

Message From Your District II Director Becky Fox Matthews



I helped staff the Davidson County Master Gardener table at the "Leave the Leaves" event on Saturday, November 15 at the Warner Park Nature Center. It was a great event with lots of family-friendly activities! Holly Taylor, an Interpretive Ranger for Tennessee State Parks, gave a very informative presentation on fireflies (also known as lightning bugs). Fireflies, like all beetles, go through all four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Most species of fireflies spend only a few weeks or so in each of the egg, pupa, an adult stages, but can spend a year or two in the larval stage. Did you know that not all fireflies light up in their adult stage, although to be in the Lampyridae family (all fireflies) they must light up in some stage? Some fireflies light up in their larval stage only.

After Holly's talk inspired me to learn more, I ordered a copy of one of the books she recommended, <u>Fireflies, Glow-Worms, and Lightning Bugs</u> by Lynn Frierson Faust. In her book, Lynn covers about 76 species of fireflies and notes that on the 50 mile radius of her Tennessee farm, she has identified about 24 different species. Did you know that not all fireflies can fly? About one-fourth of the adult male firefly species listed in her book don't light up as adults and at least seven species have females that light up but don't fly.

What do firefly larva eat during the year or two they spend in the larval life stage? Worms, snails, slugs, and caterpillars. During this time they are mostly below ground but do rely heavily on leaf litter. Adult fireflies don't need to eat. Their only goal is to reproduce.

Tips from Lynn's book to support and encourage the firefly populations in your yard:

1) leave the leaves (provides habitat for the firefly larvae and for their prey), 2) keep outdoor lighting to a minimum (light pollution confuses the adult fireflies), 3) eliminate or limit pesticide and herbicide use, and 4) keep some parts of your property in "wild" native plantings with undisturbed soil.







Photo of my neighbor's yard (left), and two of my yard. Which one do you think will have more fireflies next year?

2025-2027 District II Executive Board

Director

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

Vice Director

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

Recording Secretary

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

Corresponding Secretary

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

Treasurer

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



2025-2027 District II Committee Chairmen

Awards

Gayle Jaggers
Oak Hill Garden Club
bgaylejaggers@comcast.net
615-352-0762 (home)

Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial

Markers

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

Chaplain

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

Door Prizes

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

Endowment Trust

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

Grants

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

Hospitality—Co-Chairs

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

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

Newsletter Editor

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

Parliamentarian

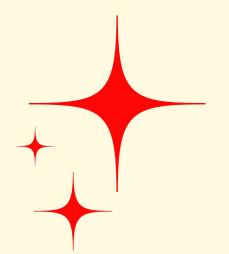
Gwyne Ellis Powers Country Homes Garden Club plantprincess2005@yahoo.com 813-833-5907

Vision of Beauty Calendar

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

Ways & Means

TBD





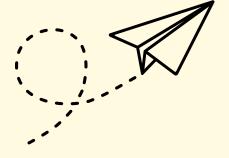


DISTRICT II CLUB PRESIDENTS, PLEASE FORWARD THIS EMAILED NEWSLETTER TO YOUR CLUB MEMBERS.

Submit your club's events, photos & articles for the January 2026 District II Newsletter by December 15th to:

annabanana7@comcast.net







Updated Forms
Upcoming Events
Volunteer Gardener
News & More!







tngardenclubs.org



District IV Council of Flower Show Judges Presents

Almost Christmas



An NGC Small Standard Flower Show

Stanley's Greenhouse, Davenport Rd., Knoxville, TN 37920

Monday December 8, 2025 - 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Phone (865)573-9591

Open and Free to the public

Member of National Garden Clubs Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs Inc.

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc, District IV

Join the District II Awards Judging!

The District II Awards Committee is meeting Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at the Paradise Ridge Community Center in Joelton, TN 37080.

We will meet from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

We need all the volunteers we can get. Without a committee, there can be no awards given.

Serving on the committee is a great way to learn how to write a Book of Evidence.

Since we aren't meeting at Tove's this year, BRING A BROWN BAG LUNCH.

I will furnish tea and water. I am expecting more BOEs than what we usually get, so please notify me at this email if you plan to serve on the committee.

For any questions, email me at bgaylejaggers@comcast.net or call 615-352-0762.

Gayle Jaggers

Ivan Racheff House & Gardens

Greens Tea Presale Event!

