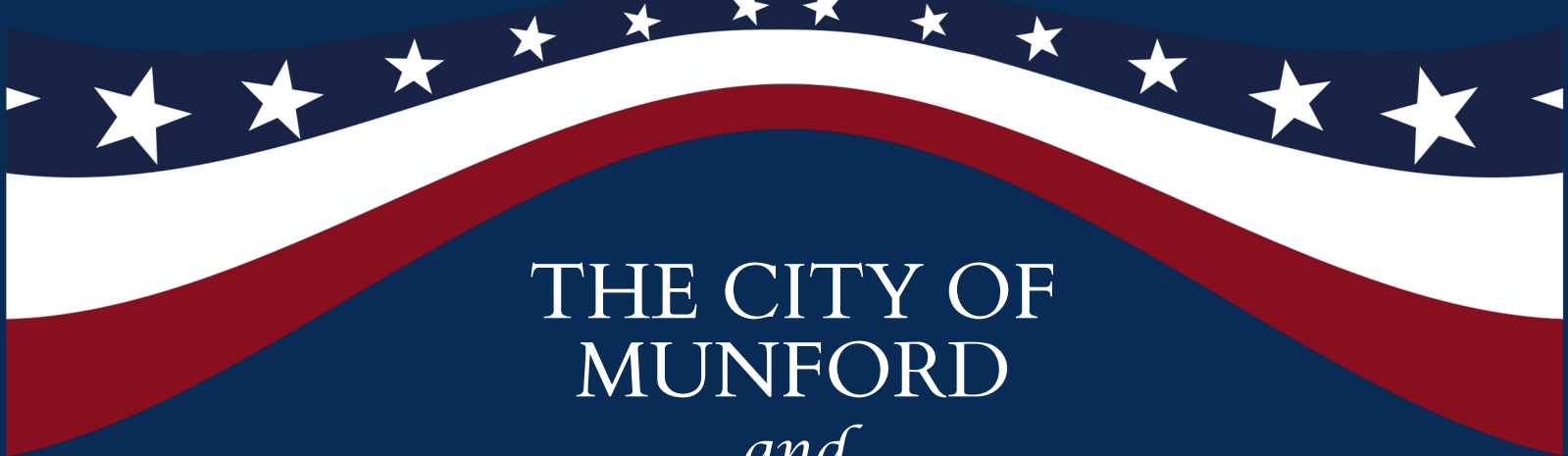
District I

Fall Membership Meeting

October 6, 2025
9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Memphis Botanic Garden
750 Cherry Road
Memphis, TN 38117





THE CITY OF
MUNFORD

and

TIPTON FLEUR DE LIS
GARDEN CLUB

cordially invite you to the

DEDICATION OF
VETERANS PLAZA
AND
BLUE STAR MEMORIAL



VETERANS DAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
2:00 P.M. 1483 MUNFORD AVE.
MUNFORD, TN

RAIN DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Reception Immediately Following
Regions Building Gymnasium
86 S. Tipton Rd.
Munford, TN

District I

Executive Board Meeting

**February 2, 2026
10:00 am**

**Memphis Botanic Garden
750 Cherry Road
Memphis, TN 38117**

American Daffodil Society Judging School III and Judges Refresher

Saturday, March 7, 2026

**Dixon Gallery and Gardens
Hughes Pavilion
4339 Park Avenue
Memphis, TN**

**For information please contact
Chris Clapsadle
901-634-5417**

**Instructors will be Larry Force,
Becky Fox Matthews and Molly Hampton.**

Daffodils for the Identification Test
will be available to study on Friday, March 6th from 2:30 - 4:30 pm
in the Hughes Pavilion.



Flower Show School

Course 2

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. School

March 8 - 11, 2026

Memphis Botanic Garden

750 Cherry Road

Memphis, TN 38117

901-636-4100

**Sponsored by the
Memphis-Shelby County Judges Council**

**Julie Wilson—Flower Show School Chairman
juliedyerwilson@gmail.com for questions
PLEASE label correspondence Flower Show School**

**Registrar—Mary Heim
maryheim52@gmail.com**





Flower Show School

Course 2

Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches you all you need to know about judging, entering, competing and chairing an NGC Flower Show. There are four courses, each scheduled over a 2-3 day period, and each with a specific curriculum that includes horticulture, design, and flower show procedure (FSP). If you are considering becoming a flower show judge, planning to chair a flower show, or simply want to learn more, your first step is to attend Flower Show School. Subjects are taught by qualified instructors and outlines will be provided. Examples of horticulture and design are displayed and critiqued. Learn point scoring to evaluate how entries are judged and see what it takes to earn a blue ribbon.

Course 2:

Design studies functional table design, exhibition tables and petite designs.

FSP covers types of flower shows, awards, and what it takes to produce a flower show.

Horticulture covers labeling, growing, selecting, grooming, exhibiting and judging your plants. We will study evergreens, (needled and broad leaf) and daffodils.

Bring:

NGC Flower Show Handbook 2017 edition with 2024 revision—download free or print from the NGC website.

Print the outlines that will be emailed to you three weeks before the course and after you have paid, and bring the outlines with you to the course.

Jacket (A-C can get cold), reusable cup for coffee, water, etc., 8.5 x 11" clipboard for taking the point scoring tests, pencils if taking the tests.

Students are encouraged to read: Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging and Designing by Types. Both books are available for purchase on the NGC website for \$5 each.





Flower Show School

Course 2

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. School

Attendance at all sessions is REQUIRED for credit.

Tests are only for those students taking the course for credit.

March 8:

3:45 - 6:00 pm Flower Show Procedure

March 9:

8:00 - 9:00 am Flower Show Procedure Exam

9:15 am - 3:30 pm Horticulture

12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch

3:45 - 5:45 pm Point Scoring & Test

March 10:

8:00 - 9:00 am Horticulture Exam

9:15 am - 3:30 pm Design

12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch

3:45 - 5:45 pm Design Point Scoring & Test

March 11:

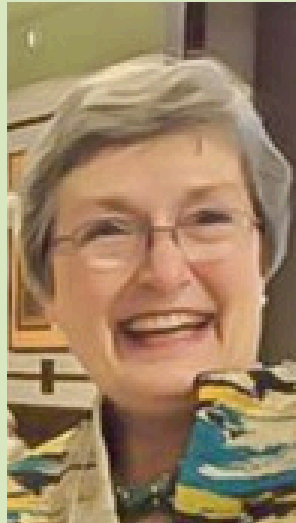
9:00 - 10:00 am Design Exam





Flower Show School

Course 2



Lynn Fronk—Design Instructor

Lynn is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge,
an NGC Master Environmental Consultant and Gardening Consultant.

Lynn has taught in 42 states and South America.

She has judged the Philadelphia Flower Show and has several designs in
the NGC book, Designing by Types.

She has presented at the Garden Club of Georgia Convention recently,
at the Deep South Convention in Macon and is a workshop leader at
CFFA. Lynn is the past president of Garden Clubs of Ohio and has
recently relocated to Flowery Branch, Georgia. Lynn is a retired nurse
from Columbus, Ohio Children's Hospital and is active in many
community activities.





Flower Show School

Course 2



Sue Kirkman—Horticulture Instructor

Sue is an NGC Horticulture Symposium Chair, NGC Master Flower Show Judge, Gardening Consultant, Landscape Design Consultant, Master Gardener, former American Iris Society Judge and a member of several plant societies. She is a retired college instructor and former State of Kentucky Aging Director. Sue and her husband live in a pre-Civil War farmhouse along with a dog and two cats. She is a member of the Garden Club of Frankfort, Kentucky.

We will study evergreen and daffodils.



Flower Show School

Course 2

Courtyard by Marriot, 6015 Park Ave, Memphis 1-888-691-9410

Hampton Inn, 5320 Poplar, Memphis, 901-554-7018

Registration Form Flower Show School Course 2

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Club _____ District _____

Taking tests _____ Not for Credit _____

Vegetarian lunch _____

Full Course with/without exams \$150 _____

(Includes tuition, 2 lunches and snacks)

Flower Show Procedure only (Sun) \$40 _____

Horticulture & Lunch (Monday) \$80 _____

Design & Lunch (Tuesday) \$80 _____

TOTAL _____

Make checks payable to Memphis-Shelby County Judges Council with Flower Show School in the memo line and mail to:

Mary Heim,

4159 Chickasaw

Memphis, TN 38117, 901-569-2866

NO REFUNDS AFTER March 1, 2026



Mid-South Daffodil Society Show

March 14-15, 2026

Dixon Gallery & Gardens
Hughes Pavilion
4339 Park Avenue
Memphis, TN 38117

14th Annual Mid-South Daffodil Show

For more information contact

Molly Hampton

molhampton@aol.com

901-834-0404

The Suburban Garden Club

presents

“Weather Update: 100% Chance of Color”
an NGC Standard Flower Show

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Staged at
Germantown Presbyterian Church
2363 South Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

Show viewing hours 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm



OPEN AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC



District I

Spring

Membership Meeting

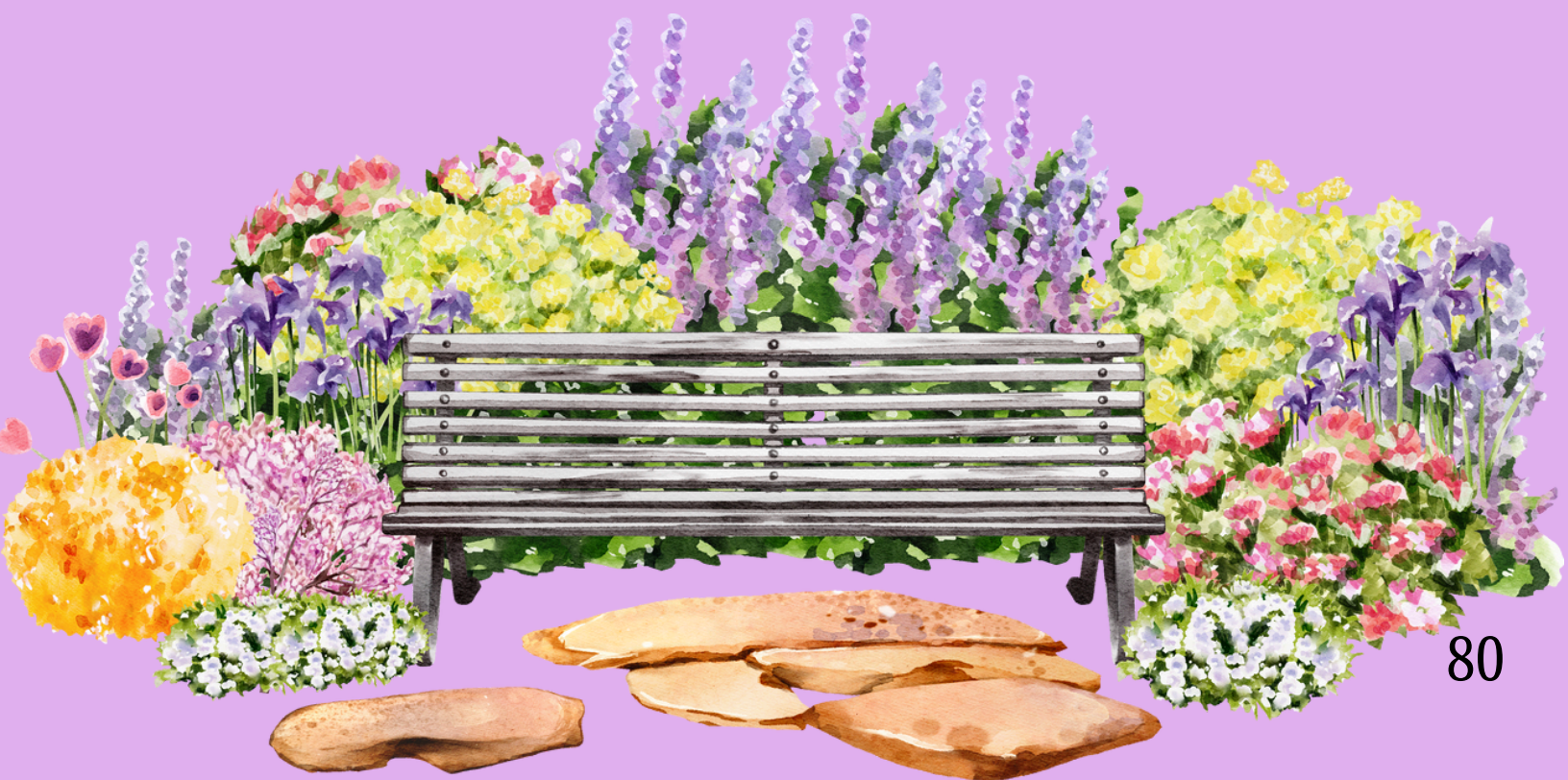
March 30, 2026

10:00 am

Memphis Botanic Garden

750 Cherry Road

Memphis, TN 38117



District I

2026

Presidents' Meeting

May 18, 2026

10:00 am

Memphis Botanic Garden

750 Cherry Road

Memphis, TN 38117

TFGC District II



District II Officers:

