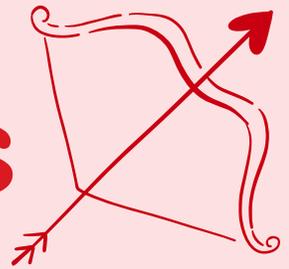


February 2026

TFGC District II
Newsletter



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Message from the District II Director

Becky Fox Matthews

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Often our middle TN winters aren't what we think about when we hear that song. In the lane snow is probably not glistening, but our winter landscapes are a wonderland! With leaves fallen from most of the trees, the intricate structure of branches against the sky stands out. It is an excellent time to walk or sit quietly and observe birds and other animals, or to simply appreciate the subtle aspects of our landscapes: the patterns of tree bark, the shapes of trees and their buds at the branch tips. If you want to go further there are guides to Identifying trees in the winter by their bark or by the shape of their buds.

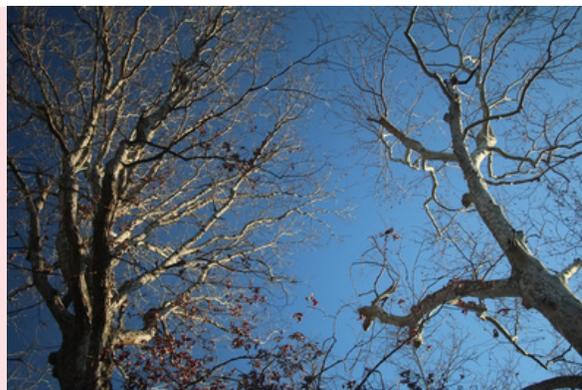
Winter is a great time to wonder about what you will grow next and how you will grow it. There are many types of gardens to explore: container, raised bed, winter sowing, food forests, fairy gardens, vertical gardens, rock gardens, hydroponics, aquaponics. Information is easy to find on the internet or at your local library. Winter is a great time to read about gardening. I never thought I would want a garden with primarily pale flowers, but after reading about Moon Moth Gardens I'm reconsidering that. What a wonderful thought to sit under the stars at night to admire fragrant, night-blooming plants and perhaps observe a few nocturnal pollinators. Winter is the perfect time to peruse seed and plant catalogs and dream of what you would like to try in your garden in the coming year.

For whatever new gardening project you plan, please remember to include native plants for the pollinators. The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs website has a free resource, *Native Plants of Middle Tennessee: A Book of Lists*. Scroll to the bottom of this page to find this fantastic resource: <https://www.tngardenclubs.org/forms-publications/>. Lists are included for wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ferns, vines, grasses/sedges/rushes, and other (bog plants, aquatic plants, groundcovers), as well as nine scenarios to help you navigate the lists. I hope you will enjoy your winter wonderland while planning for the next gardening season!

Becky



“Little Island”, a free public park I recently visited in NYC.



Sycamore branches in my backyard

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 Jagers
Oak Hill Garden Club
bgaylejagers@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

Town & Country
Garden Club

A light blue background with several dark blue, multi-pointed stars of varying sizes scattered across the top half of the page.

Check out the TFGC Website

Updated Forms
Upcoming Events
Volunteer Gardener
News & More!