Friday, December 12, 2025

Noon - 3:00 pm



FreshWreaths

16"-\$20

24"-\$40

28" Embellished-\$60



Pinecone Wreath-\$30

Fresh Plants—English
Holly, Cornflower,
Cabbage, Lettuce,
Herbs

Fresh Garland

6' Cedar-\$20 6' Mixed-\$29

9' Cedar-\$30 9' Mixed-\$39



Topiaries—Fruit, Nut, Orange, Lemon, Moss

> Willow Garden Cloches \$39, \$49, \$69

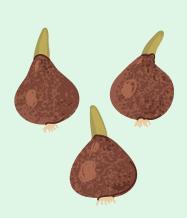
> Bulbs & Baked Goodies



24"-\$20

36"-\$25

36" Embellished-\$32



Tickets \$10 Contact Karen Dawson fdkd70@bellsouth.net





JUDGING AMARDS

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



INSPIRING WINTER DECOR, NATURAL DESIGNS, MOSS, FORCED BULBS, TOPIARIES, ANTIQUES, VINTAGE ITEMS, AND MORE

Benefiting Deep South Garden Clubs, TOVC. Scholarships by Denise Thorne Deep South Legional Director 2025-2027

> FRIDAY JANUARY 16TH, 2026 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. 402 BASS ROAD WATERTOWN, TN 37184

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

TICKETS ARE \$20.00 PER PERSON

MENU
ROASTED TURKEY
SAGE DRESSING
SOUTHERN SWEET POTATOES
FRESH CRANBERRY SALAD
DESSERTS

SEND CHECKS TO: DSGC TREASURER TRICIA ORTALANO, 1104 FARRINGTON DR. MARRERO, LA 70072-3921 PORTALANO3@GMAIL.COM





Coming soon to a location near you-your favorite chair!

Knock those winter doldrums out the window! Join fellow gardeners from across the state and beyond as we prepare for

SPRING

Our favorite time of year.

Warm days, cool nights, the perfect awakening for our gardens

What? Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs NGC Gardening School 2026

When? January 21-22, January 28-29, February 11-12, February 18-19

Where? ZOOM from the comfort of your own home

How? Registration coming soon on the TFGC website(www.tngardenclubs.org/)

Why? To have the most beautiful garden ever

Bonus? Complete all 4 Courses and become a NGC Gardening Consultant!

For more information, email Marilyn McDonnell, TFGC Gardening School Chairman at mmcdonnell25@comcast.net



NEW NGC GRANT OPPORTUNITY

<u>Application is open until February 17, 2026.</u>



PLANT AMERICA: Blue/Gold Star Memorial Beautification Grant!

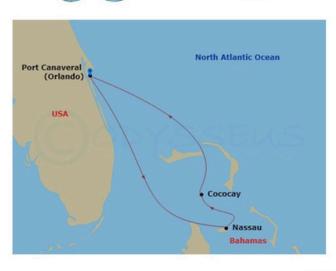
Help beautify Blue & Gold Star Memorials in your community! Learn about this new grant opportunity from National Garden Clubs, Inc. in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, and submit your application today.

Join clubs nationwide in this meaningful tribute as we lead up to America's 250th Anniversary!









Day Destination Mon, Mar 16 Depart Port Canaveral, FL Tue, Mar 17 Nassau, Bahamas Wed, Mar 18 At Sea Thu, Mar 9 At Sea Fri, Mar 20 Coco Cay, Bahamas Sat, Mar 21 Arrive Port Canaveral, FL







Contact Shelley satkinson@funseas.com www.funseas.com/ffgc +850-386-7327 Ext. 208 **16**





"Blooming Beginnings" Flower Show Award

NGC is offering a unique Award Opportunity for clubs hosting their first ever NGC Small Standard or Standard Flower Show!

Honoring Excellence in First-Time Flower Shows with a Lasting Legacy. Flower shows have long served as vibrant celebrations of botanical artistry, horticultural mastery, and community spirit. They foster connections among gardeners, inspire creativity, and bring together people of all backgrounds to appreciate the transformative beauty of flowers. While established shows often receive accolades and recognition, first-time flower shows play a critical yet often underappreciated role: they sow the seeds of new traditions, unite budding horticulturists, and invigorate communities with fresh passion. It is with this in mind that we offer the "Blooming Beginnings" Flower Show Award, a unique honor dedicated to recognizing excellence in first-time garden club flower shows. The award, embodied in the form of an NGC Path of Success brick paver, will ensure that these pioneers leave a permanent mark—both literally and figuratively—on the garden of collective achievement.

Objective of the Award

- · Recognize first-time flower shows for their vision, organization, and impact.
- Encourage other groups to initiate new flower shows, fostering a wider appreciation for horticulture and floral design.

Eligibility

- Open to any NGC Federated Garden Club hosting its FIRST EVER NGC Small Standard or Standard Flower Show. The Flower Show must be held during the 2025-2027 NGC administration.
- Shows must be open to the public and demonstrate a commitment to community involvement, educational value, and horticultural excellence.