Director:

Becky Fox Matthews
becky@lostfrogs.com

Vice-Director:

Karen Dawson
fdkd70@bellsouth.net

Recording Secretary:

Jennifer Kidd
jkkmd@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary:

Kay Wells
wellsonhill@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Theresa Bray
tlbray1@bellsouth.net

District II Garden Clubs

- Beachaven Garden Club
- Ben Lomand Garden Club
- Camden Garden Club
- Clarksville Garden Club
- Country Homes Garden Club
- Evening Belle Garden Club
- First Saturday Garden Club
- Flower Growers Garden Club
- Flower Lovers Circle
- Franklin County Garden Club
- Garden Lovers Club
- Gateway Acres Garden Club
- Harpeth Bend Garden Club
- Hendersonville Garden Club
- Iris City Garden Club
- Lake Forest Acres Garden Club
- Lebanon Road Garden Club
- Leipers Fork Garden Club
- Les Candides Garden Club
- New Neighbors Garden Club
- Oak Hill Garden Club
- Optimistic Gardeners Club
- Rachel Jackson Garden Club
- Shady Grove Garden Club
- Shelbyville Garden Club
- T.A.G.S.
- Town & Country Garden Club
- Tyne Meade Garden Club
- Volunteer Garden Club
- Year Round Garden Club
- Warner Park Garden Club



District II

Country Homes Garden Club



Country Homes Garden Club

visited

“Tranquility”,

a Hosta Garden

at the home of Hosta aficionado, **Cornelia B. Holland**, 801 Hillsboro Road, Franklin, Tennessee. She was a founding member and president for six years of the **Middle Tennessee Hosta Society**. In 2013, **Mrs. Holland** donated over 550 species and cultivars creating the **Cornelia B. Holland Tranquility Hosta Garden** at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Known as a reference garden, one of only three in the Southeastern United States. She was honored in Knoxville by the State Botanical Gardens. The American Hosta Society has designated “Tranquility” one of twenty three official Hosta display gardens in North America.

Mrs. Holland conducts an open garden in the early spring at her home for the community.

District II

Flower Growers Garden Club

Flower Growers Garden Club (FGGC), June 17, 2025 Meeting

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 crudité's, 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 years serving as president of Flower Growers Garden Club.



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



Patty shared the award we won at the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention for "Welcome to Peter Rabbit's Garden" Horticulture Specialty Show.

District II

Flower Growers Garden Club

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. 🐞

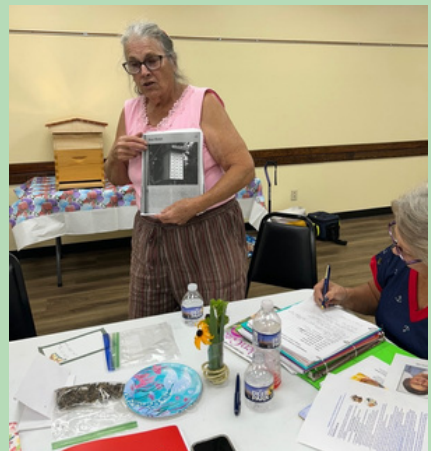


Submitted by Morna Conway; Photos by Mary Forrest

District II

Flower Lovers Circle

The Flower Lovers Circle met at the Lawrence County Library for our July Meeting. We had a devotion by Betsy Lee Koszut and some wonderful refreshments by Betsy DeJong who also presented a program on bees & bat houses. Several of our ladies brought flower designs for all of us to critique. It was an informative and fun meeting!



Submitted by Club President Nita Slater

District II

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.



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.



Submitted by Jolly Sinha



District II

Optimistic Gardeners Club

Optimistic Gardeners Club president Lillian Hibbett
& member Sandy Estes recently visited in Bell Buckle with
Margaret 'Maggi' Britton Vaughn—Poet Laureate of Tennessee for 30 years!
She shared many stories and poems as well as enjoyed a garden poem written by
Sandy. One of Maggi's poems will soon be featured at an upcoming
Optimistic Gardeners Club meeting.



Submitted by Lillian Hibbett



District II

Fall Membership Meeting



Tuesday, October 7, 2025

10:00 am

First Baptist Church—Joelton

7140 Whites Creek Pike

Joelton, TN 37080



District II Judges Council Meeting

October 21, 2025
10:00 am - 1:00 pm



Oaklands Mansion
900 N. Maney Avenue
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27 • 10:00 AM in the Botanic Hall • Cheekwood • 1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville

PROGRAM: "BULBS FOR SEXY SOUTHERN LANDSCAPES" BY POPULAR BULB EXPERT BRENT HEATH OF GLOUSTER, VA
HSMT FUNDRAISER: BLOOMIN' BUCKS WITH BRENT & BECKY'S BULBS

Bring a guest!
Open to non-HSMT
members.

RESERVE OPTIONAL BOX LUNCH BY
OCTOBER 22
\$25/BOX LUNCH FROM
CORNER MARKET



HSMT BULB WORKSHOPS, MONDAY OCTOBER 27

Frist Learning Center at Cheekwood

Each workshop at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. Limited class size.

Registration deadline: October 23.

Inquiries: Jennie Bowman, jb3614@gmail.com

"FESTIVE HOLIDAY BULB PLANTING FOR INDOOR POTS" COST \$25

Instructor will cover various planting methods as well as discuss bulb options. After demonstration, participants will plant cheerful and fragrant narcissus bulbs (paperwhites) in pots to take home. Bulbs and planting material provided. Participants need to bring their own container, approximately 6-8" in diameter, with drainage hole.

"BEAUTIFUL SPRING BULB PLANTING FOR OUTDOOR POTS" COST \$50

Instructor will cover various methods of planting bulbs in pots for spring delight, in particular "lasagna" or layered bulbs plantings with up to 3 layers of bulbs for staggered blooming. Discussion will include care of pots over the winter and suggested bulb varieties. After demonstration, participants will plant a 2 layer pot to take home: first a bottom layer of tulips topped with a layer of crocus. Bulbs and planting material provided. Participants need to bring their own container, approximately 8-10" in diameter and 8" in height, with drainage."

Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society Show

Saturday, March 28, 2026

&

Sunday, March 29, 2026



**Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
Massey Auditorium of Botanic Hall
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37205**

**For more information, contact Becky Fox Matthews
at becky@lostfrogs.com or 615-838-1359**

Tennessee Council of Nationally Accredited
Flower Show Judges
of
District II

Will sponsor an
NGC Flower Show Symposium

Monday & Tuesday
April 13 - 14, 2026

Held at
The Oaklands Mansion
in
Maney Hall
901 North Maney Avenue
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

For more information
Contact Kathy Rychen
kathyrychen@gmail.com

TFGC District III



District III Officers:

Director:

Jackie Westfield

tndistrict3director@gmail.com

Vice-Director:

Lu Ann Carey

lucarey3@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:

Geneva Andrews

geneva.andrews@icloud.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Starr Alexander

starralexander3@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Diane Ryder

dianeryder@epbfi.com

District III Garden Clubs

- Aldersgate Garden Club
- Crestwood Garden Club
- Dayton Garden Club “Busy Bees”
- Four Seasons Garden Club
- Garden Club of Signal Mountain
- Hickory Valley Garden Club
- Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club
- Magnolia Garden Club
- Murry Hills Garden Club
- Ocoee Garden Club





Message from the District III Director Jackie Westfield

Ladies,

Summer is just about over and many of our clubs do not meet during the summer months. So now that summer is over and fall is upon us, it is time to get back to work.

Fall gardening, bulb planting, preparing our flower bed for the winter are all a part of our goal.

The Fall District Meeting is upon us and we are looking forward to a wonderful presentation on Pollinators.

Congratulations to **Dayton Garden Club** who just celebrated their **70th Anniversary**.

Also, congratulations to **Hickory Valley** and **Aldersgate** for adding new members.

So, as the year ends and the holidays are upon us, let us look forward to the new year, flower shows, garden tours, awards, and new projects.

Happy Fall,

Jackie

District III

Dayton Garden Club “Busy Bees”

Dayton Garden Club met on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the Civil Air Patrol Building at the Mark Anton Airport. The guest speaker was Amanda Lackner who told the members about Comfrey and Calendula Salves and how to make them. Member Diana Pace brought exhibits of fall natives that we need to have in our gardens. Marilyn Smith was unable to attend, but sent her Members Short Program on “Dill” along with a sample recipe. Discussion was held on the upcoming Wings on Display event. The Dayton Garden Club will be in charge of the VIP area for the pilots who participate in the show. Plans were made also for Dayton Garden Club’s 70th Anniversary Garden Party which will be held on September 24th at the Mark Anton Airport.



Guest Speaker Amanda Lackner



Club President Amy Candler gave Amanda a gift for doing the program.



District III

Dayton Garden Club “Busy Bees”



Diana Pace



Submitted by Debbie Shaver



Marilyn Smith's recipe

District III

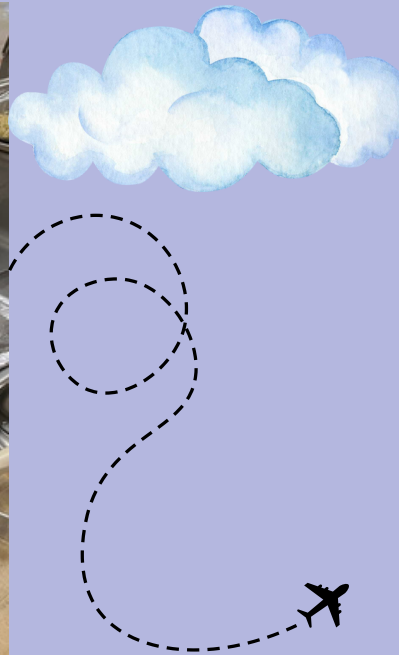
Dayton Garden Club “Busy Bees”

For the Mark Anton Airport *Wings on Display* event, the Dayton Garden Club hosted the VIPs (veterans, pilots and volunteers) with a catered BBQ dinner & homemade German lunch on September 6, 2025.



District III

Dayton Garden Club "Busy Bees"



Submitted by Amy Candler

District III

Dayton Garden Club “Busy Bees”

The Dayton Garden Club celebrated our 70th year anniversary on September 24th with a luncheon and tea at the Mark Anton Airport in Dayton. TFGC president Lelia Johnson honored us by attending. Lelia has consistently been supportive of DGC and we appreciate Lelia and several other garden club members and leaders, including Deep South Garden Clubs Director Denise Thorne for sharing in our celebration. We had a lovely selection of salads, sandwiches, and desserts, and the decorations reflected our club's love of flowers and nature. It was a special way to celebrate our club and all the beauty nature provides to all of us.

Amy Candler
DGC President



Left to Right: Gloria, Geneva, Marilyn, Debbie, Lelia & Susan

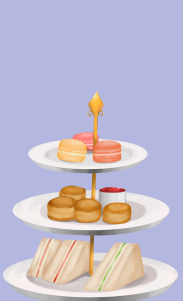


District III

Dayton Garden Club "Busy Bees"



Debbie Shaver, Denise Thorne & Amy Candler



Submitted by Debbie Shaver & Amy Candler
Photos by Linda Marcoux

District III

Garden Club of Signal Mountain

The **Garden Club of Signal Mountain** takes two months off each summer, but that does not mean the members stop serving the community. Our club's theme for this year is **Rooted and Grounded in Community Beautification and Education** and that is exactly what GCSM members provide during the summer months.

Seven Landmarks on Signal Mountain are designed, planted and maintained each spring/summer/fall in the town city limits. This ongoing landscape tradition is made possible through the leadership of each landscape project's chairperson and the members that volunteer for each site's plant maintenance, fertilization and watering throughout the season.

Once plants have been selected, the chairman and her volunteers have a hands-on day to augment the soil and plant the planters. Individual club members sign up to be in charge of the site for one week during the season to water, fertilize and weed. This volunteer rotating schedule enables each site to have constant individual care. Some of the larger in-ground landscape projects have monthly workdays whereby the chairperson notifies the volunteers of a specific morning to weed, divide and transplant perennials and annuals to get ready for the upcoming season. Between the planters and the in ground landscapes, GCSM members keep our lovely community bright with welcoming flowers.