tngardenclubs.org



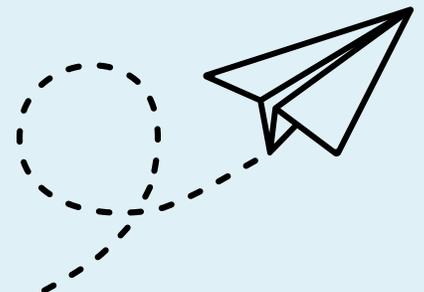


**DISTRICT II
CLUB PRESIDENTS,
PLEASE FORWARD THIS
EMAILED NEWSLETTER TO
YOUR CLUB MEMBERS.**

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

annabanana7@comcast.net

**THANK
YOU**



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

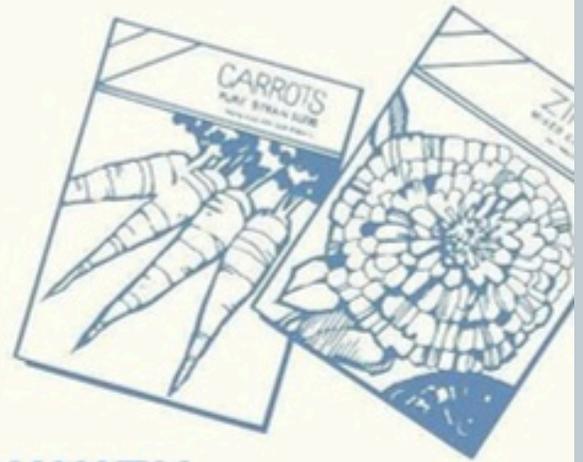


Orchids at Cheekwood

January 31 - March 8, 2026



SUMNER COUNTY
 MASTER GARDENERS
 & HENDERSONVILLE
 PUBLIC LIBRARY



GARDENING COMMUNITY
 TALK SERIES PRESENTATION



**SPRING VEGETABLE
 GARDENING IN
 MIDDLE TENNESSEE**
 BY JOAN

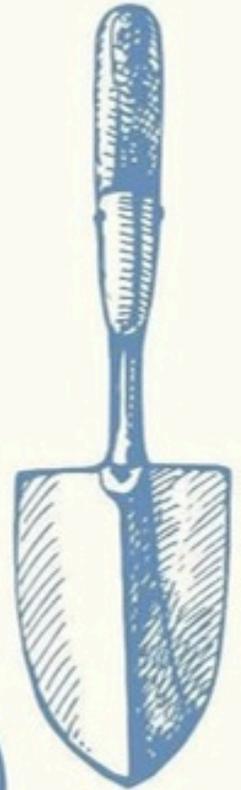
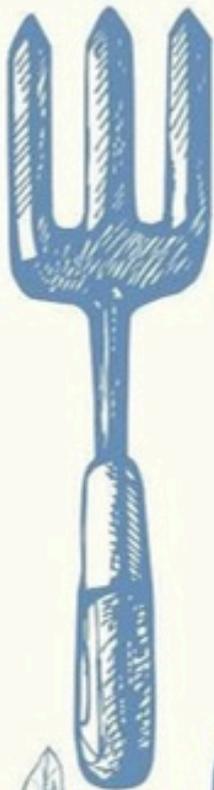
CLAYTON-DAVIS

DAVIDSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

**SATURDAY,
 FEBRUARY 7, 2026**

11:00 A.M.

HPL COMMUNITY ROOM



Learn • Connect • Create

Hendersonville Public Library

140 Saundersville Rd Hendersonville, TN 37075

(615)-824-0656 | hpl@sumnercountytn.gov

NEW NGC GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Application is open until February 17, 2026.



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!



For more information, go to gardenclub.org

DISTRICT II SCRAPBOOKS



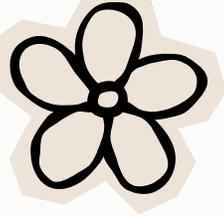
Club Scrapbooks!

are due in the hands of
Scrapbook Chairman
Judy Johnson

February 28, 2026

**TO SCHEDULE DELIVERY,
CONTACT JUDY
AT
615-202-8050**

**JUDY JOHNSON
4753 CARTER ROAD
CEDAR HILL, TN 37032**





TENNESSEE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL

12th Annual
**TENNESSEE
TREE DAY**
MARCH 21, 2026

**Reserve your native trees now through
March 1st, 2026**

TEC's Tennessee Tree Day is an annual family-friendly event that engages thousands of volunteers across the state in planting native tree seedlings.



Go to tectn.org



Deep South Convention

5 Nights
March 16 - 21, 2026

Eastern Caribbean Cruise



EXPLORER OF THE SEAS



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

Starting from:
\$599 / Person + tax

Deposit is \$200 per person
Final Payment is due by Dec. 12, 2025



Contact Shelley

satkinson@funseas.com

www.funseas.com/ffgc

+850-386-7327 Ext. 208



"Spring's Subtle Song"

An NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show

Presented by

T. A. G. S.

Tennessee Arrangers & Growers Society

Judges Study Group

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

The Flower Show will be staged in the

Banquet Suite of

Through the Grapevine

630 Broadmor Boulevard

Murfreesboro, TN 37139-0902

Free to the Public with viewing hours:

Opens at 1:00 p.m. — Closes at 3:00 p.m.

