

TFGC District II
November
2025
Newsletter



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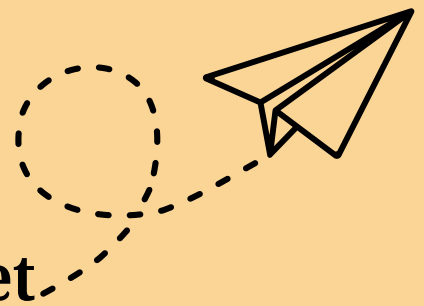
DISTRICT II

**CLUB PRESIDENTS,
PLEASE FORWARD THIS
EMAILED NEWSLETTER TO
YOUR CLUB MEMBERS.**

**If any members would like to be added to the
email list to receive the newsletter directly,
please send me your name & email address.**

**Submit your club's events, photos & articles
for the December District II Newsletter by
November 15th to:**

**Anna Marie Allen
annabanana7@comcast.net**



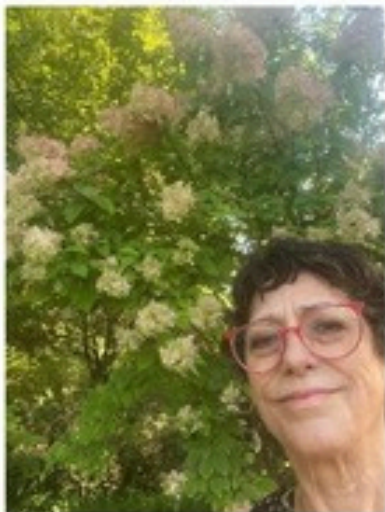
Message From Your District II Director Becky Fox Matthews

Reasons to Leave the Leaves

October is National Leave the Leaves Month, according to the National Wildlife Federation. Margaret Roach recently reported in the New York Times that leaving fallen leaves helps pollinators thrive. In Maryland, a two-year study investigated what happens when people remove leaves in the fall versus leaving them. The results showed that nearly 2,000 insects emerge from just one square meter of yard where leaves are left—excluding decomposers like earthworms and millipedes. Areas where leaves were cleared saw moth numbers drop by 45 percent, spiders by 56 percent, beetles by 24 percent, and overall butterfly and moth species diversity was cut by 44 percent.

Many creatures including birds, box turtles, salamanders, toads, frogs, fireflies, bees, butterflies, and moths depend on leaf litter for shelter. In fact, 94 percent of moth species need a layer of leaves to complete their life cycle, and numerous backyard bird species rely on caterpillars from these moths to feed their young each spring.

Even shredding leaves can harm overwintering insects or alter their microhabitat so they can't survive. If you must remove your leaves, it's better to rake and move whole leaves rather than shred them—and to relocate them to areas not already covered in leaves to create new habitats and shrink your lawn. When possible, leave the leaves and help wildlife thrive right in your own garden.



Becky

2025-2027 District II

Executive Board

Director

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

Vice Director

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

Recording Secretary

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

Corresponding Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

2025-2027 District II

Committee Chairmen

Awards

Gayle Jaggars
Oak Hill Garden Club
bgaylejaggers@comcast.net
615-504-5045

Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial

Markers

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

Chaplain

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

Door Prizes

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

Endowment Trust

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

Grants

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

Hospitality—Co-Chairs

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

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

Newsletter Editor

Anna Marie Allen
Harpeth Bend Garden Club
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Parliamentarian

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

Vision of Beauty Calendar

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

Ways & Means

TBD



The District II Fall Membership Meeting was held October 7, 2025 at the First Baptist Church in Joelton. Ninety-nine TFGC members registered and enjoyed the program, meeting, shopping at the sales tables, and the wonderful lunch by Best Eats Catering of Portland, TN.



Joy Boven taught us about “Planting for Biodiversity”.





**District II Vice-Director Karen
Dawson & Vision of Beauty
Calendar District II Chairman
Kandee Walker**

**Optimistic Gardeners Club
members—Standing: Lillian
Hibbett, Sandy Estes, Jeanne
Teeter; Seated: Mary Richardson
& Carol Anne Beasley**



**Harpeth Bend Garden Club attendees:
Kandee Walker, Marsha Hunt,
Anna Marie Allen & Claudette Ryan**



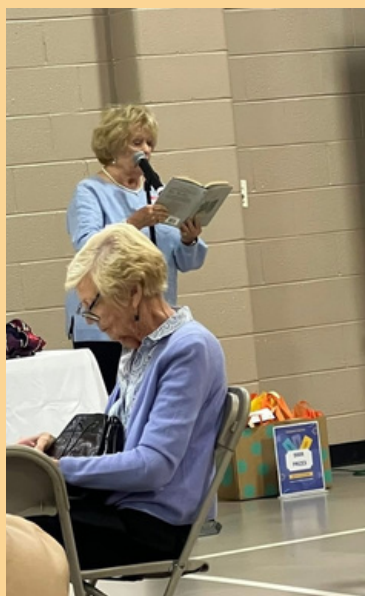
**Jeri Melton, Asha Joyce, Annette Shrader
& Meera Maliakkal**



District II Officers:
Treasurer Theresa Bray,
Vice-Director Karen Dawson &
Recording Secretary Jennifer Kidd



Standing: District II Director
Becky Fox Matthews &
DII Awards Chairman
Gayle Jaggers



2025 TFGC Presidents' Meeting Minutes from 7-8-2025

Presidents Meeting
TFGC District II
Harpeth Presbyterian Church
Brentwood, TN
July 8, 2025

TFGC District II Director, **Becky Fox Matthews** called the Presidents Meeting to order at 10:00 am welcoming fifty-eight (58) members and guests.