From the Welcome Signs, the Library, the Post Office, James Park, Blue Star Memorial and the Mountain Arts Community Center, the Garden Club of Signal Mountain strives to enhance our town and provide inspiration for our neighbors.



Welcome Sign at Shoal Creek/Taft Highway

Landscape Project Chairperson: Rhita Eichhorn.

Featured plantings—super elfin white impatiens, coleus, ferns, purple sage.

District III

Garden Club of Signal Mountain



James Park—Landscape Project Chairperson: Charlotte Witry.
Featured plantings—Shasta daisy, various daylilies and multiple grasses.



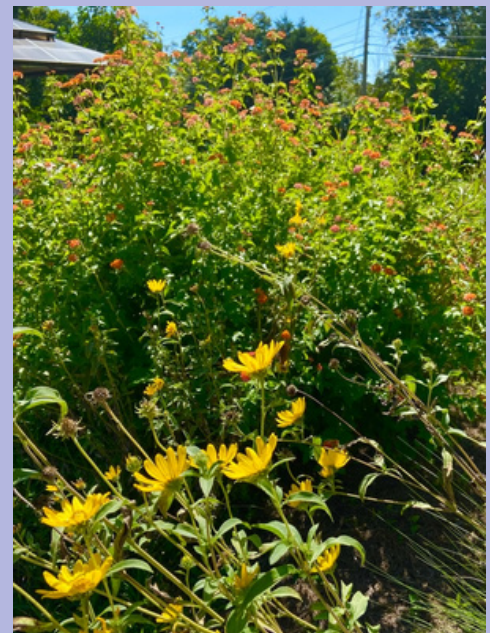
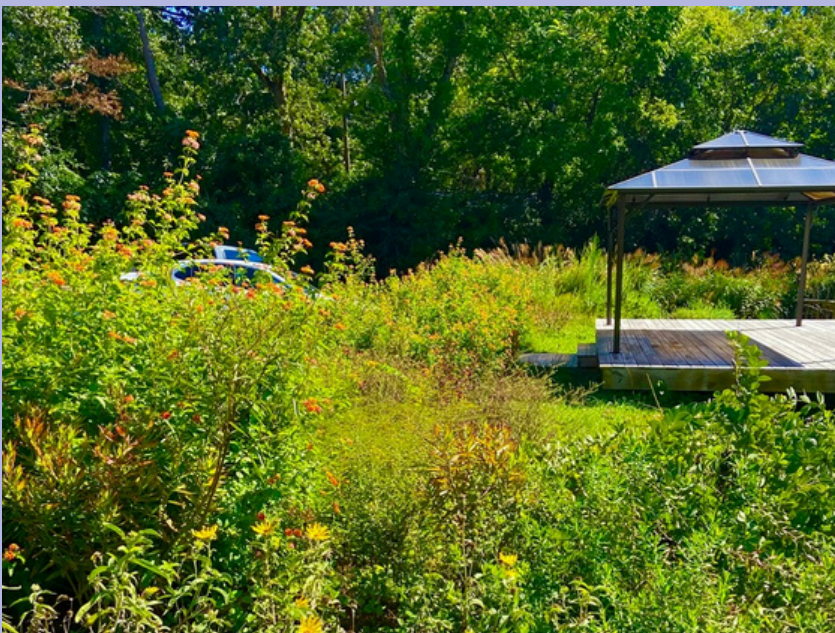
Blue Star Memorial Marker—Landscape Project Chairperson: Margie Rowland.
Featured plantings—Newly first year planted double blooming forsythia.

District III

Garden Club of Signal Mountain



Post Office—Landscape Project Chairperson: Lynn Heck
Featured plantings—Begonia with custom-made planters.



Mountain Arts Pollinator Garden—Landscape Project Chairperson: Diane Ryder.
**Featured plantings—false sunflower, lantana, black-eyed susan, bee balm,
purple coneflower and many more.**

District III

Garden Club of Signal Mountain



**Signal Mountain Library—Landscape Project Chairperson: Delores Murphy.
Featured plantings—purple vinca, lantana, petunia, small grasses.**



**Welcome Sign at James/Taft Highway—Landscape Project Chairperson: Sharon Woods.
Featured plantings—super elfin white New Guinea impatiens, Stella de Oro daylily,
sun-loving Bracken fern.**

Submitted by Judy Nowlin

District III

Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club

Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club Visits Rising Fawn Gardens

On a warm and sunny morning in September, our club gathered at **Rising Fawn Gardens** in Rising Fawn, Georgia, to enjoy a breathtaking retreat nestled within 600 acres of natural beauty, featuring medicinal gardens, winding trails, an ever-flowing creek, and sweeping views of Lookout Mountain.

Our morning began in the large **medicinal gardens**, a living apothecary where we explored a rich collection of cultivated and wild plants. We were invited by our guide and owner, Karen Persinger, to see, touch, and learn about an array of herbs and vegetables known for their healing properties—natural remedies that nurture both body and mind.

A highlight for many was experiencing **forest bathing**, a meditative practice rooted in Japanese tradition and medicine. Guided by a Rising Fawn teacher, Maria, we learned how to engage with nature mindfully and intentionally. We then walked in silence from Lookout Mountain Creek along a shaded and cool forest trail, allowing our senses to absorb the serenity and sounds of the wooded area before breaking out into the hot sunshine to arrive at the medicinal gardens.

It was a morning of learning, reflection, connection and renewal—an ideal setting to pause, breathe and rediscover the peace that nature can offer. We concluded our morning with fellowship over lunch, complemented by fragrant herbal teas from the gardens. Each of us received a bag of dried herbs and a list of the plants featured in the garden, which we're excited to use as inspiration for expanding our own gardens at home.

A special thanks to Melanie Riddle and Penny Simmons, our program chairs, who planned and coordinated this event.





TFGC District III



Fall Membership Meeting

Monday, October 27, 2025

10:00 am



Hampton Inn

4355 Frontage Road NW

Cleveland, TN 37312



TFGC District IV



District IV Officers

Director:

Janet Brown

drjanw@comcast.net

Vice-Director:

Gina Clark

gclarkx4@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:

LaQuita Misner

lqmisner@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Gina Barnett

ggbarnett@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:

Sandy Barnes

barnessandy834@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer:

Grace Clark

graceaclark24@gmail.com

District IV Garden Clubs

- Arissa Garden Club
- Chapman Highway Garden Club
- Crestwood Hills Ladybugs
- Dixie Highway Garden Club
- Eastside Garden Club
- Flower Lovers Garden Club
- Garden Guild Garden Club
- Harrogate Garden Club
- Kanunsita Garden Club
- Knox County Council of Garden Clubs
- Lakemoor Hills Garden Club
- Lenoir City Garden Club
- Mountain Laurel Garden Club
- Norwood Garden Club
- Noweta Garden Club
- Sevierville Garden Club
- Sun-up Garden Club
- Shady Oaks Garden Club
- Tuckaleechee Garden Club
- Town & Country Garden Club
- West Hills Garden Club
- Valley Beautiful Garden Club

Message from the District IV Director

Jan Brown



Fall is in the air!! Many clubs in District IV are participating in a number of Fall Festivals and getting the word out about garden clubs and TFGC. We need new members to grow and continue to serve our communities. We have had several new members join but unfortunately, we have lost a few older members who have passed away recently.

I am very excited about our new TFGC website. It has many features that will make reporting changes in membership so much easier and is a great way for our District and clubs to share news. A program will be presented at our October 17th District Meeting by the new webmasters for that site.

The updated Operating and Procedure Manual for our District will be completed soon and emailed to all officers and committee chairs thanks to Suzan Bowman who is also our District newsletter chair. Send her information on your club happenings.

I would love to visit all the clubs in District IV. Just let me know when and where you are meeting and I will try to come to be with you. If I can help any of you in any way, please let me know.

Jan

District IV

Chapman Highway Garden Club

The Chapman Highway Garden Club has had a summer full of activities, including touring some of the lovely historic homes and learning about the architectural history in the Knoxville area. On June 19th the club met at the Blount Mansion and enjoyed a wonderful tour of the gardens & interior of the house led by executive director David Hearn.



On July 17th the club toured the Mabry-Hazen House, led by executive director Patrick Hollis.



District IV

Harrogate Garden Club

Members of the Harrogate Garden Club participated in the Middlesboro Garden Club Flower Show “All That Jazz” in Middlesboro, Kentucky. The members had an enjoyable time and walked away with some colorful ribbons! Tiffany Sanchez was one of the multi-category winners from Harrogate Garden Club! Congratulations to all the participants and winners!



District IV

Harrogate Garden Club

Harrogate Garden Club members enjoyed a “wet” outing at UT Gardens Knoxville at the premiere of *Art in the Gardens: A Bunny Tale*. For a fourth year, the club has entered the art exhibit, and were all smiles when locating the entry!



Now in its eighth year, *Art in the Gardens* is designed to promote community participation with the UT Gardens. This year’s fun and whimsical event serves to raise awareness about rabbits as important members of our local wildlife community. Forty-four local adult artists have donated their time and talent to artistically interpret this year’s theme with a fun, creative design applied to a three-dimensional bunny cutout made of marine-grade plywood.

District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

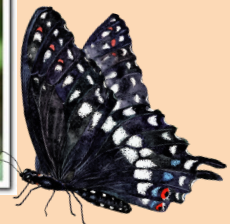
Mountain Laurel Garden Club members Bobbie Flowers, Angie Caldwell, Carol Morton and Sandy Vandenberg took part in the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Butterfly Count in Cades Cove on July 8th. Our team of 4 counted 15 different species and a total of 149 butterflies.



The counts have been going on in the United States, Canada and Mexico since 1993 and in the Great Smoky Mountains for the last 4 years. In March 2025, the massive NABA dataset provided the primary source of butterfly count data for the study published in Science, shows butterflies have been in decline by a staggering 22% in the last 20 years. We must work to reverse this trend and create a world where butterflies thrive for the benefit of nature and people.

District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club



Citizen Science is so important in gathering information and it is fun for those out in the field taking the counts.

Anyone interested in participating in butterfly counts can contact Wanda DeWaard at earthkin@bellsouth.net.

For more information go to <https://naba.org/>

District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

Mountain Laurel Garden Club received funding from the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs' ETF Grant for a two year garden revitalization and enhancement of the fish pond area at Fairview Elementary School. Members have been working since March to restore the overgrown garden to its original purpose of a sustainable garden to attract and support local wildlife.

This summer Scout Andres Mussio checked out our project and chose our project for his Eagle Scout Project. Under his leadership, scouts weeded, raked up old pea gravel, added landscape fabric, replaced pea gravel, purchased and added more pea gravel, and leveled pavers at one entrance. We so appreciated all the help we got from our Scouts. Members are continuing to work on this project, and our meadow and gardening area approximately three hours a week.



Submitted by Sandy Vandenberg

District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club



Mountain Laurel Garden Club



At the September Meeting Mountain Laurel Garden Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary since the club was founded in 1975 by Mrs. Hal Robinson and Mrs. Garney Scott. The club is blessed to have original members Nancy Robinson and Mable Keller still active in the club. Members enjoyed anniversary cake and ice cream and presented Mable Keller, Joyce Stafford, Sandy Vandenberg, Angie Caldwell and Marilyn Johnson with crowns for being in the club 20 years or more.



L to rt Joyce Stafford, Paula Fortson, Sandy Vandenberg, Anna Shugart, Mable Keller, Marilyn Johnson, Carol Morton, Lisa Phipps, Kim Pilas, Sage Mend, Angie Caldwell and Bobbie Flower.



Joyce Stafford, Sandy Vandenberg, Mable Keller, Angie Caldwell and Marilyn Johnson

District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

The program for September was on Eastern Bluebirds presented by Chuck Powell and Ron Amburst, with the Valley Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society. Blue Birds are native to East Tennessee and are cavity nesters that can create nests 3 times a year. Members learned how to attract bluebirds to their yards by providing shelter, food and water. Bluebirds are year round residents in East Tennessee and eat mainly bugs and caterpillars. During winter months, it is recommended to provide mealworms, nesting boxes and heated birdbaths. Once you attract Bluebirds, you should continue to have them as the lifespan is 8-9 years and birds return to same nest site yearly.