Member of

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. (DSGC)

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (TFGC)

TFGC District II





Annual Herb & Plant Sale



brought to you by



THE HERB SOCIETY OF NASHVILLE

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Please note we are opening earlier this year

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Fairgrounds Nashville - Expo 1

Over 14,000 plants
Herbs, Vegetables, perennials and annuals
including member grown plants
Shop early! Many varieties sell out quickly!

Expert recommendations on
plant selection, care, and usage
by our knowledgeable members



Plant list, map & more @ www.herbsocietynashville.org



THE PERENNIAL PLANT SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

2026 ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
8:30 until 1 pm. Free



New Location:
Woodmont Hills
Church, 3710
Franklin Pike



LOTS MORE
Locally Grown
Native Plants

Shrubs, Perennials,
Herbs, & Vines

No Pets Allowed - Carts Welcome - FREE Parking

This sale is organized by The Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee.

All Profits are used to fund horticultural education in our state.

More information is available at www.ppsmtn.org



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 CONSERVATION CAMP



2026



**Tuesday & Wednesday,
October 13 - 14, 2026
Beersheba Springs, TN**

Theme: "Mother Nature Wants You!"

**The venue will be the
Beersheba Springs Assembly,
an historic hotel and retreat.**

**Conservation Camp Co-chairs Debbie Shaver & Anne Leonard,
& Registrar Diane Ryder are putting together programs, activities
& nature crafts that will appeal to everyone!**

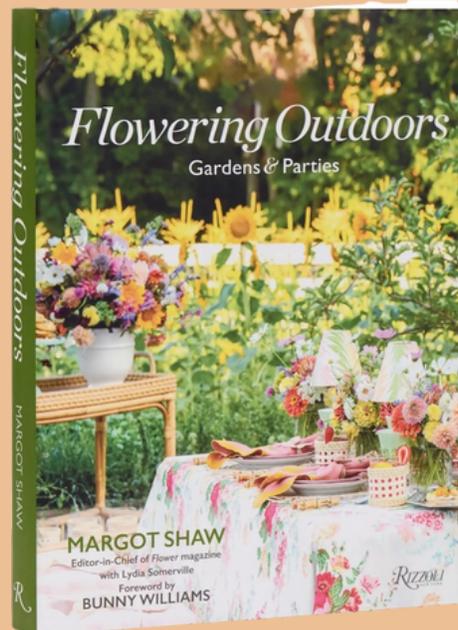
**The registration fee, which includes your room, all meals & tax,
will be a pleasant surprise in this time of skyrocketing costs. 😊**

**STAY
TUNED!**

**List of activities & registration information
will be provided soon!**

HSMT Winter Meeting Highlights

The Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee, an affiliate of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., held its Winter Membership Meeting at the Historic Belle Meade Carriage House in Nashville on Monday, January 12, 2026. Built in 1892, the Carriage House showcases a beautiful collection of luxury carriages & surreys. The HSMT's guest speaker for the meeting was Margot Shaw, Founder & Editor-in-Chief of "Flower" Magazine.

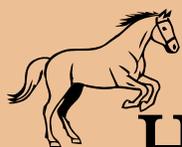


Margot Shaw shared her inspiring background story & discussed her newest book.



HSMT President Deby Pitts





HSMT Winter Meeting Highlights



Optimistic Gardeners Club president Lillian Hibbett, Margot Shaw & Sandy Estes



The Belle Meade Carriage House was a unique & lovely setting for the Winter HSMT Meeting.