In the absence of Chaplain, Annette Schrader, Director Becky Fox Matthews, presented an **Invocation** inspired by the tragic loss of life in Texas by the floods.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Parliamentarian, Gwyne Ellis Powers.

Acting Recording Secretary, Linda Peterson, stated that the **Minutes of the TFGC District II Spring Membership Meeting, April 1, 2025**, were approved and filed.

Becky Fox Matthews welcomed our **2025-2027 TFGC President, Leila Johnson** and **President Elect, LaQuita Misner** and **TFGC Awards Chairman, Debbie Shaver**.

Becky Fox Matthews thanked the **2023-2025 District II Officers** for their service.

The **2025-2027 TFGC District II Officers** were introduced.

Vice Director – Karen Dawson, Recording Secretary – Jennifer Kidd, Corresponding Secretary – Kay Wells and Treasurer – Teresa Bray.

Reports of TFGC District II Elected Officers

- **Becky Fox Matthews**
 - A location is needed for the 2025 District II Fall Membership Meeting.
 - Presidents new to check their folders for new information sheets on Endowment Trust Matching Grants.
 - A Ways and Means Committee Chairman is still needed.
- **Karen Dawson**
 - The *Volunteer Gardener* is on-line. Please submit your club information to Anna Marie Allen by specified date.
 - Forms for the 2026 Vision of Beauty Calendars are in the President's folder.
- **Linda Peterson** (Acting Recording Secretary) no report.

Reports of TFGC District II Committee Chairmen

- **Gayle Jagers, Awards**
 - Check your folder for information sheet added to your folder. Check the TFGC website for the requirements. Thirty-five (35) TFGC Awards were given to District II at the April TFGC Convention in Chattanooga. This was more than any of the other three districts. District II had seven (7) Deep South Awards and sixteen (16) NGC appreciation, commendation or place awards.
 - Follow the rubric when writing the summary of your project.
- **Anna Marie Allen, Newsletter Editor**
 - District Newsletter due dates for articles/photos are **on the 15th of each month**.
 - Volunteer Gardener due dates for article/photos are **January 1, April 1, July 1 and Oct 1**.
 - Reported for Kandee Walker that the orders for the 2026 Vision of Beauty Calendars are due by July 22, 2025. The profit goes to the TFGC Scholarship Fund.

There was no unfinished business.

There was no new business.

Director Becky Fox Matthews introduced **McKenzie Carlyle (Ken) Roberts** who presented an interactive program, *Robert's Rules of Order, The Secrets Unraveled, the Mystery Revealed* explaining the importance of parliamentary procedures in conducting meetings.

Door Prizes were distributed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Kay Flynn and Jean Richardson have been requested to approve these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Peterson
Acting Recording Secretary



TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC
District II Fall Membership Meeting

Joelton First Baptist Church
7140 Whites Creek Pike
Joelton, TN 37080
10:00am CST

Call to order and welcome: Becky Fox Matthews, District II Director

Invocation: Chaplain, Annette Shrader

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Parliamentarian, Gwyne Ellis Powers

Welcome and Introductions: Recognize DII Officers and Committee Members head table

Determination of a Quorum

Recognition of dignitaries and guests: Current/Former TFGC Presidents

Minutes from the Presidents' Meeting: Recording Secretary, Jennifer Kidd

Committee to Approve Minutes: TBA

Timekeeper: None at this time

Protocol Notes: Please silent cell phones. When making a statement, motion, or question, please stand, state your name, and your garden club loud enough for our Recording Secretary to hear.

Reports of District II Executive Board

Director: Becky Fox Matthews

Vice-Director: Karen Dawson

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Kidd

Corresponding Secretary: Kay

Treasurer: Theresa Bray

Committee Chairmen Reports:

Awards

Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Markers

Grants

Hospitality Co-Chairs

Newsletter Editor

Parliamentarian

Visions of Beauty

Gayle Jagers

Pam Dowd

Lola Eslick (sub Becky Fox Matthews)

Tove Rawlings & Jan Vester

Anna Marie Allen

Gwyne Ellis Powers

Kandee Walker

Unfinished Business: Still no Ways & Means Committee Chair

New Business:

Announcements:

PROGRAM: "Planting for Biodiversity" by Joy Boven

Lunch 11:30

Door Prizes: Anna Marie Allen

Adjournment: Is there any further business? If there is no further business and no objection, the meeting is adjourned



District II Treasurer's Report

by Theresa Bray

Date: 04/2025 - 10/2025

Beginning Balance: \$13,691.06

Income Sources

Visions of Beauty Calendars	\$1,600.00
New Member (s)	\$10.00
Kitty Anderson Award	\$100.00
W & M	\$664.00
Total Income	\$2,374.00

Expenses

Visions of Beauty Calendars	\$1,600.00
Tove Rawlings	\$160.00
Church Donation - Spring Mtg	\$100.00
Becky Matthews For Printing	\$164.57
Bank Service Charge	\$20.00
Education	\$100.00
Total Expenses	\$2,144.57

