

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

*April 2026*

District II  
Newsletter



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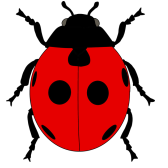




# Message from the District II Director Becky Fox Matthews



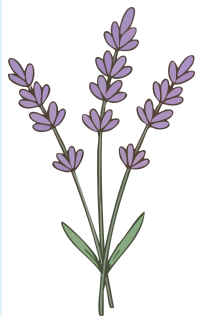
District II garden clubs offered a wide array of engaging programs in the past year, as reflected in clubs' Presidents Reports. Sessions spanned topics such as garden design, native plants, recycling, composting, bee keeping, plant propagation, insects, apples, orchids, roses, tulips, coneflowers, and hummingbirds. Programs highlighted the language of flowers, plants of the Bible, the history of Smokey Bear, the history of fascinators, Intarsia woodworking, women in horticulture (Stone Root Landscaping), Mushlove (mushroom varieties and growing), MTSU Center for Cedar Glades Studies, TN Smart Yards, garden whimsy, garden therapy, sensory gardens, reviving houseplants, native host plants, tips for attracting birds and pollinators, the flowers of Christmas, winter planting, the health benefits of herbs and spices, The Jimmy & Roselyn Carter Gardens, and Who was Ivan Racheff?



Fun events included A Christmas tea featuring *Camellia sinensis*, White Elephant Sales, Dig & Potting Day for scholarship plant sale, plant swaps, vase exchange and design challenge, and silent auctions. Garden clubs toured Gibbs Garden and other botanic gardens, state parks, Amish farms, landscape nurseries, tree farms, vineyards, and went on wildflower walks. Hands-on workshops developed new skills with Tea with the Mad Hatter (making teacup designs), Make & Take Petite Garden Containers, making lavender wands, and creating collages, dried flower cards, petite designs, wreaths, Bejeweled Nosegay Designs, and underwater designs with fish bowls.



Such a diverse array of programs demonstrates our garden clubs' strong commitment to education, horticultural advancement, and our love for nature!



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**

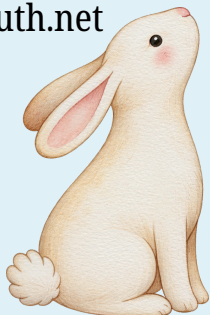
Jennifer Kidd  
New Neighbors Garden Club  
jkkmd@comcast.net  
615-478-4854

**Corresponding Secretary**

Kay Wells  
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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  
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annette.shrader@yahoo.com  
931-801-8832

**Door Prizes**

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615-477-3030

**Endowment Trust**

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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**

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Country Homes Garden Club  
info@therawlings.net  
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Anna Marie Allen  
annabanana7@comcast.net  
615-477-3030

**Parliamentarian**

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

**Vision of Beauty  
Calendar**

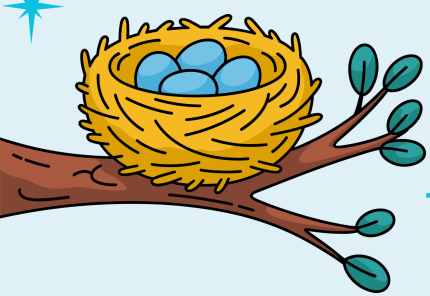
Kandee Walker  
Harpeth Bend Garden Club  
twalker10@aol.com  
615-403-5053

**Ways & Means**

Town & Country  
Garden Club

# Check out the TFGC Website

Updated Forms  
Upcoming Events  
Volunteer Gardener  
News & More!



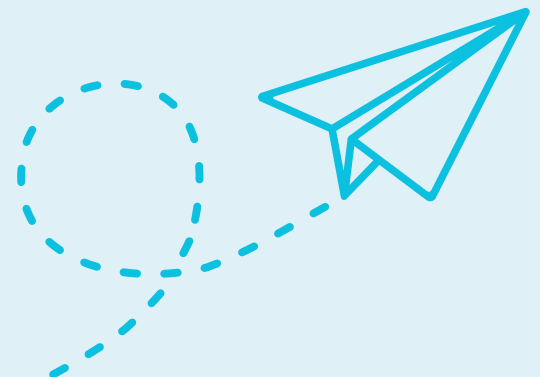
[tngardenclubs.org](http://tngardenclubs.org)