Winter Gathering

Highlights



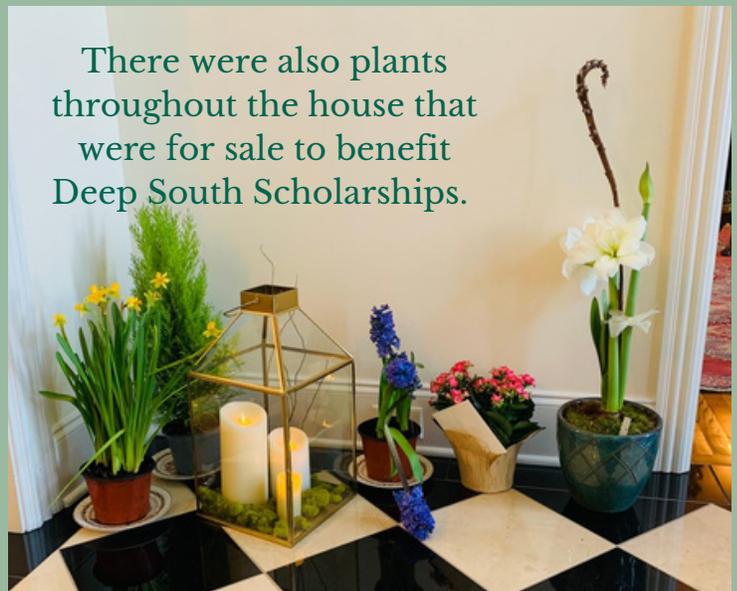
Deep South Garden Clubs
Treasurer Tricia Ortalano &
Regional Director Denise
Thorne



A Winter Gathering of Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. was held on Friday, January 16, 2026 at the home of 2025 - 2027 Deep South Regional Director Denise Thorne in Watertown, TN. The publicized event swiftly SOLD OUT, and money raised at this amazing fundraising event will be used to fund Deep South Garden Clubs Scholarships. Due to the sellout, there was another similar event held on Friday, January 23rd.

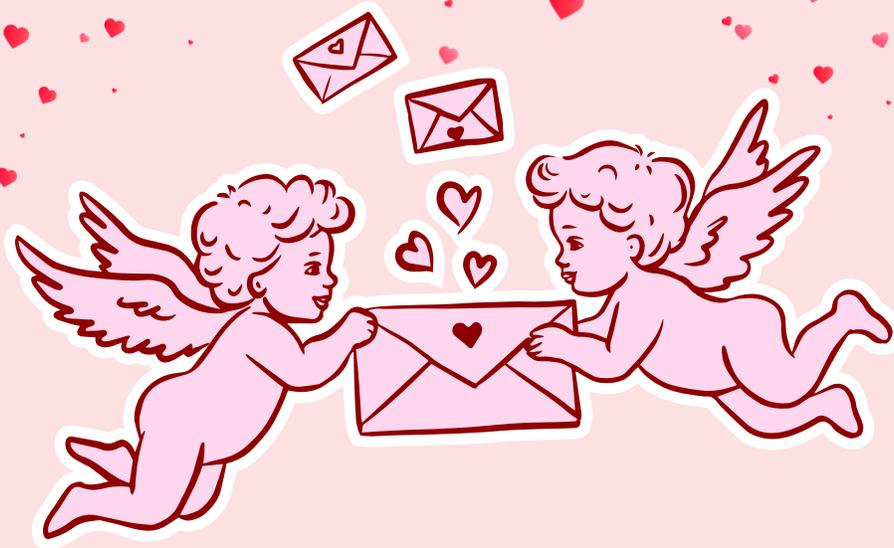
The luncheon menu included Savory Appetizers, Roasted Turkey, Sage Dressing, Southern Sweet Potatoes, Fresh Cranberry Salad, Iced Fruit Tea, Hot Cider, and a variety of delicious desserts prepared by Denise.





There were also plants throughout the house that were for sale to benefit Deep South Scholarships.





Club News

Send your Club's photos,
meeting news & events to:
annabanana7@comcast.net

Submission Deadline for
March Newsletter is February 15th.



Evening Belle Garden Club



This past fall, the Evening Belle Garden Club partnered with Christ the King School in Nashville to initiate the Citizen Scientist Program with the second graders. Each month, the club introduced a new project, with the goal of teaching students about plants & nature. Susie Francescon Bateman, a Christ the King alumna, led the first session in September 2025.