Ending Balance: \$13,920.4

Restricted Funds Balance: \$1,032

Income Sources

Gold Star Memorial Marker	\$3,000
Blue Star Donation	\$30
Total Income	\$3,030

Ending Balance: \$4,062



2026 "Vision of Beauty" Calendar Sales Report

by Kandee Walker, District II Chairman

- District II had 26 clubs participate in the purchase of 258 Vision of Beauty 2026 Calendars.
- Debbie Shaver, TFGC State Vision of Beauty Calendar Chair, reported the total sales for the state of Tennessee resulted in a contribution of \$791 to the TFGC Scholarship Fund.
- THANK YOU to ALL who helped make this sale successful! I would like to recognize and personally thank the following people for their "special" help: Kathy Rychen, Anna Marie Allen, Theresa Bray, Debbie Shaver, Denise Thorne, Tom Walker and 26 AWESOME D-II GARDEN CLUBS!
- Please, if you have not already, be sure to pick up your club's order today!!
- I have 10 extra calendars for sale today. They are \$10 each.

TFGC District II



Club News

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



Beachaven Garden Club

The Beachaven Garden Club met at a member's home in Henry County to share some charcuterie food, a wonderful home-baked chocolate chess pie, strawberry lemonade, and oven-warm sourdough bread! After eating we made gel prints, then ventured to the beach at Kentucky Lake for a refreshing swim!



Flower Growers Garden Club



September 2025 Meeting



Native Wildflowers Bingo!

Margaret Mainardi welcomed us to her beautiful farm in Readyville, TN, on September 16. We met on her patio, where we enjoyed a delicious lunch, with dozens of hummingbirds just outside partaking of the clear nectar she provides them.

Our gardens have recovered somewhat since the worst of the August heat, and we had many horticulture specimens as well as "Fall Harvest", "Schoolltime", and "Better Late" designs. Guest Judges Linda Peterson and Star Eaker of Garden Lovers judged the entries, with Mary Forrest Hancock clerking, while Margaret gave her highly informative presentation on "Using Native Plants in the Home Landscaping Plan". We learned about keystone plants like the oak tree that hosts 500 species of caterpillars that in turn provide sustenance to birds (for energy), while fall berries from native plants are a great source of energy for migratory and overwintering birds.

To make her lessons truly memorable, Margaret organized four games of "Bingo", with the challenge being to spot, for example, the keystone plants listed on our sheets. We even had prizes, including books about birds and plants.

During the business portion of our meeting, Patty Compton reported on the Seed Grant from TFGC District II and our application for a continuation of the grant for next year so that we can carry on our work of distributing native wildflower and heirloom vegetable seeds to educational and community support projects in Murfreesboro. We were also reminded to attend the District II meeting in Joelton on October 7.

It was a delightful meeting in a perfect setting, and we left having gained important knowledge as well as seeing our Flower Growers friends.



Flower Growers Garden Club

September 2025 Meeting



**Mary Forrest Hancock sharing
Judges critique of Classifications
with membership**



“Fall Harvest”



“Schooltime”



Flower Growers Garden Club

September 2025 Meeting



“Better Late”



Rosa ‘Summer Surprise’



Gourds



Coppertone Stonecrop



Flower Growers Garden Club

September 2025 Meeting

Horticulture



Submitted by Patty Compton & Morna Conway; Photos by Kim Orrand



Flower Lovers Circle

September was a busy month for the Flower Lovers Circle. We prepare for the Middle Tennessee District Fair in which we have a wonderful flower show. **Gail Watson** prepares us by showing examples of how to create our designs to be entered. There are two full days of registration of entries. What fun it is to see all the beautiful plants and flowers being entered by our community! The judges come for a prepared meal by the club and start their judging immediately after. Ribbons are assigned, and then the Fair opens to the public for the flower show. We're all happy to see the end result of our year of hard work beautifying our world with flowers.



Harpeth Bend Garden Club

October Meeting

The Harpeth Bend Garden Club's October 8th Meeting was held at the home of Margaret Reeves. Jennie Daugherty & Margaret led our program on State Parks, which was enjoyable & educational!



Hostesses Jennie Daugherty, Marsha Hunt & Margaret Reeves



Harpeth Bend Garden Club



Optimistic Gardeners Club

October 8, 2025 Meeting

Clifftops Lake Clubhouse in Monteagle



Hostesses: Marion Butler, Libby Black, Dot Taylor, & Barbara Forsythe



**Nature Program by Margaret Matens—Conservationist,
Environmentalist, Author & Teacher**

Optimistic Gardeners Club



Lynn & Joe Rouse explain “Botanical Arts”



“What to do with Sweet Gum Balls” by Barbara Forsythe



Optimistic Gardeners Club



**Left: Marion Butler's Decorated Pumpkins Raffle;
Right: Members brought decorated pumpkins or gourds—
Mary McCord, Mary Richardson & Anita Wherry**



Optimistic Gardeners Club



**Left: Kay Clark shares her pumpkin with flowers from her garden.
Center: Shelby Moore & Jeanne Teeter share their pumpkin & gourd. Right: Sandy Estes with her pumpkin arrangement.**



**Left: Succulents in the pumpkin arrangement.
Center: Cute pumpkin witch by Carol Anne Beasley & colorful crayon pumpkin by Wanda Copley.
Right: Cheekwood Harvest Information shared by club president Lillian Hibbett.**