Chuck Powell discussing bluebirds with Lisa Phipps

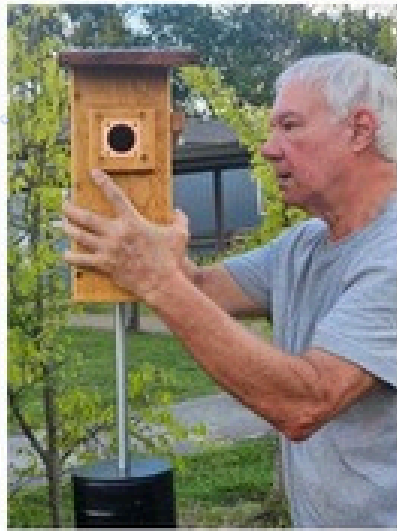
The chapter has a membership available for \$10 a year that includes a newsletter sent via email. They also have handcrafted cedar houses for \$65 and a baffle to keep predators away for \$25 more. At this price, they also come to your yard and install. They can be reached at www.TNbluesociety.org or valleychapterTBS@gmail.com

The club had previously voted to start a bluebird trail at Fairview School and after seeing the houses, the club purchased three with baffles for the school grounds. These were installed by Chuck the very next day.



District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club



Chuck Powell installing boxes

The Fairview School Pond project is still in progress and club has applied for a second year grant to help complete the project. Pat Rimmer's family donated lots of gardening items for use at the school or to be sold to raise funds for the school gardens. We are expanding the patio area to accommodate a table and chair set that was donated. Members have started planting more native plants to attract wildlife. We have Gulf Fritillary caterpillars on our Passion Flower vine, Swallowtail caterpillars on our dill and Monarch caterpillars on our milkweed. It's exciting to be able to get students interested in gardening and nature. Members will have a table set up at the Fall Festival to let students make pinecone feeders.



Gulf Fritillary Caterpillar



Monarchs

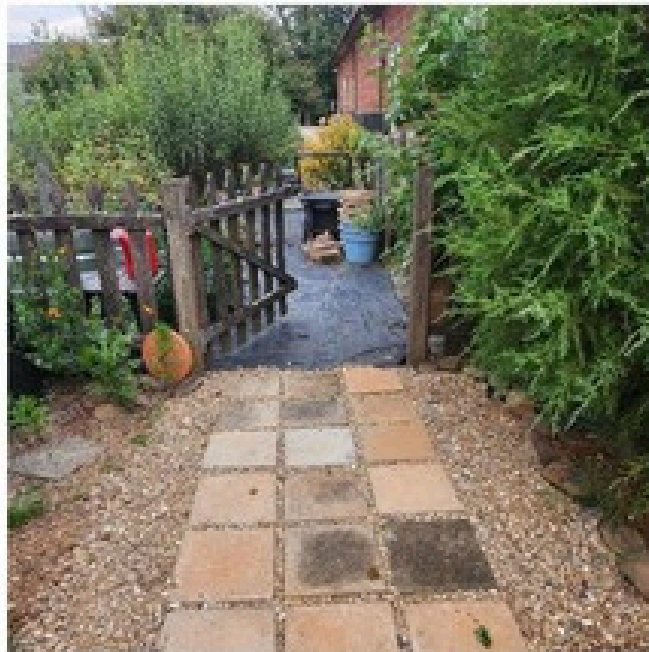
District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

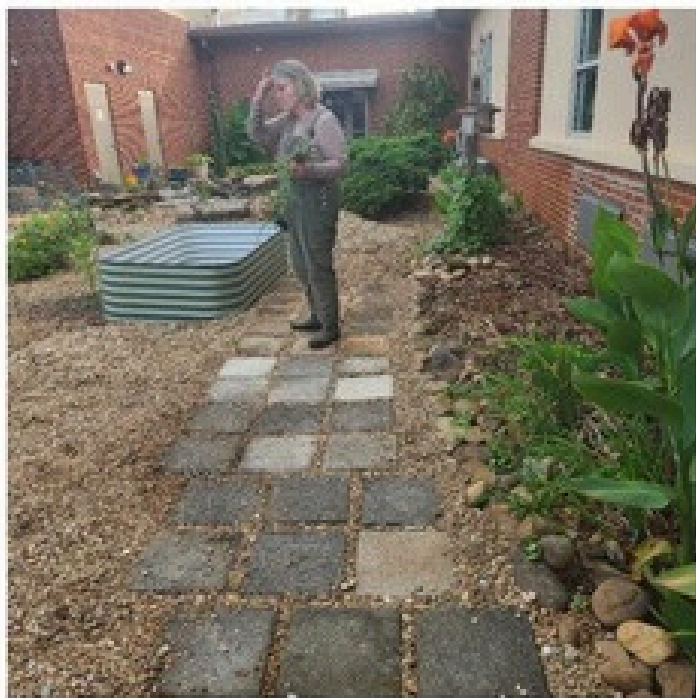
Work continues in the gardens at Fairview School.



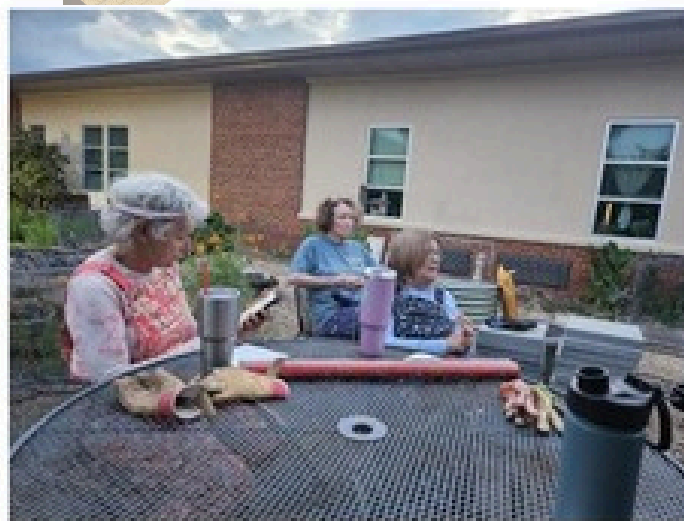
Blocks for patio extension



Entry path redone



Valerie Hendrix deciding where planter will go.



Bobbie Flower, Carol Morton and Sandy



Membership - Highlights of June! Field trip to UT Gardens, Kerns Bakery Food Court, Stanley's Greenhouse plants!



Submitted by Dixie Seaton

District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club



On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, the Tuckaleechee Garden Club was honored to have Kelly Smith Trimble give an informative program on *Companion Planting*. Kelly is a master gardener, author of gardening books, as well as editor for HGTV social media platforms. Her excellent program was enjoyed by all!



Congratulations to the Tuckaleechee Garden Club!

2025 Espoma "Best of the Best" Winner

At the 2025 NGC Convention in Charleston, SC, Bonnie Satterthwaite, from Espoma, announced that the Tuckaleechee Garden Club of Townsend, Tennessee as the winner of the Espoma 2025 "Best of the Best" \$500 CASH award.

They were selected from the twenty 2023-24 Espoma Grant winning clubs for submitting the best final report and photos for their Heirloom Kitchen Garden at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. Their Heirloom Kitchen Garden is a historically accurate, early 1800s, kitchen garden with heirloom vegetables, medicinal herbs, and flowers. They use the garden for teaching southern Appalachian history through plants for food, medicine, and beauty. Tuckaleechee GC celebrated National Garden Week with daily "Mornings in the Garden" tours and talks. Other events in 2024 included: "Kids Take Over the Museum," "Taste of the Smokies" with their fresh produce, "Christmas in the Village," and Plant Sales – just to name a few. Congratulations Tuckaleechee GC!



District IV

Aug. 16, 2025

Knox County Council of Garden Clubs makes donation to Ijams

To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Ijams Nature Center, a collection of Knox County area garden clubs donated \$1,000 to honor two of its members involved in Ijams' founding. The Knox County Council of Garden Clubs, which consists of 14 clubs in the Knoxville area, made the donation at its August meeting. It was the Knox County Council that purchased the original site of the nature center in 1966. At that time, Alice Ijams was president of the council, and Ruth DeFries was president of Chapman Highway Garden Club in south Knoxville, where Ijams is located. The two women helped Ijams become a non-profit organization in 1975. Alice Ijams and her husband Harry were the original owners of the Ijams homestead.

"We present this check to honor KCCGC's role in the establishment of Ijams," said LaQuita Misner, president of KCCGC. "We also commemorate the visionary leadership of Alice Ijams and Ruth DeFries." The check was presented at the August meeting of the KCCGC.

Ijams is now a 318-acre nature center with more than 620,000 visitors annually. It provides educational programs, trails and more as the most visited nature center in the U. S.



Photo caption:
LaQuita Misner, president of Knox County Council of Garden Clubs, presents a check to Amber Parker, CEO of Ijams Nature Center to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Ijams.



Submitted by Nancy Howell



Dogwoods: A Trail, A Cultivar, A Legacy

**The Knox County Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.
invites you to a program about the contributions of
the Howell family to the cultural history of Knoxville
and the Eastern United States through landscape
plants from their nationally-known nursery.**

**Sarah DeWitt, Engagement Manager at KBGA, will
share the story of the flagship nursery and home that
is now the site of Knoxville Botanical Garden and
Arboretum.**

**Thursday. October 2nd at 11:00 am
Ivan Racheff House & Gardens
1943 Tennessee Avenue
Knoxville**



UTGARDENS
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF TENNESSEE

**FABULOUS FALL
PLANT SALE**

**Saturday October 4
9 AM - 2 PM**

**2518 Jacob Dr.
Knoxville**

Fall is the best time to install many types of plants, and our sale is the best place to buy them!

We will have a diverse selection of perennial flowers, shrubs, uncommon evergreens, native plants, houseplants, herbs, veggies and much more. Need planting and landscaping advice?

Garden staff and Master gardeners will be on hand to help customers with plant suggestions & general gardening advice. Be sure to stop by the East Tennessee Daffodil Society booth for quality bulbs and information.

TFGC District IV

Fall Membership Meeting

Friday, October 17, 2025

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fox Den Country Club

12284 North Fox Den Drive

Knoxville, TN 37934





Sevierville Garden Club

**Visit our Booth at the
Wears Valley Fall Fest!
Booth #1!**

**Decorated pumpkins, wall hangings,
cute gnomes, handmade decorations
for fall and Christmas**





THE KNOX COUNTY COUNCIL OF
GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL



Fall Fun Card Party

CARDS. DOMINOES, BRIDGE OR ANY GAMES ARE WELCOME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LUNCH AT NOON

Ivan Racheff House & Gardens

1943 Tennessee Avenue

Knoxville

PRIZES~MOST MEMBERS PRESENT & MOST PAID RESERVATIONS
TICKETS-\$25, RSVP TO LAQUITA MISNER AT LQMISNER@AOL.COM OR
MAIL CHECKS TO KCCGC 4415 CABBAGE DRIVE KNOXVILLE, TN 37938
BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, OR GIVE TO ANDREA CANTRELL AT THE
DISTRICT IV MEETING AT FOX DEN.

Bring a friend, make a friend, laugh with friends!

All proceeds benefit KCCGC projects & responsibilities.

DISTRICT IV
SPRING
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

FRIDAY MARCH 27, 2026
9:00AM - 2:00PM

FOX DEN COUNTRY CLUB
12284 NORTH FOX DEN DRIVE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37934



Featured Photography

by Morna Conway

Flower Growers Garden Club

District II



Rosa 'Elle'



Rosa 'Larger Than Life'



Rosa 'Love At First Sight'



Rosa 'Painted Moon' 130

Featured Photography

by Morna Conway
Flower Growers Garden Club

District II



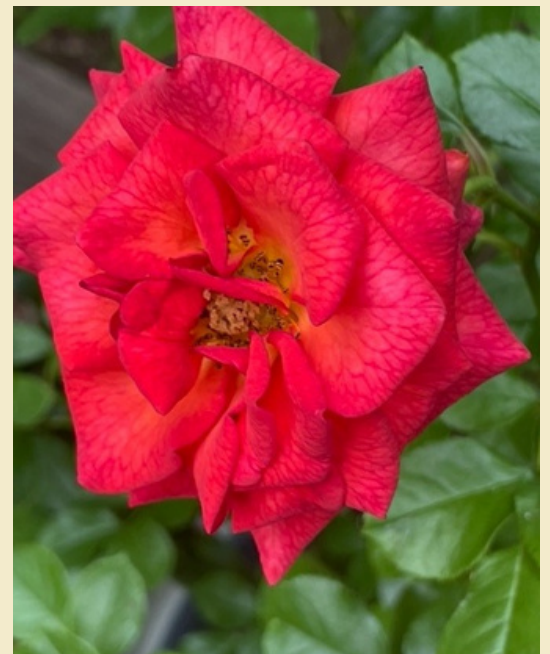
Rosa 'Cherry Parfait'



Hibiscus summerific 'Ballet Slippers'



Rosa 'Good As Gold'



Rosa 'Ay Caramba!'