THE
Hunt
IS ON



Evening Belle Garden Club

In the second session of the Citizen Scientist Program in October 2025, Evening Belle Garden Club members helped the second graders make beautiful creations with leaves, twigs, seeds and flowers!



Evening Belle Garden Club

This Citizen Scientist session focused on teaching the students about caring for birds during the winter months by making bird feeders from pinecones.



Flower Growers Garden Club

FLOWER GROWERS GARDEN CLUB – WRAPPING UP 2025

FGGC Christmas Celebration

On December 9, Marchelle Butler welcomed Club members to her lovely home in Murfreesboro, where she and President Patty Compton co-hosted our annual Christmas Party.

The Design challenge centered on the Secret Santa gift exchange: the wrapped package was to be decorated with live plant material in either a traditional or contemporary design. Patty introduced our guest judges, Virginia and Melissa Pennington, members of Garden Lovers, and they expertly judged the very creative package designs participating members had made.

Marchelle served a delicious lunch featuring baked chicken casserole, white rice with artichoke hearts, green beans, and delicious desserts. After lunch, Virginia and Melissa completed judging, with Dawn Schamp and Maggie Shelor, Co-chairs of the Classifications Committee, acting as clerks.

Following the judging, the fun really started, with no-one's gift safe until the final selection and subsequent "theft" were completed. Suffice it to say, the proverbial good time was had by all, and we left the wonderful hospitality wishing each other the very merriest of Christmases.



FGGC gathering hosted by Patty & Marchelle



Our hostess Marchelle



Flower Growers Garden Club



Lisa & Kim



Patty enjoying her Secret Santa haul



Maggie picks her Secret Santa.



Cynthia chooses (Eddie in the background).

Submitted by Morna Conway and Patty Compton

Photos courtesy of Kim Orrand and Marchelle Compton



Franklin County Garden Club



Brenda Mahoney (Smokey chairperson), Lola Eslick, Doris Crawford, Jeanie Du Gan and Karen Rizzuti hold up our Franklin County Garden Club winning posters for 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade.



Lola Eslick recycling club members' old handbooks at the local Convenience Center



500 Daffodil bulbs were planted at the Franklin County Senior Center by Lola Eslick, Helen Tinnerman, Karen Rizzuti & Sheree Hidalgo!



We also planted three 5 foot tall Norway Spruce at the Senior Center.





Iris City Garden Club



On December 2, 2025, members of the Iris City Garden Club gathered at the Hermitage Kitchen Gallery in Nashville for a festive wreath-making workshop. The class was organized and led by club member Liane Dunn, who guided participants through the process of layering various types of greenery into bundles and securing them around a wire frame. Liane generously provided all the greenery, holiday bows, and a lovely lunch for attendees. The workshop was a fun and creative way to kick off the holiday season.



Submitted by Mary Skinner

Leipers Fork Garden Club

Our Christmas gathering was held on December 18, 2025 at the lovely home of Kathy Wood Dobbins. The yard alone was a vision to enjoy! A 10 foot spruce tree in the living room was so artfully decorated with colored lights and hanging icicles. Decorations throughout presented a heartwarming holiday theme and also included a fresh flower bouquet in the most beautiful container prepared by our hostess.



Clare Maness, Kathy Wood Dobbins, Maggie Frank, Patsy McFadden, Judi Stutts, Faye Sturm

Food was prepared and shared by all members attending, and it was an extremely tasty feast with delicious spiced cider and drinks prepared by the hostess. A variety of spices and canned goods was collected to help support Graceworks with their mission. Cash donations were also collected for Graceworks, who works in conjunction with Second Harvest Food Bank, and together they have better buying power than we do as individuals.



Left Photo: Randy Lelley, Stephanie Kelley & Jenni Housley.