Nominations and Judging Process

Judging will be based on several key criteria, including but not limited to:

- · Innovation and Creativity: Originality in show design, theme, and exhibits.
- Educational Value: Demonstration of horticulture and floral design education for attendees.
- Overall Impact: Evidence of positive influence on the local community and potential for future growth.
- Clubs must submit their Flower Shows following the standard Flower Show Achievement Award submission process
 which is listed on the NGC website. Submit to your state by their deadline. State Flower Show Awards Chairman or
 Awards Chairman may submit up to three entries to NGC Flower Show Awards Chairman by January 1, 2027.

The Award: Brick Paver

"Blooming Beginnings" Award is the presentation of an NGC Path of Success engraved brick paver, sponsored by the NGC Flower Show Awards Committee. This brick will bear the club's name, flower show's name and the year of the award and will be installed on the Path of Success at NGC Headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

Each quality submission will receive a certificate of recognition for their accomplishment.
 Questions? Debby Cooper, NGC Flower Show Awards Chairman. @ coopcooper@aol.com

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

Evening Belle Garden Club

Daffodil bulbs were given to pre-K children at Christ the King School, teaching them about fall bulb planting and gardening.















Submitted by Asha Joyce. Youth photo releases on file.



First Saturday Garden Club



The club just finished helping at the Bake Sale for the Cheatham County Museum's 2025 fundraiser. Pictured are a few club members who met to plan projects for 2026!



GeorgeAnne Raines, Betty Harris, Melissa Womack, Lisa Walker, Paulette Cochran & Caroline Borum







Flower Growers Garden Club October 21, 2025 Meeting

We held our meeting at Newk's Eatery on The Avenue in Murfreesboro in their outdoor meeting area. The restaurant provided tables for us to set up our Horticulture, and President Patty Compton gave a report on the TFGC District II Meeting on October 7th in Joelton, TN. District Director Becky Fox Matthews announced and presented the \$1000 TFGC Endowment Trust Fund Grant check to Patty, and she gratefully accepted. Patty said when she received the call that our Seed Project Grant proposal for 2026 was accepted and approved for \$1000, she could not stop saying "Thank you, thank you, thank you! Having served as one of the seven TFGC Trustees last year, I was aware of the time and effort given to this decision; again Thank You!"









This year, our biggest project was sowing a special pollinator native wildflower mix on ½ acre at Middle Tennessee Christian School, which will be doubled next spring. We distributed seeds to various groups, placing seed boxes in public locations and Murfreesboro Farmers Market on The Square; all with instructions and FGGC contact information.

Kim Orrand presented a program on how to make a Teacup Succulent Garden, with member participation. Members took home their beautiful teacup gardens.



Patty Compton, Kim Orrand and Marchelle Butler with their teacup gardens.



Kim also presented a very educational program on Monarch Butterflies and Chrysalis. She shared her Monarch Butterfly habitat where she keeps the caterpillars in a cage to protect them from predators. She has released 14 Monarchs this year! Kim shared milkweed seeds with the club members. Milkweed is the only plant Monarch caterpillars eat, making it essential for the species' survival.



Dawn Schamp, Marchelle Butler, Rachel Bush & Margaret Mainardi having a great time.



"Nature's Bounty"

Designer's Choice Classification



"It's a Small World"
Designer's Choice Classification



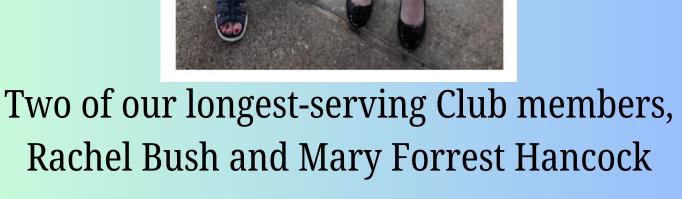












Submitted by Patty Compton and Morna Conway, photographs courtesy of Marchelle Butler, Mary Forrest Hancock and Kim Orrand.

Franklin County Garden Club





Left to right: Mary Bradley, Leslie Rohrer, Fay Kohler, Lola Eslick with the beautification project at the public library.





Sunflower trays for refreshments at October meeting!



For Veteran's Day, the City of Winchester places flags all around town. The flag in this photo flies over the headstone of Lola Eslick's father, a POW in WWII.

Harpeth Bend Garden Club November 12, 2025 Meeting

Club members met at the Brentwood Pointe Clubhouse for a Friendsgiving Luncheon and packing of boxes for Samaritans Purse International Relief.