A cluster of bright green, serrated leaves is positioned in the upper left corner of the page.

Featured Poetry



My Calendar Garden

by Sandy Estes

Optimistic Gardeners Club

District II

**My garden's like a calendar
marking days that pass,
From the frigid New Year's Day until December's last.**

**Each day presents a masterpiece
by nature's gifted hand.
And never did a mortal man paint pictures quite so grand.**

**From winter scenes to sunny scapes,
each season strives to boast,
Such galleries of beauty and my garden is the host.**



NEW

Member Spotlight

District I:

**Molly Hampton “Outstanding Member”
Garden Club of Rosemark**

District II:

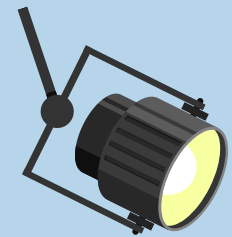
**Lillian Hibbett “A Stellar Leader”
Optimistic Gardeners Club**

District III:

**Debbie Shaver “An Unsung Hero”
Dayton Garden Club**

District IV:

**Mary Ruden “Wildflower Artist”
Sevierville Garden Club**



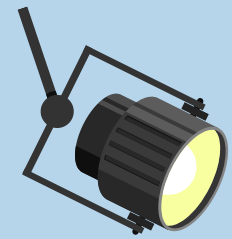
“Outstanding Member”

Molly Hampton Garden Club of Rosemark District I

Garden Club members are busy people. This certainly holds true for Garden Club of Rosemark member, Molly Hampton. Molly was born and raised in North Shelby County, the Rosemark community. After graduating from UT Knoxville and getting married, Molly and her husband, Kennon, moved out of state. When visiting family in Rosemark, Molly would attend Garden Club of Rosemark meetings with her mother, Mary McCalla.

Upon returning to the Rosemark area in 1999, Molly and Kennon immediately got involved in community activities. Kennon began working at Dixon Gallery and Gardens and Molly joined the Garden Club of Rosemark. Molly was elected District I Director in 2015 and served to 2017. She has served as the Garden Club of Rosemark president, State Membership Development Chairman from 2017 to 2019, and Endowment Trust Fund Chairman.

Molly is currently serving as the State Flower Show Chairman of TN Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges. Not only is Molly a Master Flower Show Judge, she is also a Daffodil Judge and a Daffodil School Instructor. The Hydrangea Society, Horticultural Society and the Ikebana Society of the Memphis area are all organizations in which Molly is actively serving.



Molly Hampton District I

The Rosemark Community has also benefited from Molly's return. Bolton High School is maintained by Bolton Trust which Molly serves.

Landscaping of the Millington Telephone Company property in Rosemark is a project of the Garden Club of Rosemark that Molly and Kennon help maintain.

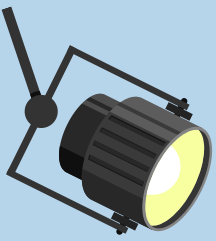
Molly's family has a rich history with the Richland ARP Presbyterian Church. An addition to the church is called Memorial Hall due to the McCalla family members' contribution to its construction. The Memorial Hall hosts the Garden Club of Rosemark's annual flower shows each September that is held in conjunction with the Country Fair at Rosemark that is on the church grounds.

Molly was instrumental in helping create Tipton Fleur de Lis Garden Club in 1999. She and Janice Oliver visited with six ladies interested in forming a club and guided and walked with these ladies as they learned the process of becoming a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. After their acceptance letter in October 1999, she continued to mentor this club.



Kennon & Molly Hampton

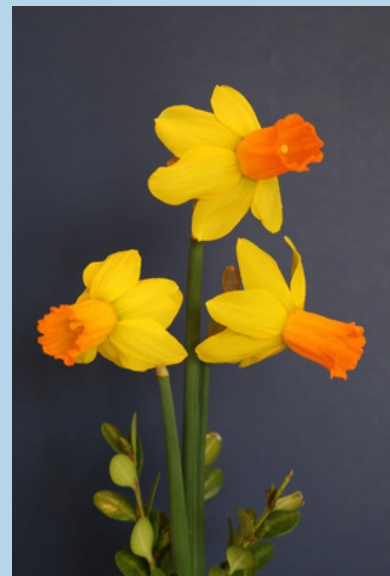




Molly Hampton District I

Many people have benefited from Molly's mentoring. Many of the people from whom I gathered information began telling me stories of Molly's encouragement in attending Flower Show School, accepting leadership positions and attending conventions.

I give you a glimpse of Molly Hampton's life not because of her sharing, but because of her giving to others. Molly never brings attention to herself; she is always encouraging other people. Molly is a great example of an outstanding District I Garden Club member!



Submitted by District I Director Jackie Walker



“A Stellar Leader”

Lillian Hibbett

Optimistic Gardeners Club

District II

Lillian’s dedication and enthusiasm for garden club functions is unmatched! She is a retired school teacher and uses those organizational and motivational skills to effectively lead the Optimistic Gardeners Club. She is an avid lifelong learner who loves to travel, read and be involved in her community.

Her energy is contagious as she presents new ideas at every meeting and encourages all our members to actively participate in all aspects of garden club. She’s works tirelessly to expand our program topics and to invite interesting and knowledgeable speakers. She has a passion for outreach and shares many projects beyond our club with the community. Lillian is someone to be admired! We are fortunate to all know her as our leader and our friend!

Lillian has a passion for history and spent her highly successful teaching career instructing middle schoolers in social studies and history. Many of her travels have included historical parks and museums that enriched her teaching and her personal knowledge.

Lillian’s meetings would be characterized by FUN! There is something to interest everyone. Members are asked to share a variety of short stories, facts, NGC interests, etc. In addition the large meeting room is filled with educational exhibits, other featured displays, seasonal interests, and of course dramatic horticulture and creative floral designs. Because of Lillian’s leadership, we never lack for new members.
A stellar Leader!!!

Submitted by Optimistic Garden Club members Beth Binkley, Dot Taylor, Sandy Estes & Lynn Rouse.





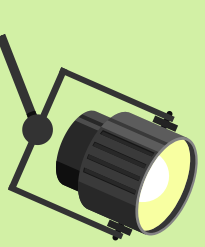
Lillian Hibbett District II



Lillian also enjoys collecting coleus for nonstop color from Spring through Fall, putting them in pots, flower beds, and hanging baskets. Easy propagation allows her to continually expand her collection as well as share with friends and at garden club meetings. Lillian's *Coleus Collector* interview and garden tour were featured on the May 27, 2021 *Volunteer Gardener* television show. The episode has been posted on YouTube and has had over 8600 views to date!



Some of Lillian's colorful coleus collection



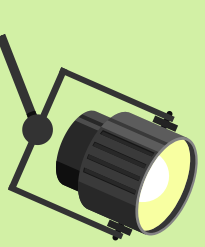
“An Unsung Hero”

**Debbie Shaver
Dayton Garden Club
District III**



No one really knows all the TFGC offices and posts that Debbie has held through the years because she takes everything in stride and carries out her duties quietly and efficiently. In addition to being TFGC State Awards Chairman for 13 years, she is a member of the active Dayton Garden Club “Busy Bees” and was its president for over 10 years, co-chair for 2026 Conservation Camp, state Vision of Beauty Calendar Chairman, Cumberland Trail Chairman, & TFGC Parliamentarian.





Debbie Shaver District III

Debbie has been married to her husband Marvin for over 50 years, and they have two sons, six grandchildren & several great grandchildren. She has worked in the printing business, in a dentistry office and for Dollar General. Her hobbies include gardening and painting. She also carves and paints gourds. She inherited and lives in her family home, which was built in 1886 and she is a member of the Historical Society.



We humbly thank and salute Debbie Shaver for all she has done over the years, and for everything she continues to do with her garden club and TFGC. 🐝

Nominated by Anne Leonard, with contributions by Amy Candler



Sevierville Garden Club

FEATURE STORY

MARY RUDEN

Wildflower Artist

BY JENNIE LOU HARRIMAN

District IV

"Wildflowers are equivalent to happiness to me," said Mary Ruden. "Their diversity, colors, and unwillingness to quit is invigorating. The act of growing them from seed is rewarding; most of them have to be started each year this way, after a harsh winter where they will go dormant and disappear."

Mary Ruden is a passionate artist and sculptor who loves sharing the beauty of wildflowers with others. A member of the Sevierville Garden Club, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Tennessee Artist Association, Knoxville Arts & Culture Alliance, and the American Society of Botanical Artists, she has dedicated her life to celebrating nature through her distinctive artistic interpretation. With degrees in art and medical science, she brings a unique perspective to her work, blending scientific knowledge with creative expression.

Residing in the Seymour and Sevierville area, Mary appreciates the strong sense of community and the region's accessibility to natural beauty. Her involvement in organizations such as the Sevierville chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) includes participation in annual fundraising events like the Tea, which the public can attend by purchasing tickets, typically available in late April or May.

Mary's love for wildflowers extends beyond appreciation—she actively cultivates and documents them. She describes wildflowers as symbols of happiness, closely intertwined with butterflies, birds, and pollinators of all kinds. Their vibrant colors and resilience inspire her, particularly in how they must be regrown from seed each year after harsh winters. She finds horticultural therapy immensely rewarding, both in wildflower cultivation and vegetable gardening.

Her journey into the world of botanical art began early. "I had a rose garden when I was five years old," she said, "and have drawn, painted, and sculpted flowers for decades." Maintaining a flower garden as a child was an experience that laid the foundation for a lifelong fascination with flora. Over the decades, she has painted, drawn, and

sculpted flowers, further fueling her passion during travels to the tropics, where she developed an interest in orchids and tropical plants. She was astounded by the diversity of plant species in Tennessee, where numerous parks and trails provide endless opportunities for nature observation. To share the beauty and diversity of native orchids, she created two posters showcasing their various species.

As an advocate for education, Ruden has contributed significantly to botanical literature. "The folding field guides that you see at visitor centers at national and state parks put lots of information into a compact waterproof folding guide," Mary said. "I have used them for years, on subjects like trees and birds, and they are easy to carry on a hike. The folding guides are useful, as they are so portable." She authored and illustrated two field guides on native orchids for Waterford Press's *A Pocket Naturalist* series. The first, *Native Orchids to North America*, features 75 species, complete with descriptions of their habitats and conservation notes. She meticulously painted each species to accurately depict their leaves and flowers, offering clarity for identification. Many traditional books rely on close-up photographs, which often fail to convey the actual size and structure of the plants. Her second guide, *Native Orchids to Florida*, presents over 80 species, requiring extensive research and travel to observe them in their natural environments. These compact, waterproof guides, available on Waterford Press's website, Amazon, and other book retailers, serve as valuable tools for conservation efforts and raising awareness about native flora.

Among all wildflowers, Ruden holds a special admiration for the lady slipper orchid. Several species of lady slippers can be found in Tennessee, though they are rarely seen. These orchids thrive in wooded areas and high-elevation regions, where colder temperatures and remote locations make them even more elusive. The showy lady slipper, distinguished by its magenta and white petals, is particularly striking. Inspired by their beauty, she sculpted a pink lady slipper orchid in bronze, which has been displayed at prestigious venues such as the Tennessee State Museum, the Knoxville and Nashville airports, Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, and various art galleries. Other wildflowers she finds captivating include fire pinks—scarlet, three-foot-tall plants that attract numerous pollinators, including hummingbirds. Their resilience and visual appeal make them excellent additions to any sunny garden.

Beyond botanical art, Ruden has contributed to public art through large-scale sculptures. Before transitioning to a full-time artist and





sculptor, she taught art at the college level for eight years. Her notable works include sculptures that commemorate historic figures and local legends. One of her most recognized pieces is the bronze statue of "Bertie the Bird Dog," situated across from the Sevierville courthouse. This piece honors Dr. Massey's dog, who famously carried his owner's earnings in a money pouch to the local bank in the early 1900s. When the statue was unveiled, members of Dr. Massey's family attended the dedication ceremony, sharing stories of Bertie's remarkable routine.

Ruden has also sculpted bronze busts of influential women in Tennessee history, including Anne Davis, known as the "Mother" of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Davis, a Tennessee legislator in 1925, played a pivotal role in the park's establishment, authoring the necessary legislation to ensure its creation. Ruden's bust of Davis has been displayed at the Sevierville Convention Center for the Rose Glen Literary Festival and at the East Tennessee History Center in Knoxville for the 100th Anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Her commitment to the study and preservation of plants led her to join the Sevierville Garden Club over a decade ago. With 37 years of active community involvement, the club promotes gardening knowledge and beautification efforts. Monthly meetings feature expert speakers on topics such as pollinators, native plants, and floral arranging. Ruden has shared her expertise with the club, delivering talks on native orchids and wildflowers.