Right Photo: Cherry Lane Darken, Theresa Tillinger, MaryLee Bartlett, Kathy Wood Dobbins

Leipers Fork Garden Club



Cherry Lane Darken



Carolyn Curry

We also enjoyed Dirty Santa, a gift exchange of items you already had but no longer wanted or used. If you received a gift that you liked, it was yours to keep unless someone wanted to steal it. If you received a gift you did not want, that too was donated to GraceWorks for a sale item. There were items that were clever, beautiful, unusual, and a most wanted item was a new croquet set including the stand.



Optimistic Gardeners Club

The OGC Executive Board met to make plans for a new garden club year at Ruth Taylor's 1817 historic home.



Ruth's home is ready for Valentine's Day!



Seated: Ruth Taylor & Wanda Copley.
Standing front: Joe Rouse, Anita Wherry,
Lillian Hibbett, Ann Porter.
Standing back: Jeaneen Benedict &
Beth Binkley



Making plans for another interesting year!



Homemade soups &
lots of goodies for lunch!

Tyne Meade Garden Club



Members from left: Carol Smith, Betsy Abernathy,
Sheila Turk, Monty West, Susie Jones,
Janeene Larkin Horn, Doris Weakley,
Shannon Thurman, Kathy Brown,
Marlene Key, Dobi Pintar



Holiday Socializing

In addition to our early December meeting, a group of the Tyne Meade club members toured the Tennessee Governor's Mansion for the "Light of the World" Open House organized by Tennessee's First Lady Maria Lee. We met in the Woodmont Hills Church parking lot on a cold blustery day and were shuttled to the Mansion.

Tyne Meade Garden Club

Upon arrival, we were informed that next year the Residence will not be decorated for Christmas as Governor Lee's and staff's belongings will be in the midst of being packed up for the incoming Governor. We were lucky in the timing of this tour.

The group walked through the residence's ground floor rooms, as well as the underground Conservation Hall which was also decorated. Members oohed & ahed over the wonderful Christmas trees, holiday bunting, and, of course, a stop at the Gift Shop for ornaments and cookies.



Tyne Meade Garden Club



In addition to traditional Christmas decor, “Wildlife of Tennessee” was incorporated into many of the tableaux. It was a very entertaining trip that allowed club members to enjoy the season with friends!

Volunteer Garden Club

Our December 5, 2025 meeting was held at the home of member Aleitha Kimbro. Her home was beautifully decorated throughout, and we were served a delicious meal by hostesses Aleitha Kimbro and Suzanne Bobo.

December



Tina Johns enjoys the festive lunch.



Sharon Reagor & daughter Holly share the meal with Patricia Shavers & Pat Sherrill.



Ann Spencer, club president
Aurelia Swann & Judy Smith



Volunteer Garden Club

January



Hostesses for the January 9, 2026 meeting were Frances Baucom & Mary Alexander



Patricia Shavers, Aleitha Kimbro & Pat Sherrill



Ann Spencer introduced our speaker Chad Graham, Bedford County Mayor, who shared some of the accomplishments of his administration and answered questions about member concerns.



Volunteer Garden Club



President Aurelia Swann conducts the business meeting.



Tina Johns, Judy Smith, Liz Southern, & Ann Spencer with Pat Sherrill, Patricia Shavers, Chad Graham, Marge Gavin & Aurelia Swann



Guest Marge Gavin & member Tina Johns



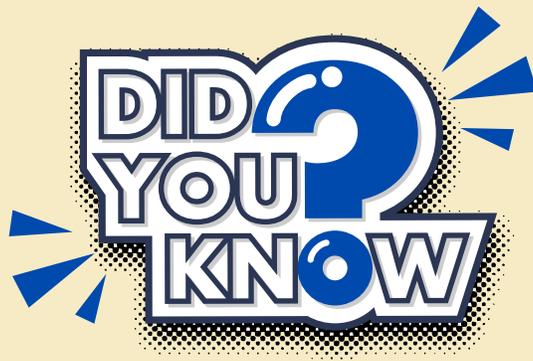
Entries in the "What Have You" category



The Design of the Day was a Cascade Design, emphasizing the color white.



The Horticulture specimen was 'Pansy'



The Longest Living Seed?