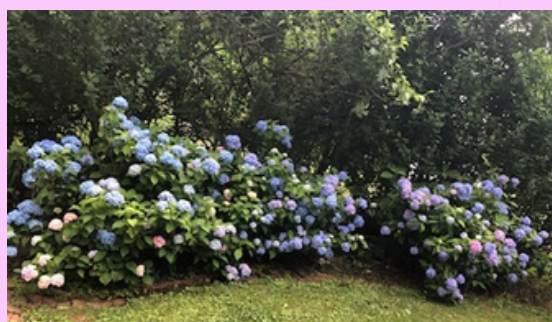


LAKE FOREST ACRES GARDEN CLUB

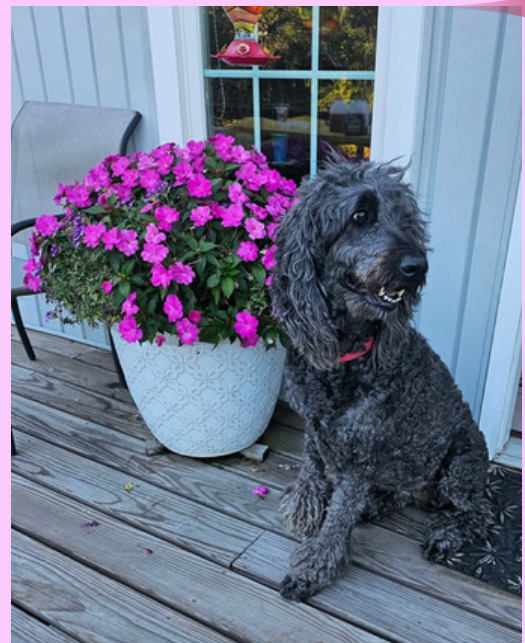
THE LAKE FOREST ACRES GARDEN CLUB HELD ITS ANNUAL PICNIC AT THE RESIDENCE OF BEVERLY LUTZ, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE CLUB AND CURRENTLY SERVES AS PARLIAMENTARIAN. BEVERLY HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CLUB SINCE 1997 AND SHARES HER BEAUTIFUL LAKE HOME AND GARDENS EACH YEAR WITH ALL THE MEMBERS. THERE WAS A WONDERFUL LAKE BREEZE AND THE POTLUCK LUNCH WAS A HIT. AS YOU CAN SEE, IT WAS “A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!” A WARM SHOUT OUT TO BEVERLY FOR SHARING HER LOVELY HOME.



BEVERLY LUTZ

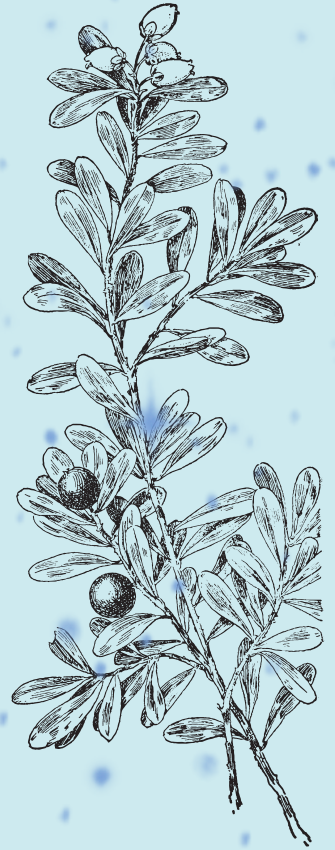


LAKE FOREST ACRES GARDEN CLUB



SUBMITTED BY ANICE ROUSE

Leipers Fork Garden Club

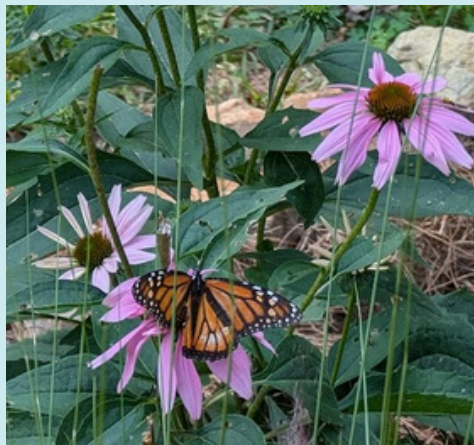
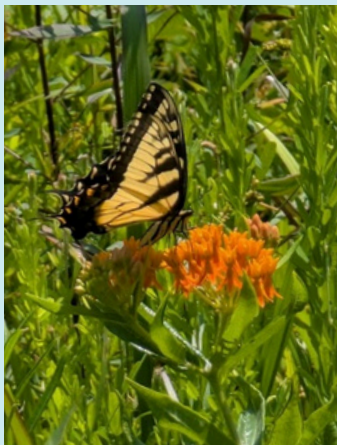


It is looking lovely at our Blue Star Memorial in the quaint Leipers Fork. It also has the police car of Sheriff Andy Taylor of Mayberry.



Leipers Fork Garden Club

The garden at Timberland State Park just off of Hwy 96 is beautifully cared for by Margaret Cameron and fellow members of the Leipers Fork Garden Club. It is a place to go for picnics, hiking, and just feeling peace. The park has many visitors that come to just enjoy the area.