Ruden's artistic and environmental contributions extend beyond Sevier County. Her public art installations include two large outdoor

sculptures in Founders Park in Johnson City, TN, and others at the American Museum of Science & Energy in Oak Ridge, TN, as well as in North Carolina. She has been honored with a Preservation Award from the Knox Heritage East Tennessee Preservation Alliance for her dedication to historical and environmental conservation.

Mary's Scottish heritage also plays a significant role in her artistic endeavors. As a member of the Hannay Clan, she has been actively involved in the Scots-Irish Festival held in historic downtown Dandridge. This festival celebrates Scots-Irish traditions with bagpipe performances, highland cattle displays, Irish step dancing, and historical society booths. Visitors can explore clan booths that provide ancestral history, tartan patterns, and coats of arms. Ruden, as an artist, even designed a coat of arms for her clan, incorporating the periwinkle flower, which historically served as an identifier when the English prohibited the wearing of kilts. Her clan's charitable organization, clanhannay.org, is dedicated to restoring Sorbie Tower, their ancestral home in Scotland, providing historical resources for those unable to travel there.

Mary Ruden's life and work are a testament to her deep appreciation for nature, history, and artistic expression. Whether through her sculptures, botanical illustrations, or advocacy for wildflower conservation, she continues to inspire others to appreciate and protect the natural beauty that surrounds them. Her contributions not only celebrate the vibrant flora of Tennessee but also leave a lasting impact on public art and historical preservation. Through her passion, she bridges the gap between art and nature, ensuring that the beauty of wildflowers and the stories of the past remain vivid for generations to come.

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Spring Brings Wildflowers

BY MARY RUDEN

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is visited by more than thirteen million people each year and is the most biologically diverse national park in the United States. The annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage takes place in late April and involves experts leading tours, and activities to see native plants in their spring splendor. Sugarlands Visitor Center in Gatlinburg has details on self-guiding nature trails which are a mile or less.

There are more than 1,600 flowering plants, including 100 native tree species in the GSMNP. Warning: you may fall in love with wildflowers or other native plants of the Smokies. About fifty species of ferns are found near moist areas such as river banks or old rotting logs, and a large number of medicinal plants exist. All plants in the Smokies are protected in the rich environment there; these native plants make up the precious character of the Park.

I authored and illustrated two folding field guides on native orchids for the Waterford Press "A Pocket Naturalist" series. The folding guides are waterproof and small enough to fit into a backpack. Wildflowers such as trilliums are plentiful in early spring and range in color from white, pink, yellow to burgundy.

Many small wildflowers cover the ground to make a spectacular carpet of color, such as purple phacelia, thyme-leaved bluets, and blue phlox. The first famous botanist of the Smokies, William Bartram (1734-1823), identified 3,710 varieties of plant life there and created illustrations of the plants.

Rhododendrons are abundant in the lower elevations in June and at mid and high elevations at the end of June. The pinkish-purple blossoms of the Catawba rhododendron are spectacular. Rosebay rhododendrons are more common to the Smokies, and have white flowers. The spectacular flame azaleas bloom in May and June at low to mid elevations, including Gregory Bald, above Cades Cove, and Andrews Bald near Kuwohi (formerly Clingmans Dome). Mountain laurel has pink and white flowers blooming from May to June and can be seen many places, including the Roaring Fork Motor Trail.

The GSMNP has about 36 species of orchids. The largest ones are the lady slippers, and there is a pink one and a yellow one, often seen as a clump of flowers in a setting of wide, waxy green leaves. The orchid that stands even taller is the fringed orchid. It is seen in a golden yellow color and a lavender purple color. They are more of a summer bloomer and can be up to three feet high.



Identification of native orchids is aided by referring to goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org.

This is a useful website for identification, with many photos and maps of geographical areas where the orchid is native to, its pollinator, and conservation status. The website is served by the North American Orchid Conservation Center, a part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Several varieties of native orchids have endangered status and some have threatened status due to declining numbers in the wild. Orchids have a symbiotic relationship with fungi called mycorrhizae that lives in the forest, and the orchids will not survive without this. Many displays of flowers are removed by visitors with a desire to try to grow them at home. This is not legal, and we must enjoy them in the original setting and take only photos. Several photography groups conduct wildflower and waterfall hikes, and this is a great way to remember these spring beauties.

Preservation of the environment where our native orchids live is important to their survival, and that of many other plants, insects, and all life forms. Through my art I try to inspire, entertain, and demonstrate these rare species and their relationship within our world.

Learn about the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage at wildflowerpilgrimage.org.



Member Spotlight

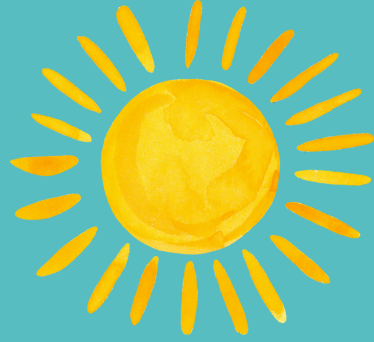
Is there a garden club member in your District who has special interests, inspires others, or has contributed greatly to your club, District, TFGC &/or community?

**Nominate that person for the
“Member Spotlight”!**

**Each Volunteer Gardener edition will feature
one garden club member per District.**

**Email a brief article about your nominee to:
annabanana7@comcast.net**

Youth



Gardening



**TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB
DISTRICT II**

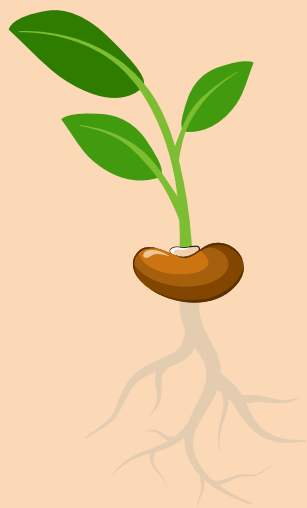
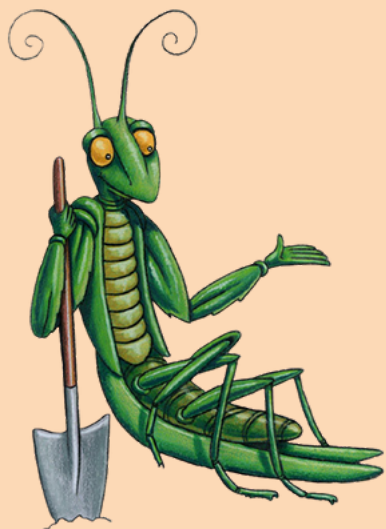
**Pumpkin Program at the
Wilson County Library**



**Club members Cathy Bergman, Joree Dudley,
Denise Thorne, Pat Galyean, Karen Dawson,
Pace Pope, & Jane Hundley**

Forty-nine children & twenty-two adults listened to the presentation by Deep South Regional Director Denise Thorne and all children received pumpkin plants grown by Denise. Handouts, recipes and a program were given to all in attendance and a Pumpkin Book was read to the children.





The ***Seeds & Sprouts Junior Master Gardener Club*** is held spring through fall at the Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains in Sevierville. It is a weekly meeting, usually breaking students into two identical sessions of about 45 minutes each.

We meet in the garden that was started 35 years ago by a member of the Sevierville Garden Club, Liz Ballard. She had a daughter attending and volunteered time, getting the students outside planting flowers and growing some vegetables. Through the years, with financial support the Sevierville Garden Club and a lot of donations, it grew from a random activity with one garden bed to a large raised bed and hoop house that has expanded three times. The students include 2nd thru 7th graders, varying with the changing Boys & Girls Club population.



Sevierville Garden Club District IV

Currently we meet in early April with seed planting and propagation in the hoop house, and garden tending in the raised bed. In the summer it includes watering, crafting, learning about soils, environmental education, and nutrition of fruits & vegetables using the Junior Master Gardener (JMG) curriculum. In the fall, we continue by planting a fall garden, especially hoping our pumpkins produce by the end of October. Ask the students—they know pumpkins are not only a fruit, they are a cucurbit!

Our student count coming out last summer was over 60 different students. This fall we expect 30 each week with the two age groups. So far we are talking about pome fruits—tasting apples and pears!

The Seeds & Sprouts Club JMG Club is financed and taught by the Sevierville Garden Club, cooperating with ***Keep Sevier Beautiful*** educators. We've been honored to receive TFGC Endowment Grants which have also done a lot of the "heavy lifting" with remodels and maintenance needs. TNCEP (Tennessee Nutrition and Consumer Education Program) grants have helped this year to provide the fresh produce for the tastings each week. It's a cooperative endeavor, and has been a wonderful program for the children that we hope to continue for many years.



Does your garden club involve Youth in programs & projects?

Share your Youth Gardening Project
in the Volunteer Gardener!

Email details & photos to:
annabanana7@comcast.net



Unless there are signed release forms from parents,
the youths' faces will be obscured in the photos.



Special Fall Feature

**Tried & True Fall Favorite Recipes
from the 2005 book**

***“A Collection of Recipes from Members of the
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.”***





OLD WORLD POTATO SOUP

5 med. potatoes, cubed
2 carrots, cut up
2 lg ribs of celery, cut up
1 tsp parsley
 $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. marjoram
 $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. caraway seeds
 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. bacon
1 sm onion
2 T. flour

Boil potatoes, carrots and celery in water to cover until done. Add parsley, marjoram and caraway seeds. Mince bacon and onion and fry until golden. Add to potato mixture. Stir to mix. Add flour and stir to thicken.

Brenda Price
Dixie Highway Garden Club

ZUCCHINI MUFFINS

3 eggs
1 c sugar
1 c vegetable oil
2 c self-rising flour
1 T vanilla
1 tsp cinnamon
1 c. nuts
2 c. grated zucchini

Spray muffin tins and preheat oven to 350°. Mix ingredients together in the order given and pour into muffin tins. Bake approximately 20 minutes.

Paulette Williams
Collierville Garden Club



HOT CRAB DIP

8 oz. cream cheese
 $6\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. can crab meat
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp horseradish
1 T milk
2 T flaked, chopped onions
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt
Dash pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. toasted sliced almonds

Combine cream cheese and milk. Add horseradish, crab meat, onion, salt and pepper. Put in baking dish, 8 x 8-inches. Sprinkle with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup toasted sliced almonds. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. Serve with crackers.

Jean Dye
Flower Lovers Circle Garden Club

CRANBERRY CONGEALED SALAD

- 1 (12-oz.) pkg. fresh cranberries
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. sugar
- 3 (3-oz.) pkgs. raspberry flavored gelatin
- 2 c. boiling water
- 2 c. cranberry juice, chilled
- 1 (8-oz.) can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 c. celery, diced
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. chopped pecans, toasted
- Lettuce leaves
- Whipping cream

Process cranberries in food processor 30 seconds or until coarsely chopped, stopping to scrape down sides. Stir together cranberries and sugar in a bowl, let stand 10 minutes. Stir together gelatin and boiling water in a large bowl 2 minutes or until gelatin is dissolved. Add cranberry juice and chill 30 minutes or until consistency of unbeaten egg whites. Stir in cranberry mixture, pineapple, celery and pecans. Spoon mixture into lightly greased 10-cup bundt pan; cover and chill 8 hours or until firm. Unmold onto a lettuce-lined platter. Fill center with whipped cream or garnish as desired.

Jeanine Jacobs
Ben Lomond Garden Club

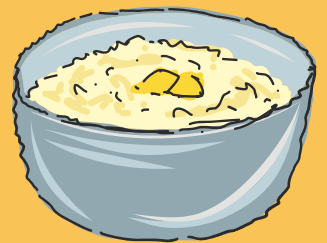


GRITS EVEN A YANKEE WILL LOVE

- 3 slices bacon
- $3\frac{1}{2}$ c. chicken stock or 2 cans chicken broth
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
- 1 c. quick-cooking grits
- 3 tomatoes, peeled and chopped or 1 (14.5-oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 can green chilies, drained (save liquid)

Cook bacon in a large, heavy skillet until crisp. Drain on paper towels and crumble. Gradually add chicken stock to bacon grease; bring to a boil. Add salt. Stir in grits and tomatoes. Return to a boil; reduce heat so that grits will simmer about 15-20 minutes. When grits have thickened, stir in cheese and chilies. Stir in the liquid from chilies to gain the best consistency. Pour into baking dish. Crumble bacon on top. Cover and allow to stand for 5 minutes.