Left to right: Beth Harlow, Joan Bailey, Claudette Ryan, Jean Pickard, Margaret Reeves, Missy Hetzer, Kandee Walker, Robin Nash, Mary Dorning, Betty Chapman, Nina Rinaldi & Karen Brommer. Not pictured: Marsha Hunt











Hostesses Missy Hetzer & Joan Bailey













Kandee Walker's husband Tom helped deliver the packed boxes for mailing. 28

Optimistic Gardeners Club November 5, 2025 Meeting

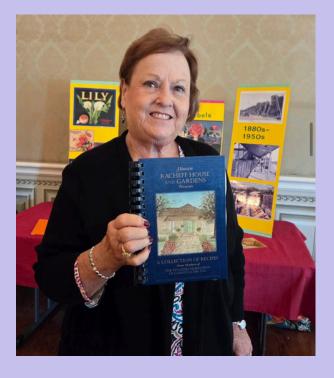
The Club met at Oaklands Mansion in Murfreesboro. Lots of interesting information and exhibits were enjoyed by members.



Host & Hostesses: Anita Wherry, Trudy Bain, Joe Rouse & Lynn Rouse







Club President
Lillian Hibbett
shared the Racheff
House & Gardens
Cookbook & some
Ivan Racheff history.

Optimistic Gardeners Club



Jeaneen Benedict, Wanda Copley, Beth Binkley & Dr. Kim Sadler



Plant Spotlight by Marion Butler: Salvia



Barbara Forsythe, Lisa Chappell & Carol Hargett



Amaryllis bulbs were ordered for the club.

Mary Richardson & Ann Porter

Optimistic Gardeners Club





Educational display by Lynn Rouse:
"The Golden Era of Fruit Crate Labels
—When Flowers Sold Fruit"







The Many Uses of Pinecones: Decorative Displays, Decorative Packaging & Feeding the Birds.

Rachel Jackson Garden Club Thursday, November 20, 2025 Clerk report on Design Exhibits

This month in

Division III - Design - Section C - Botanical Arts - Artistic Crafts
(Decorated Items)



Entry 1 Kissing Ball HB pg. 95 Title – "Drunken Kisses" Exhibitor – Leslee Karl – 1st

Plant materials used: Ilex (Holly) Nandina domestica Hydrangea quercifolia Buxus (Boxwood)



Entry 2 Decorated Candle Holder HB pg. 95 Title - "Happy Holidays" Exhibitor - Kathy Crownover - 1st

Plant materials used: Nandina domestica 'Fire Power'



Entry 3
Dried Flower Picture HB pg. 95
Title - "A Windy Day for
Sedum & Friends"
Exhibitor - Kay Wells - 1st

Plant materials used:
Sedum spectabile (Stonecrop)
Sedum telephium 'Munstead
Dark Red'
Rudbeckia hirta 'Black Eyed
Susan'



Entry 4
Decorated Ornament HB pg. 95
Title - "Oh Christmas Tree"
Exhibitor - Kristy Rogers - 1st

Plant materials used:
Pimpinella anisum (Star Anise)
Eucalyptus oblique (Messmate String Bark)

Town & Country Garden Club at Cheekwood October 27, 2025

Club members attended the HSMT Fall Membership Meeting on October 27, 2025, featuring Brent Heath as the speaker from "Brent & Becky's Bulbs". The program was fantastic! After the presentation, our group toured the Fall decorations of pumpkins, gourds and mums.



Attendees & Speaker (left to right): Jane Hundley, Karen Dawson, Cathy Burgman, Brent Heath, Pace Pope & Jo Lovelace







Brent Heath & Becky Fox Matthews

Submitted by Karen Dawson



Tyne Meade Garden Club

Our November Meeting

The year is just flying by with Fall in full swing! The November meeting was held on the first Thursday as members gathered to share good food, camaraderie, project updates and to learn about orchids native to Nashville.

Carol Smith provided an update on October's work outing at Nashville Zoo's Grassmere historical herb garden that is zealously maintained by our club. One more workday in November is planned to clean the garden up and put it to bed.



From left: Janet Brownlee, Doris Weakley, Carol Smith, Kathy Brown, Nancy Goodrich, and Monty West, enjoy the beautiful Fall Day in the garden.



In addition to the meeting, canned good and monetary donations were collected for Second Harvest to help the many families in need.

Learning about Native Tennessee Orchids





Our month's speaker was Soyara Cates Parr, a plant soil scientist, a guest columnist for the American Orchid Society, and the author of *Nashville Native Orchids—Astonishing Science and Mysterious Folklore*, published by Vanderbilt University Press. Soyora has made it a lifelong mission to research orchids native to Tennessee and their symbiosis with the environment and wildlife.