Submitted by Faye Sturm

Rachel Jackson Garden Club
Clerks Report on Exhibits
From the meeting held Thursday September 18, 2025

In Division III - Botanical Arts Designs - Section C - Bonded and Hanging Designs
The types were Bonded, Plaque Hanging Wreath and Hanging Mobile Designs, with reference to the NGC HB pages 93 & 94.

Entry 1 - Kathy Rychen 1st place - Bonded Collage (20" x 20") HB pg. 93
Design Title - "Bonded & No Jail Time" (filling in for Jolly Sinha)



A **Collage** is an abstract design created on a background panel/s with a dominance of components attached in a non-realistic arrangement. Components include plant material and other found objects. Staged in upright position on walls, easels or other vertical structures.

Plant materials used

'Anise Star' *Illicium verum*

'Wild Grape' Vine *Vitis vulpina*

'Mahogany' Seed Pods *Afzelia quanzensis*

Entry 2 - Kathy Rychen 1st place - Bonded Plaque (12" w x 36" t) HB pg.93
Design Title - "A Good use Of My Bark"



A Plaque is a design organized in a natural manner composed of plant material and other optional components attached to a background panel/s serving as the frame of reference. Staged in upright position on walls, easels or other vertical structures.

Plant material used

'Sycamore' Shedded Tree Bark
Platanus occidentalis

Entry 3 -Kay Wells 1st place - Hanging Wreath Design HB pg. 93-94
Design Title - "Fall is In the Air"

A Wreath is made of twigs and other materials that is constructed to form a ring shape and staged on a vertical flat surface



Plant materials used

'Bearded Iris Foliage' *Iris germanica*

'Black Eyed Susan' Seed Pods *Rudbeckia hirta*

After the original design was judged



more plant material was added to give the Wreath a little more color.

The added plant material was
'Autumn Joy Sedum' *Hylotelephium telephium*

Entry 4 - Kathy Crownover 1st place - Hanging Mobile Design HB pg. 93
Design Title - "Into the Wild"

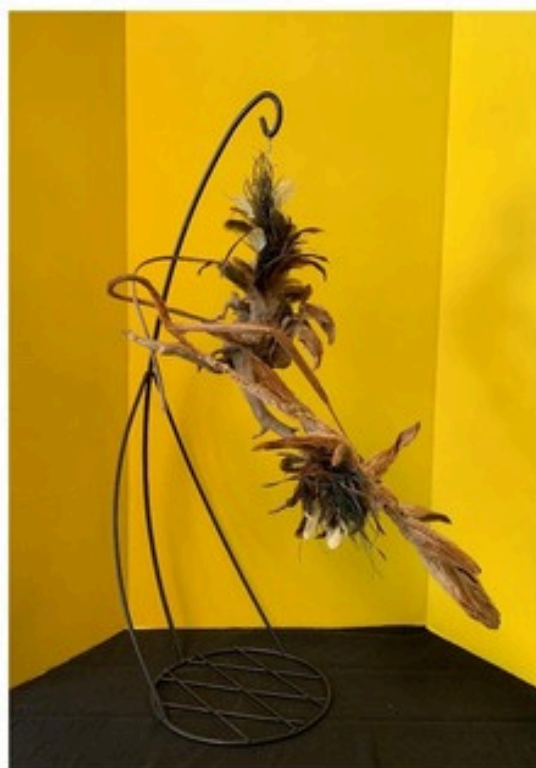


A suspended and free moving Mobile Design

Plant materials Used

'She Kong' *Heliconia vellerigera*

Wood of unknown origin



Side View



Another side view

Division III - Botanical Arts Design - Section C - Hanging Design
Class - Designer's Choice

Entry 1 - Kay Wells 1st place - Hanging Swag Design HB pg. 93-94

Design Title - "Fall Is Almost Here"

Hanging Swag Design

Plant materials used

'Spiraea' *Spiraea thunbergia*

'Blackberry Lily' *Iris domestica*

'Annabelle Hydrangea' *Hydrangea arborescens*

'Monstera Foliage' *Monstera deliciosa*

'Boxwood' *Buxus sempervirens*

'Bird of Paradise Foliage' *Strelitzia reginae*



Division III - Botanical Arts Design - Section C - Bonded Design
Class - Designers Choice

Entry 1 - Kathy Rychen 1st place - Bonded Plaque HB pg. 93
Design Title - "I Have Been Bleached" (12"w x 36" t)



Bonded Plaque Design

Plant material used

'Mitsumata Branches' *Edgeworthia chrysantha*

'Ruscus' Foliage *Ruscus aculeatus*

Submitted by Kathy Rychen

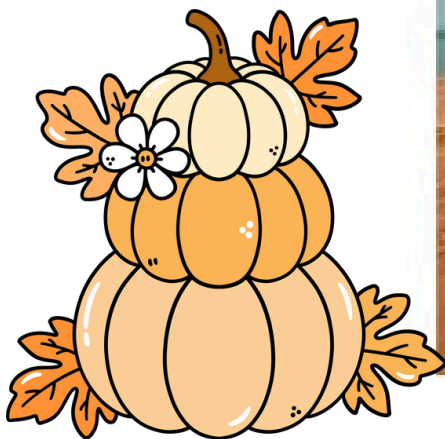
Tyne Meade Garden Club

October meeting

Our October meeting was held October 2nd at Johnson's Chapel United Methodist Church. Committee chairs provided updates related to their projects and the President relayed upcoming events including upcoming HSMT activities, local nursery open houses and sales, planned field trips and the next workday at Grassmere.