Janet Powell
Shady Oaks Garden Club



SQUASH/CORN CASSEROLE

- $2\frac{1}{2}$ - to 3-lb. yellow squash
- 1 lg. onion, sliced
- 1 tsp. salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. pepper
- 1 (16-oz.) can whole kernel corn
- 1 lg. or 2 med. eggs
- 1 c. croutons (or crushed saltines)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Parmesan cheese (opt.)

Peel and cut squash into large pieces. Combine squash, onions, salt and pepper and cook until tender but still firm. Drain well. Drain corn and add to squash. Mash with potato masher. Beat eggs and add to vegetables. Add croutons (or crackers). Pour into a buttered casserole. Top with extra croutons (or saltines). Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese (optional). Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

Carolyn Presswood
Ocoee Garden Club





PUMPKIN COOKIES

- 1/2 c. shortening
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. pumpkin pie filling
- 1 c. raisins
- 1/2 c. nuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. flour, self-rising
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. soda

Cream shortening and sugar; add pumpkin pie filling, raisins, nuts and vanilla and mix well. Mix together flour, baking powder cinnamon and soda; add to pumpkin mixture and mix well. Drop by teaspoons onto cookie sheet. Bake at 350° until browned.

Recipe Note: This makes a cake-like cookie and there are no eggs!

Debbie Shaver
Dayton Garden Club

CLUB DAY CHICKEN & DRESSING

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. seasoned bread stuffing
- 1 stick margarine, melted
- 2 1/2 c. cooked, diced chicken
- 1/2 c. chopped onions
- 1/2 c. chopped celery
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 c. milk
- Grated cheese for topping
- 1 c. water
- 1/4 c. chopped green onion tops
- 1/2 c. mayonnaise
- 2 eggs
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup

Mix stuffing with melted butter and water. Toss lightly to blend. Place 1/2 mixture in buttered 12 x 8-inch baking dish. Mix diced chicken, onion, onion tops, celery, mayonnaise and salt. Spread over stuffing mixture. Top with remaining bread mixture. Beat eggs slightly and add to milk. Pour evenly over bread mixture. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight. Take out 1 hour before baking, spread with mushroom soup. Bake, uncovered, in 350° oven for 40 minutes. Sprinkle top with grated cheese. Return to oven for 10 minutes. Serves 8-10.

Recipe Note: Try it, you'll love it!



Dorothy Hirsh
Cordova Garden Club



ALMOND GINGERSNAPS

- 1 c. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. molasses
- 1 T. ginger
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. chopped, blanched almonds

Cream butter and sugar; add molasses. Sift together flour, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and baking soda. Add chopped almonds to dry ingredients. Mix thoroughly. Mix dry ingredients with creamed butter, sugar and molasses. When thoroughly mixed, turn out onto lightly floured board and knead until smooth. Shape into two loaves and wrap in waxed paper. Chill for several hours. Remove from refrigerator and cut into thin slices to bake. Place on greased baking sheet and bake in 325° oven for 10 minutes.

Alida Greene
Arissa Garden Club



PEANUT BRITTLE

- 1 c. white sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 T. butter
- 1/2 c. white Karo syrup
- 1/4 c. water
- 1/2 T. vanilla
- 1 c. raw peanuts

Combine white sugar, white syrup and water and cook to a soft ball stage or until the syrup turns a golden brown color (235° on a candy thermometer), stirring constantly; add peanuts and butter and cook to a soft crack stage or 280°, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add vanilla and soda, mixing well. Pour onto a greased cookie sheet quickly spreading peanuts evenly. Cool and then crack into small pieces.

Kathy Rychen
Rachel Jackson Garden Club



PECAN TASSIES

- 1 (3-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1/2 c. butter
- 1 c. flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 c. light brown sugar
- 2 T. butter, melted
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- Pinch salt
- 1 c. chopped nuts

Soften cream cheese and butter. Add flour and mix well. Chill one hour. Shape into 24 balls. Press into small muffin tins. Beat eggs slightly; add brown sugar and butter, mix well. Add vanilla, salt and chopped nuts and blend. Place a tablespoonful of filling in each muffin tin. Bake at 325° for 20-30 minutes.



CRANBERRY DESSERT

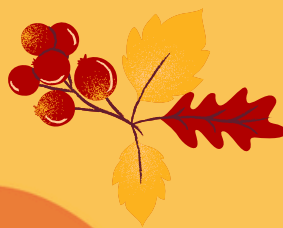
Batter:

- 2 T. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 c. sifted flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 c. whole raw cranberries
- 1 c. milk

Sauce:

- 2 sticks butter
- 2 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 c. cream or half & half

Batter: Mix quickly the 2 tablespoons butter, 1 cup sugar, flour, baking powder, cranberries and milk. Bake in 350° oven for 40-50 minutes. Sauce: Melt 2 sticks butter and add 2 cups sugar, stirring to dissolve. Add cream. Cook, stirring constantly for 10 minutes. Cut dessert in squares, pour sauce over them while hot.



Shirley Lowe
Garden Club of Rosemark



Summer Board of Directors and Membership Meeting

of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Tuesday 6-10-25

at Through The Grapevine Restaurant, Murfreesboro, Tenn

President Lelia Johnson welcomed all to the meeting and recognized past TFGC Presidents present, Maggie Burns, Valerie Tipps, and Anne Leonard. She also recognized others who have been active on the state board.

Gloria Harris opened the meeting with a devotional on Change, and gave an invocation. The parliamentarian, Debbie Shaver led the pledge of allegiance.

President Johnson then reviewed some protocols for this meeting and the parliamentarian declared a quorum. Janet Brown & Paula Fortson were appointed as readers and Jackie Westfield and Kay Cox were appointed as timekeepers. The 3 minute rule was reviewed. President Johnson presented the day's agenda and requested that reports be emailed for copies to be added to the minutes.

President Johnson introduced her head table.

Seated to her right: Dianne Ryder, 2nd Vice President, Gloria Harris, 1st Vice President, LaQuita Misner, TFGC President-Elect, Debbie Shaver, Parliamentarian, and seated to her left: Marilyn Smith, Treasurer, Evelyn Davis, Assistant Treasurer, Vicky Richards, Corresponding Secretary and Faith Young, Recording Secretary.

REPORTS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and APPOINTED OFFICERS:

President: April 23, 2025 Lelia Johnson was installed as TFGC president. April 24 at 8:30am was the post BOD meeting in which ways and means ideas were discussed and how we will move forward into the 2025-2027 administration. May 12, 2025 at 12p.m., TFGC members attended the Racheff House and Garden Board meeting focusing on assessment of property, formulating new committee members and ways to move forward. She said the house maintenance will require money and everyone working together. The president reported she has been busy with extreme paperwork.

President Johnson attended the following conventions and activities: April 21-25, 2025 the Deep South Garden Clubs Convention in Valdosta, Ga, May 16, 2025 she attended Dixie Highway (District IV) Blue Star marker dedication. May 19-23, was the National Garden Club Convention in Charleston, South Carolina where on May 22, 2025, Lelia Johnson was officially installed as TFGC president. May 26, 2025 was an Aldersgate Garden Club meeting where the members participated in a Veteran Day celebration at Waterville Baptist Church and later took flowers to the Veterans Home. June 2, 2025, Lelia attended a proclamation signing with Cleveland, TN Mayor Kevin Brooks promoting National Garden Club week. On June 6, Avery and Lelia Johnson attended a wonderful presentation by Becky Fox Matthews, District II Director on "Whimsy in the Garden" sponsored by Garden Lovers, Flower Growers and Optimistic Garden Clubs.

Reports from the executive committee were called for and those responding were:

LaQuita Misner, **President Elect**, gave a report about the Racheff meeting 6-9-25 and the meeting with Wells Fargo representatives. It was very informative and they also will call on Schwab for their information. The historical preservation officials, etc. will be contacted regarding repairing and working on the house within guidelines to continue on the historical register. The group is also investigating the internet and telephone at the house. July 24th is a scheduled workday for Racheff that Jane Bitner is organizing. An event that will bring some money is scheduled as a company picnic will be using the grounds at Racheff. Karen reviewed the budget and they talked about ideas for fund raising. August may have a "Paint it Pink" activity as a fundraiser. The Racheff Committee has not filled all the positions but volunteers who will abide by the by-laws and rules are welcomed to attend and be on board. Currently around 10-12 people have volunteered to step into some of the positions.

Faith Young, **Recording Secretary** reported that minutes for the post convention Executive Board meeting on April 24, 2025 were approved by the readers.

Vicky Richards, **Corresponding Secretary** reported sending cards to Tove Rollins was sent a card in sympathy of losing her son. Lelia Johnson announced that Pat Best, a past district director, passed away in Florida. Dr. Jan Brown asked for a card to be sent to Cathy Donaldson as she is recovering from an injury.

Marilyn Smith, **Treasurer** said the main TFGC account has a balance of \$17,052.15. She is getting dues, but has some outstanding. She was just granted access to the accounts so she will have updates later.

(Attachment # 1)

Evelyn Davis, **Assistant Treasurer** said she is responsible for general investment funds and accounts are stagnant. The restricted funds are all money markets and they are having difficulty in accessing accounts but some (4) were transferred to brokerage accounts. The ETF (Endowment Trust Fund) has new deposit slips, and the account must be transferred to a brokerage account to prevent fees, but this process has been very slow and laborious. Currently they have a grand total of invested funds with a balance today of \$98,347.74. Life Memberships have \$24,277.04, TFGC Scholarship Fund has \$11,304.02 with \$4,500 going out each year directly to the colleges, the Brainerd Scholarship has \$29,642.46 which pays a \$3,000 scholarship each year. The General Investment Fund had \$17,000.00 in the President's Fund, \$602.00 in the Benevolent Fund, and \$15,522.22 in Undesignated funds with a total balance of \$33,124.22. (Attachment # 2)

Lelia said we need reports for all funds shared to members of the executive board in a transparent manner. The reports need to be legally dispersed.

District Director Reports:

Lelia stated that the District Director or the Vice District Director is to send a report for TFGC Board Meetings to the TFGC Recording Secretary and President.

District 1- represented by Chris Kelyman, Poplar Estates Garden Club who said hello to all.

District 2-Becky Fox Matthews-Gateway Acres Garden Cub-they are busy and will report at the next meeting.

District 3- Jackie Westfield-Aldersgate Garden Club thanked the state Convention Chairs from District 3 and said that even though District 3 is the smallest district in the state, it is united with the theme "It's Growing Time in District 3". All of the 10 clubs have been busy but 7 clubs provided reports on their activities and actions during National Garden Week. SEE report (Attachment # 3)

District 4- Dr. Janet Brown-Chapman Highway Garden Club said their district of 22 clubs has been busy with club officers installations and filling all district 4 positions. Jan attended the TFGC convention and the NGC Convention in Charleston, South Carolina. She is also working with TFGC for the restructuring of Ivan Racheff House and Gardens Committee as well as chairing the Children's Garden at Racheff. SEE Report (Attachment # 4)

Committee Chair Reports:

Debbie Shaver-Awards Chair-said that TFGC had 80 books of evidence submitted, 18 yearbooks, 8 flower shows, 5 schedules and 6 staging entered for awards 2024. She congratulated all involved and reminded that flower show scheduling and staging are separate awards. (The staging form is filled out at flower shows by the evaluating panel, which sends it to the state awards chair.) Debbie sent 19 books of evidence, 3 press books, 1 small standard flower show, 2 schedules, 6 yearbooks, and 4 Deep South Unified Projects. TFGC had one overall winner, 8 first place, 10 second place, 1 third place, 3 fourth place, and 4 unified winners. She sent to NGC: 28 books of evidence and 5 flower shows. National awards three types of awards and several clubs received Appreciation Awards for participating, 6 clubs were first place winners, all 5 flower shows won national awards,- youth poetry contest had a 3rd place and a National scholarship award went to Sophia Chaplin. She encouraged all to send in books of evidence for National Garden week activities.

Debbie Shaver-State Calendars Chair-a form is online, but use any form as the deadline is coming up August 1st. Discussion: Clubs are not buying the calendars which are a national production, so some clubs donate \$3 per member to the State Scholarship funds rather than buying calendars. (TFGC keeps the money over calendar costs, but costs have gone up.) Some buy them and use them as door prizes, others use them for Christmas gifts.