She shared her experiences and research, emphasizing the importance of conservation and the various uses of orchids in folklore and medicine. Club members were fascinated by her knowledgeable and lively presentation.

The meeting was adjourned as we look forward to the upcoming holiday activities with the club!



Year Round Garden Club November 6, 2025 Meeting

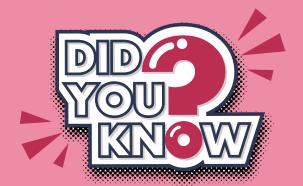


The club met at the historic Fite Fessenden House in Lebanon for a program on Decor for the Holidays, including edible topiaries. Pictured are: Emily Peyton (past president), Linda Weast (current president), Janet McCluskey (Secretary), Cindy Howard (1st vice president), Mandy Wilson (2nd vice president) & Aileen Foutch (Treasurer)









This plant could outlive you!



Christmas cactus Schlumbergera buckleyi

The average age of most houseplants is between five and ten years, but this plant lasts more than a hundred years and is passed on from generation to generation.



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?"



& Submission Deadlines



DECEMBE



- Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee presents Sparkling Settings Holiday Luncheon 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Botanic Hall at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens 1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville
 - Submission Deadline for District II Books of Evidence
- District IV Council of Flower Show Judges presents "Almost Christmas" **An NGC Small Standard Flower Show** Viewing 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Stanley's Greenhouse 3029 Davenport Road Knoxville
 - District II Awards Committee Meeting for **Judging District II Books of Evidence** 10:00 am -2:00 pm Paradise Ridge Community Center in Joelton **BRING A BAG LUNCH!**







PEGENER



12

• Ivan Racheff House & Gardens Greens Tea Ticketed \$10 Pre-Sale Event Friday, December 12, 2025 Noon - 3:00 pm

13

• Free Entry-Saturday, December 13, 2025 11:00 am - 2:00 pm 1943 Tennessee Avenue Knoxville

بع

15

• Submission Deadline for January 2026 District II Newsletter

31

Submission Deadline for
 Deep South Director's Theme Project
 Information at deepsouthgardenclubs.com



JANJARY

• Submission Deadline for Winter 2026 Volunteer Gardener

 Submission Deadline for TFGC State Books of Evidence

• TFGC State Awards Committee
Judging Books of Evidence
Through the Grapevine
630 Broadmor Blvd. Suite 190
Murfreesboro

Contact Debbie Shaver: buffiescorner@bellsouth.net

9 - 11

Antiques & Garden Show of Nashville Music City Center
201 Rep. John Lewis Way S.
Nashville, TN 37203

12



Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee
Winter Membership Meeting
10:00 am

Botanic Hall at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville
42



January



- Submission Deadline for February District II Newsletter
- Deep South Garden Clubs
 Winter Gathering at the home of Denise Thorne
 11:00 am -3:00 pm
 402 Bass Road Watertown, TN
 Registration required
- Submission Deadline for TFGC Presidents' Reports
 Form available at tngardenclubs.org
 - TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class
- TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class
 - TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class



• TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class

FEBRUARY

- TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class
- TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class
- Submission deadline for March District II Newsletter
- Submission Deadline for NGC Blue Star/Gold Star Marker Grant Information at gardenclub.org
- TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class
- TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class

Submission deadline for Club Scrapbooks will also be in February. Date & Details will be announced at a later time.



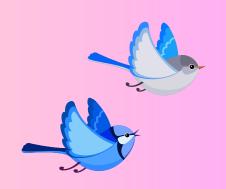
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• Submission deadline for April District II Newsletter

16 - 21

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
 2026 Convention Cruise
 deepsouthgardenclubs.com for information





 Submission Deadline for Spring Volunteer Gardener

• Herb Society of Nashville
2026 Herb & Plant Sale
Nashville Fairgrounds Expo 1
More info/times to follow on herbsocietynashville.org

• Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Spring Membership Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2026 10:00 am

Botanic Hall at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville





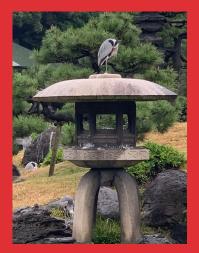




Flower Show Judges of District II
will sponsor an NGC Flower Show Symposium
Oaklands Mansion—Maney Hall
901 North Maney Avenue Murfreesboro
Contact Kathy Rychen for more information:
kathyrychen@gmail.com



Greetings from Japan!











Anna Marie Allen TFGC District II Newsletter & Volunteer Gardener editor