Members Dixie Riddle Betsy Abernathy, Monty West, Carol Smith and Jackie Bellar are in good cheer as they enjoy the beautiful Fall day and catch up with friends.



Tyne Meade Garden Club

The birth of Garden Clubs

Our informative program "History of Garden Clubs in America" was delivered by our club member and former club President, Janet Brownlee.



Key dates:

1891 Garden clubs started in Athens GA with the first local branch. Its stated mission is "to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility."

1929 The National Garden Clubs organization was formed consisting of branches in nineteen states.

1921 The organization consists of dozens of local branches, in nearly every state in the U.S. and has about 190,000 members.

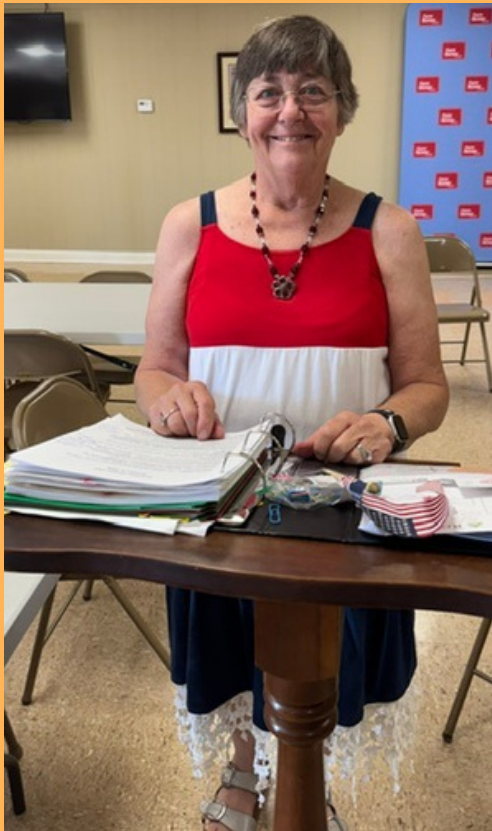
1944 Blue Star Memorial highway program began, honoring Americans military service.

1992 Surge in membership of garden clubs.

As we can attest, garden clubs today bring together people who share the love of gardening through workshops, friendships, education and community service.



Volunteer Garden Club

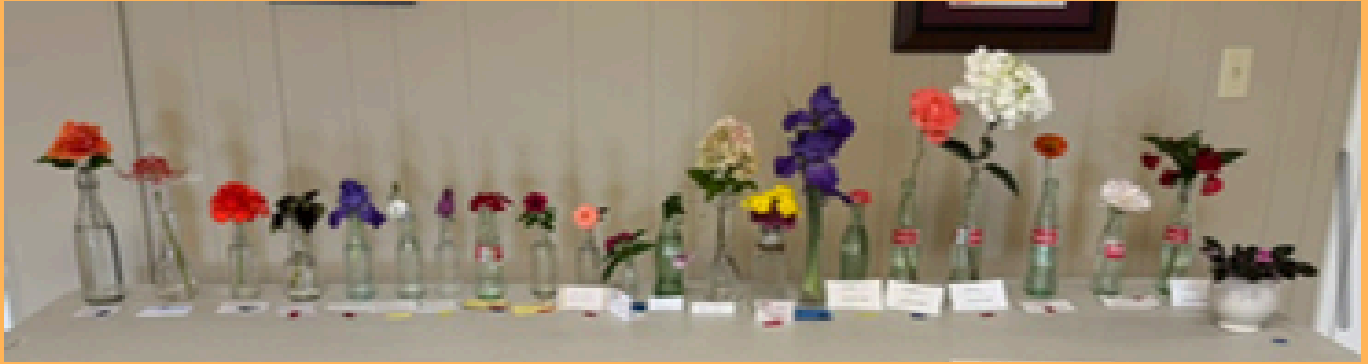


Volunteer Garden Club met Friday, October 3rd at the Farm Bureau Building in Shelbyville with president Aurelia Swann presiding. The design theme was “*Ghosts and Ghouls*”.



Herbs were the featured horticulture.

Volunteer Garden Club



The “*What Have You*” category contained a wide variety of entries.



Hostesses Sharon Reagor and Pat Sherrill provided an attractive table and some tasty treats.



Becky Nichols, guest speaker, gave an interesting program on design.

Volunteer Garden Club



On October 13th, several Volunteer members met at the home of Ann Spenser to groom plants to be used for decorating for the annual fundraiser luncheon benefiting the *Friends of the Shelbyville-Bedford County Library*. Suzanne Bobo and daughter Michelle, Judy Smith and president Aurelia Swann are pictured above.