Seeds from the ancient Lotus flower *Nelumbo nucifera*, the National flower of India, have been found to germinate after lying dormant for over 1000 years, making them one of the longest living seeds.



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?”

Summary of
Upcoming
Events

& Submission Deadlines



FEBRUARY



1

- **Nashville Rose Society**
Meet & Greet Kickoff Meeting
2:00pm - 4:30pm
Bradford Room at the Cheekwood Frist Center

9

- **Wild Ones Informal Chat Meeting**
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Virtual/Online Zoom
Go to: middletennessee.wildones.org

11 & 12

- **TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class**

15

- **Submission deadline for**
March District II Newsletter

17

- **Submission Deadline for**
NGC Blue Star/Gold Star Marker Grant
Information at gardenclub.org

18 & 19

- **TFGC Gardening School Zoom Class**

28

- **Submission Deadline for District II**
Scrapbooks



March*



1

• Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society Spring Meeting

2:00 pm

Bradford Room of The Frist Learning Center

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville

15

• Submission deadline for

April District II Newsletter

16 - 21

• Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

2026 Convention Cruise

deepsouthgardenclubs.com for information

21

• Middle Tennessee Hosta Society Membership Meeting

1:00 pm

Goodlettsville Branch of the Nashville Public Library

205 Rivergate Parkway Goodlettsville, TN

Lesley & Taylor Wortham present:

“From Seed to Sprout: Mastering Soil Blocking Indoors”

31

• An NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show

“Spring’s Subtle Song”

Presented by T.A.G.S.—Tennessee Arrangers & Growers Society

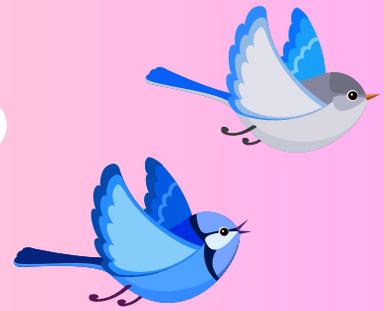
Opens at 1:00 pm. Closes at 3:00 pm.

Banquet Suite of “Through the Grapevine”

630 Broadmor Blvd. Murfreesboro



April



1

• **Submission Deadline for
Spring Volunteer Gardener**

11

• **Herb Society of Nashville
2026 Herb & Plant Sale
Nashville Fairgrounds Expo 1
8:00 am - 1:00 pm—Come Early!
More info/times to follow on herbsocietynashville.org**

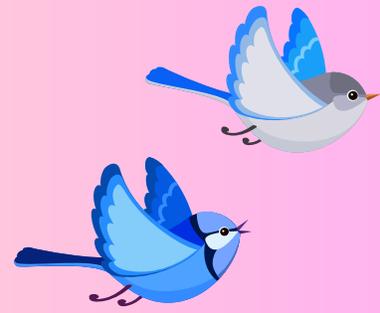
• **Perennial Plant Society Plant Sale
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Woodmont Hills Church
3710 Franklin Pike Nashville**

13

• **Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee
Spring Membership Meeting
10:00 am
Botanic Hall at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville**



April



13-14

- Tennessee Council of Nationally Accredited 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

15

- Submission Deadline for May District II Newsletter

24

- National Arbor Day!





2

- **Middle Tennessee Hosta Society
Annual Spring Hosta Sale
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Williamson County AG Expo Park
4215 Long Lane Franklin, TN**

4 - 6

- **National Garden Clubs, Inc.
2026 Convention
St. Louis, Missouri
Go to gardenclub.org for registration details**

15

- **Submission Deadline for
June District II Newsletter**

16

- **Middle Tennessee Plant Swap
7:00 am - 2:00 pm Central Time
Henry Horton State Park
Chapel Hill, TN**



Get Ready for Spring!

Identify your caterpillars & Butterflies!

North American Butterflies & Caterpillars



Monarch



Viceroy



Anglewings



Red Admiral



Swallowtails



Black Swallowtail



Red-Spotted Purple



Sulphurs



Cabbage White



Buckeye



Great Spangled
Fritillary



Painted Lady