Cumberland Trail Chair-Debbie Shaver is also a member of The Friends of the Cumberland Trail who recently had a meeting and are looking at a fall event and monthly series topics and programs up and down the trail. The trail is @ 95% completed and they are seeking property and then anticipate connection of the trail from Rock Creek to Crossville. Friends of the Trail purchased new trail maps and worked with the Cumberland Trail Conference that does trail building. Debbie is current chair of the Friends of the Trail and needs members, dues are \$15.

Conservation Camp Co Chair-Debbie Shaver said she and Anne Leonard are co-chairs for this event, but it's 15 months out so they will send information as details are determined. It will be in October 2026.

Anne Leonard, Co-Chair of the Tennessee State Convention, said they had 148 registered attendees. She reported the remaining balance from the convention is \$2,125.04, even though the convention is not a money making event. Anne also stated that the Audio Visual costs for the convention were over \$4000

but the \$2300 raised by sales for the Convention Booklet Ads helped to partially cover this amount. Maggie Burns, Diane Ryder and Anne will be working to update the state Convention Manual.

Chris Kelyman reported on the Endowment Trust Funds (ETF). She stated that she emailed all the District Directors the updated ETF Application and the Information to apply sheet. The deadline for the application is Sept 1st and All ETF Trustees review the grant applications. The current trustees for 2025- 2027 are: Lelia Johnson, LaQuita Misner, Marilyn Smith, Evelyn Davis (District 3), Chris Kelyman (District 1), Becky Fox Mathews (District 2), and Dr Jan Brown (District 4). Officers for 2025-2027 were elected May 19. 2025 with Chris Kelyman Trustee Chair, Evelyn Davis ETF Treasurer, and Dr. Janet Brown as ETF recording Secretary. The May 31, 2025 current balance for the ETF three Vanguard Fund is \$194,711.27. Discussion: Maggi Burns said since the ETF is growing with interest but the State Scholarship fund is low, what about focusing on funds for the Scholarship. Evelyn Davis said the ETF fund, even though it has grown, is not keeping up with inflation. (Attachment # 5)

President Johnson said she will be meeting this week to develop a budget for TFGC.

Marilyn McDonnell reported as the Gardening School Chair and Native Plants Chair. She has been active with garden clubs in Georgia as well as TN, so as the new Gardens School Chair she will need help getting speakers on specific topics. She is planning a Gardening School of 4 courses in January 2026 and said the classes are not challenging so she encouraged attendance.

Jeri Melton with the Trillium Council (reporting for Virginia Pennington) said the Council is made up of active TFGC members who are graduates of the Environmental School, Gardening School and Landscape Design School. She also announced an upcoming refresher (multi level) course from National Garden Club, for continued accreditation that will be done at conservation camp. She also stated that Diane Ryder would be taking over the responsibilities for continuing the existence of the Trillium Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lelia Johnson said rather than selling goods as fund raisers for the Ways & Means, she proposed to request financial donations from all TFGC members. She said \$10 was acceptable as money is needed

to operate the federation. If some can't pay \$10, all should pay some.

Phyllis Allen made a **MOTION** to take donations "No work, no purchase" for WAYS AND MEANS of \$10 per member each year, collected through the TFGC treasurer via local club treasures. The **MOTION** was seconded by Evelyn Davis. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

More Discussion: Lelia would like it to be the same as paying dues and be due October 1st. If all don't participate, she would be willing to look at making some payment. Discussion: can it be reduced as the check would be sent by the club's treasures, Kathy Rychen said if some can't pay, a gift could be made for those members. Kathy Kulak suggested selling Ads in the Volunteer Gardener to help cover the members not paying. Where would this money be going? Could the funds that went to pay for the Volunteer Gardener help cover costs? Funds are needed for Ways and Means which is a specific account that covers expenses for the president to attend TFGC, Deep South, and NGC meetings and the state president as a representative of TFGC from the Ways and Means. Mileage is not covered in these allotted expenses per the current bylaws and this needs to be reviewed and rules revised. Costs for the presidential activities have been from \$6,000 up to \$10,000.

Diane Ryder **amended** the Phyllis Allen **MOTION** to Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs would do a "No Work, No Purchase" ways and means fundraiser for 2025-2027 with each club being asked to contribute \$10 per member by October 1, 2025 with a club check . The amended motion was seconded by LaQuita Misner. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

Diane Ryder reported on Pro ZOOM access at @ \$160 a year for up to 99 users, 30 hours per meeting with an AI companion and at least 5 Gigabytes of storage. This would allow districts to hold meetings by ZOOM. TFGC1926@epbfi.com or gmail could be used for the label and in the password. Diane made a **MOTION** that we accept this Zoom opportunity with a second by Becky Fox Matthews. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lelia talked about the TFGC Website and said she would like it to be something that belonged to TFGC. Janeene Larkin-Horn along with Shannon Thurman then presented the TFGC website heading into the future. Janeene had ~~been involved with~~ the website in the past under a previous president and she said it takes a lot of time so the site needs to be available to smoothly trade off to new administrations in the ongoing future. The website she has developed is based on a professional non profit site design. The software was donated and is Wordpress with Elementor and Dreamhost for data hosting. Both were given to the TFGC organization for ongoing usage. The administrators can update, delete, add new things, etc. (Shannon has a background in publishing also.) They have capabilities for displaying the

Volunteer Gardener and clubs can use it for their newsletters. Documents will be stored as PDF's. They will go back to the URL **tngardenclubs.org** and the home page will be open for view to non members. Photos can be added as desired. The Leadership of the board has password protection of this (TNGarden2025) specific to members of the board, with private information not viewable by the public. Pictures are available with board members' information. Forms are now updated and usable online but let them know if you see any errors. The board of directors have been assigned aliases under position titles for use with email. The website has a NEWS site that can be accessed through "resources", news events and can be submitted online. The color codes for the districts are: Yellow-1, green2-blue,3 and orange 4. This site is again available for use now. (Attachment # 6)

Bylaws updates will be added after they have been formally approved. (Minutes from the state business meeting will be added when the transcription is received.)

MOTIONS:

*Debbie Shaver moved that Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs sponsor Deep South Award Number #6-Birds, in honor of Denise Thorne in the amount of \$100. This would be a yearly sponsorship. It was 2nded by Jan Brown. Discussions: Anne Leonard amended the motion to change it from yearly to a 2 year time frame.

MOTION *Tennessee sponsors Deep South Award Number #6-Birds, in honor of Denise Thorne in the amount of \$100. This would be \$100 each year for 2 years. Motion carried.* (Attachment #7)

*Maggi Burns, Crestwood Garden Club, D 3, Former State President, former Bylaws/Standing Rules made a **bylaws change proposal/motion** for Article XIII Ivan Racheff House and Gardens.

ARTICLE XIII. IVAN RACHEFF HOUSE AND GARDENS

Section 1. The name of the committee to administer the affairs of Ivan Racheff House and Gardens (hereafter referred to as IRH&G), TFGC Headquarters and property, shall be the IRH&G Board of Governors. The IRH&G Board of Governors shall consist of a minimum of thirty-six (36) members from the membership of TFGC. Included in this number are the current President of TFGC, President-elect of TFGC, Treasurer of TFGC, District Director of each District of TFGC, IRH&G Chairman of each District of TFGC, and the President of District IV Council of Garden Clubs. The IRH&G Board of Governors shall elect the balance

of the active membership from District IV.

The IRH&G Plan of Operation, adopted November 8, 1977, updated and revised with each administration, shall serve as the official guideline and becomes effective when approved by the TFGC Executive Committee. The latest revision shall be attached to the official Bylaws held by the Recording Secretary of TFGC during each administration. The TFGC President shall serve on the IRH&G Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Ivan Racheff House and Gardens Treasurer shall perform the duties designated by the TFGC President, Job Descriptions, Treasurers' Manual for TFGC, and designated by the Plan of Operation for IRH&G.

Section 3. The Ivan Racheff House and Gardens Assistant Treasurer shall assist the IRH&G Treasurer as delegated by the TFGC President, Job Description, Treasurers' Manual and the IRH&G Plan of Operation.

CHANGED TO READ:

ARTICLE XIII. IVAN RACHEFF HOUSE AND GARDENS

Section 1. The name of the committee to administer the affairs of Ivan Racheff House and Gardens (hereafter referred to as IRH&G), TFGC Headquarters and property, shall be The IRH&G Committee. The IRH&G Committee shall consist of a minimum of thirty-six (36) members from the membership of TFGC. Included in this number are the current President of TFGC, President-elect of TFGC, Treasurer of TFGC, the Advisory Committee, District Director of each District of TFGC, IRH&G Chairmen of each District of TFGC, and the President of District IV Council of Garden Clubs. The Racheff Committee is open to all TFGC members

The IRH&G Manual, (formerly named the Plan of Operations) adopted November 8, 1977,

updated and revised with each administration, shall serve as the official guideline and becomes effective when approved by the TFGC Executive Committee. The latest revision shall be attached to the official Bylaws held by the Recording Secretary of TFGC during each Administration. The TFGC President shall serve on the IRH&G Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Ivan Racheff House and Gardens Treasurer shall perform the duties designated by the TFGC President, Duties of Officers & Racheff Treasurers document, Treasurers' Manual for TFGC, and designated by IRH&G Manual.

Section 3. The Ivan Racheff House and Gardens Assistant Treasurer shall assist the IRH&G Treasurer as delegated by the TFGC President, Duties of Officers & Racheff Treasurers, Treasurers' Manual and the IRH&G Manual.

REASONS FOR CHANGES: Board of Governors: Former presidents were advised by a lawyer that an organization has one board and that is the TFGC Board. Racheff is a committee under the TFGC Board.

The Advisory Committee: Added to the Racheff Committee as the Advisory Committee consists of former TFGC Presidents and we are not guests to the Racheff Committee.

Plan of Operation Manual: Change to Racheff Manual to conform with the other TFGC manuals:

The Awards Manual, Events Manual and the Treasurers Manual.

Job Descriptions: Correct title is Duties of Officers & Racheff Treasurers.

Section 1: Last sentence deleted and replaced with The Racheff Committee is open to all TFGC members.

There were 36 on the committee as reported by Maggi Burns. MOTION carried without a 2nd as the proposal came from committee. (Attachment #8)

*Valerie Tipps, Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club, Past TFGC President. **MOTION** I move that the office of TFGC Assistant Treasurer be a permanent position on the Endowment Trust Fund

Committee. Presently the TFGC President, President-Elect, Treasurer and one representative from each District serve. In order to maintain the current makeup of seven members and maintain a distribution, the TFGC Assistant Treasurer will replace the District Representative in the District that provides the President for two years. As the offices of TFGC change every two years, persons serving those positions will change. Motion carried-2nd by Evelyn in committee. (Attachment # 9)

Valerie Tipps, Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club, Past TFGC President. **MOTION I move that the TFGC Board of Directors as suggested by the TFGC immediate former Treasurer and Acting Racheff Treasure, Karen Dawson and Interim Committee of Racheff House and Gardens, review, think about and be consulted on the opinion about the preferred thing to do with the Coco Cola stock owned by TFGC for the benefit of Racheff House and Gardens. **No action was taken.***

Discussion: Anne Leonard said to keep the Coke stock. This was to be deferred to the finance committee per comments. LaQuita Misner said to wait till other companies talk to the finance committee and add it to the whole picture before taking any action. (Attachment # 10)

Chris Kelyman, Poplar Estate Garden Club, District 1, on behalf of the Trustees made a **MOTION. TFGC Standing Rules Section X #4 and Section IX #7 be revised to read "donations to the ETF are sent to the ETF Treasurer. Currently the section reads donations to the ETF are sent to the ETF chairman. (Rationale, this change is recommended in the interest of efficiency so checks are handled once in the post office with less chance of loss or delay in the delivery and are sent directly to the ETF treasurer who makes the deposits. The Motion carried.*

The meeting was closed with a benediction by Gloria Harris.

Present: Jeri Melton, Phyllis Allen, Chris Kelyman, Lelia Johnson, Deb Shaver, Gloria Harris, Diane Ryder, Shannon Thurman, Janeene Larkin-Horn, Kathy Kulak, June Gilmore, Kathy Rychen, Paula Fortson, Virginia Pennington, Melissa Pennington, Marilyn McDonnell, Maggi Burns, Anne Leonard, Valerie Tipps, Janet Brown, Jacqueline Westfield, Kay Cox, Becky Fox Matthews, LaQuita Misner, Faith Young, Vicky Richards, and Evelyn Davis

Submitted by:

Faith Young TFGC Recording Secretary

*Minutes **Approved** by Readers via email/telephone: Dr. Janet Brown on 6-26-25, Phyllis Allen on 7-7-25, and Paula Fortson on 7-7-25*