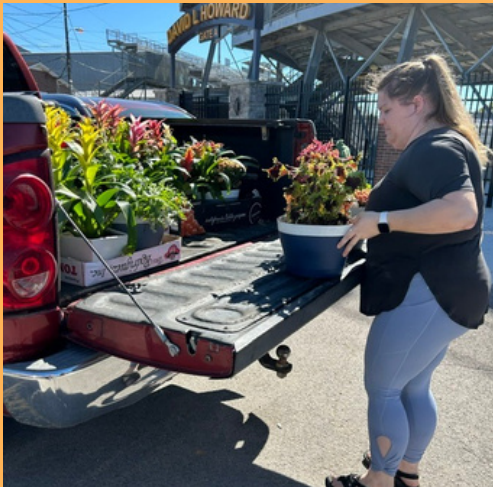
Judy Smith, June Gilmore, Michelle Bobo, Suzanne Bobo and Ann Spenser are pictured with a number of plants to be used to decorate for the *Friends of the Library* fundraiser.

Volunteer Garden Club

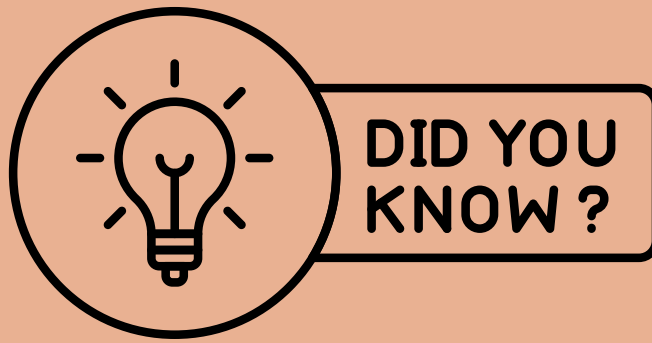


Once the plants were groomed and ready to be transported, Ann Spenser served lunch to those helping with the project.

Pictured are Michelle Bobo, Suzanne Bobo, Ann Spenser, Judy Smith and June Gilmore.



Rebecca Davis, granddaughter of member Ann Spenser and niece of president Aurelia Swann, provided her truck for transporting the plants and assisted with loading and unloading. Ann Spenser and Judy Smith gave a final check of the room once all plants were placed. The fundraiser was held on October 14th at The Blue Ribbon Circle on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville.



Which is the oldest flower in the world?

The oldest flower in the world is a species christened “the Mother of All Flowers”. It is believed to have first bloomed in China. The flower was discovered in archaeological fossils back in 2002, during which time it was dated 125 million years back. The closest relative is the water lily.



Jolly Sinha is a member of TFGC, the Rachel Jackson Garden Club, New Neighbors Garden Club, T.A.G.S., District II Judges Council & the Organization of Floral Art Designers (OFAD). She is a regular contributor to the column “Did You Know?”

GARDENING—A WAY OF LIFE

BY GAYLE JAGGERS

A Walk with Nature

“Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books, for the woods speak with a spiritual voice.” (George Washington Carver)

It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon our hearts, as for the subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit. (Robert Louis Stevenson)

Every April and May, cherry trees blossom throughout Japan, transforming many parts of the country into wonderlands. Because cherry blossoms bloom so quickly, are so beautiful, then die suddenly, the Japanese consider them a symbol of the transitory nature of life itself.

Scientists studying actions that promote good health continue to promote the benefits of walking and viewing nature. One of the easiest, most pleasurable, and sensual walks with nature is the Tremont Trail in the Smokey Mountain National Park. It is a trail designed for all skill levels. One will enjoy all types of wild fauna and floral as well as cascading streams and waterfalls. It is a calming delight not to be missed. To access the trails coming out of Pigeon Forge, take the Parkway South Wears Valley Road and turn right toward Cades Cove. You will drive until you shortly see the Tremont Trail sign at the Visitors' Center. Tremont Trail is truly an amazing sight.

Gayle Jagers



Autumn Herbs

Popular autumn herbs that thrive in cool weather include sage, thyme, rosemary, cilantro, parsley, and chives. These herbs are ideal for autumn gardening because many are cold-hardy, meaning they can be planted in the fall to grow through the cooler months and provide fresh flavor for fall and winter cooking.



From the *Herb Society of Nashville* website

Featured Photography

Becky Fox Matthews





Upcoming Events



Nashville Rose Society

November 2, 2025

1:30 - 4:00 pm

**Ellington
Agriculture
Center
Ed Jones
Auditorium
416 Hogan Road
Nashville, TN
37220**



**Meeting, Program &
Silent Auction!**

**Arrive for the meeting
about 1:00 pm if you have
items for the silent auction.
Bidding will begin at 1:30
pm and will close at 3:30
pm. Payments for
purchased items can be
made with cash, check or
Venmo (a 3% surcharge will
be added).**

We hope to see you!

Jason Reeves

“Color Me Happy: Plants that Brighten Winter’s Gloom”

Even in the South, winter can seem like an eternity. Plants with winter interest can make gray days more bearable by adding a spark of color and life to an otherwise dormant landscape.

There are so many underutilized plants on the market today that not only flower but have interesting bark, great winter leaf color, and tantalizing textures. Not only do many of these beauties look good in the winter, they look great in the spring and summer, too! With some new additions to your landscape, your enjoyment will extend through all the seasons.

Save The Date



Sparkling Settings

Holiday Luncheon

Monday, December 1, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

•
BOTANIC HALL
CHEEKWOOD ESTATE & GARDENS

•
1200 FORREST PARK DRIVE
NASHVILLE

YOU ARE INVITED TO
The Ivan Racheff House
& Gardens

Greens Tea
Pre-Sale Event

SHOP FOR BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY WREATHS,
TOPIARIES, BULBS & BAKED GOODS.
VISIT THE GIFT SHOP FOR VINTAGE &
GARDEN-RELATED ITEMS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025
NOON - 3:00 PM

COMPLIMENTARY APPETIZERS & DRINKS

1943 TENNESSEE
AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921

ADMISSION \$10 EACH
MAIL TO:
IRH&G TREASURER—KAREN DAWSON
2499 SUGAR FLAT ROAD
LEBANON, TN 37087

LIMIT OF 50 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

The Ivan Racheff House
& Gardens

Greens Tea

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2025

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



1943 TENNESSEE
AVENUE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37921



Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Winter Membership Meeting

Monday January 12, 2026
10:00 am

Horticulture Focus
& Vote on Slate of Officers



Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
Botanic Hall
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville

Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society

Spring Meeting

Sunday, March 1, 2026

2:00 pm



**Bradford Room of the Frist Learning Center at
Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville, TN 37205**

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. 2026 Convention



**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**



HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Spring
Membership
Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026
10:00AM

Environmental Focus

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
Botanic Hall
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville

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



NGC 2026 Convention

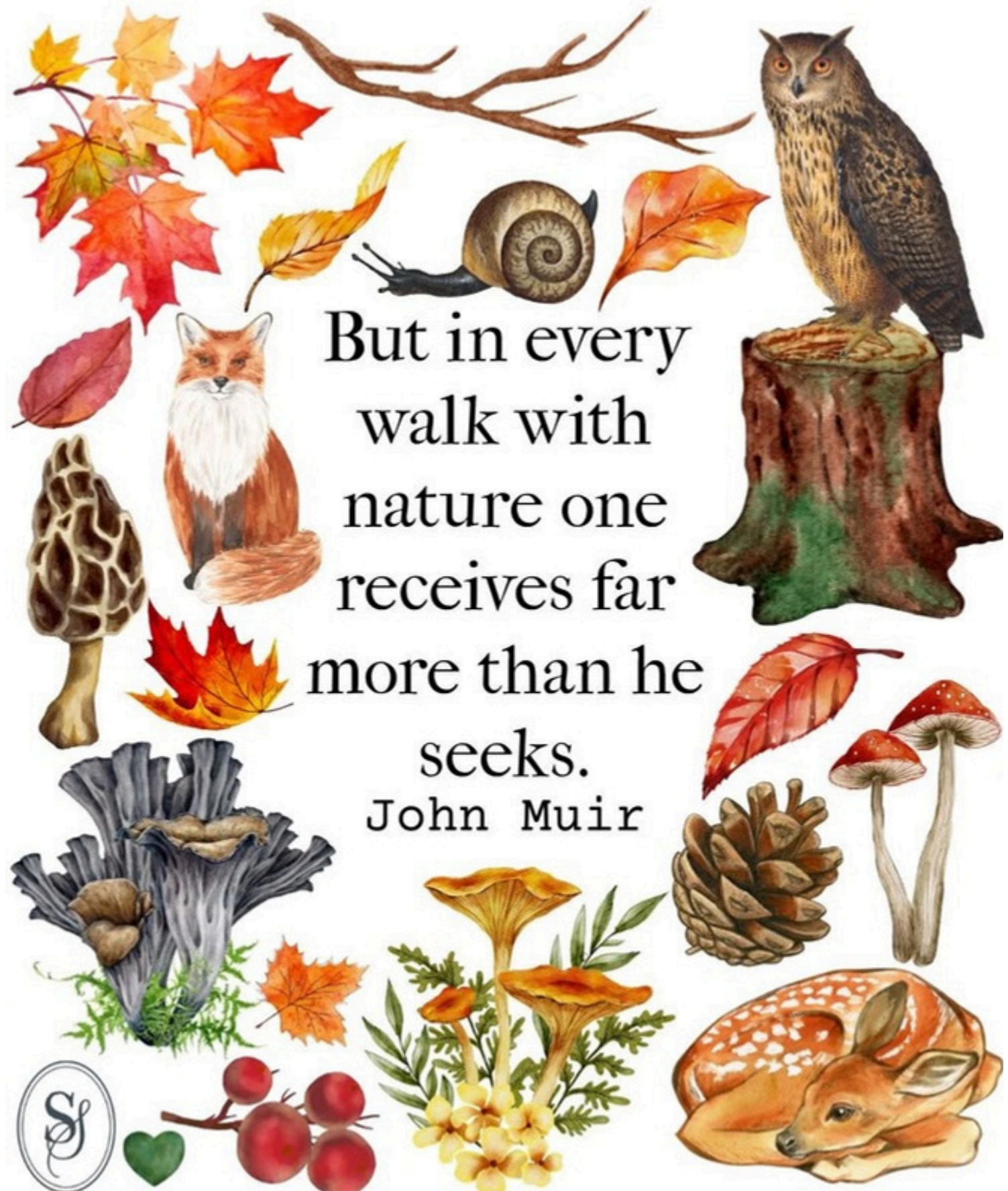
**May 4, 5, and 6, 2026
St. Louis, Missouri**

**Hotel Information and Link will be
available after October 1.**

**Registration and the Tentative
Schedule will be available after
December 1.**

National Garden Clubs

4401 Magnolia Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63110
www.gardenclub.org



But in every
walk with
nature one
receives far
more than he
seeks.

John Muir