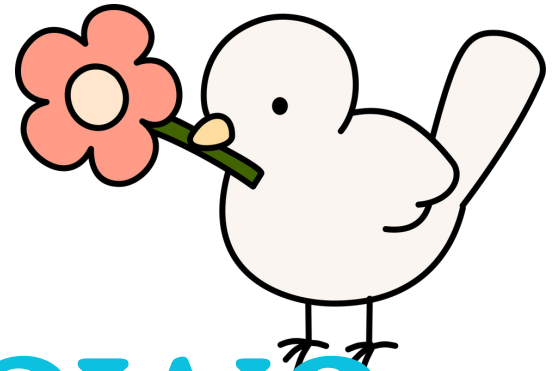




**DISTRICT II**  
**CLUB PRESIDENTS,**  
**PLEASE FORWARD THIS**  
**EMAILED NEWSLETTER TO**  
**YOUR CLUB MEMBERS.**

**THANK**  
**YOU!**

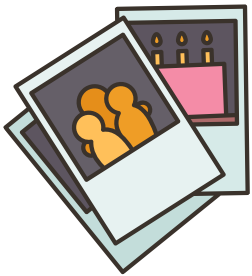




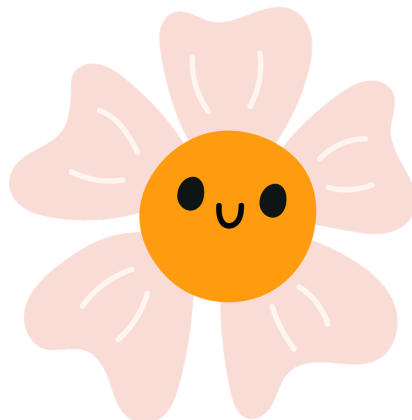
# Club News

Send your Club's photos,  
meeting news & events to:  
[annabanana7@comcast.net](mailto:annabanana7@comcast.net)

Text: 615-477-3030



Submission Deadline for  
May Newsletter is April 15<sup>th</sup>.



# Evening Belle Garden Club

Evening Belle Garden Club members Asha Joyce, Colleen Harris & Rose Keeling created floral arrangements for Christ The King School's "Crown Affair".

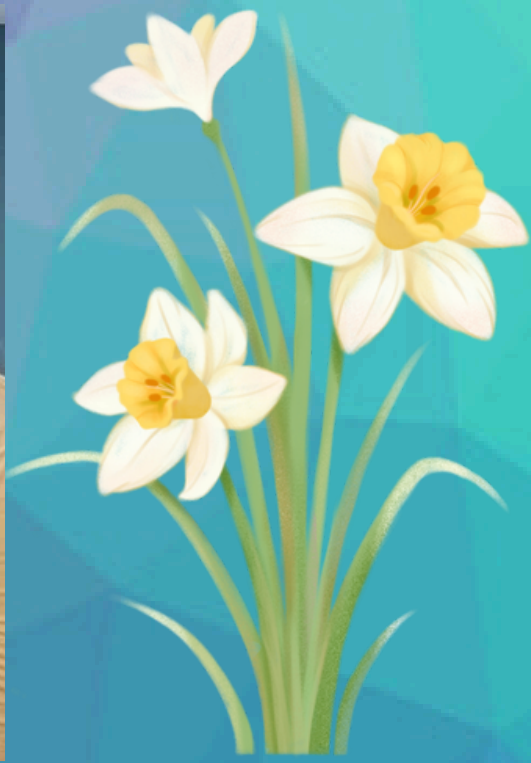


The first meeting of 2026 for the Evening Belle Garden Club was held at Ro Shulenberger's house, featuring the installation of Jeanette as the new treasurer. District II Director Becky Fox Matthews presented an informative discussion on daffodils and judged the horticulture. This kicked off the 2026 garden club on a high note!



Becky Fox Matthews & Ro Shulenberger





Excerpts from Facebook posts



# FLOWER GROWERS GARDEN CLUB

Rachel Bush was our February hostess in her beautiful home, and members shared their delicious potluck recipes. Rachel converted her pool table into a Classifications Table, and it was loaded with beautiful designs and specimens.

Margaret Mainardi gave a very informative educational program on indigenous plants—the importance of planting, benefits & distinction as well as their use as food and medicinal properties. A lively Plant Bingo game followed, with members taking home prizes.



Rachel Bush



Eddie Broadwell & Lisa Blos-Johnson



Marchelle Butler, Melanie Heston & Patrece McCrary



Linda Seabolt, Melanie Heston, Patrece McCrary, Lisa Blos-Johnson, Kim Orrand & Rachel Bush



Margaret Mainardi & Cynthia Allen



Maggie Shelor, Margaret Mainardi, Patty Compton & Cynthia Allen





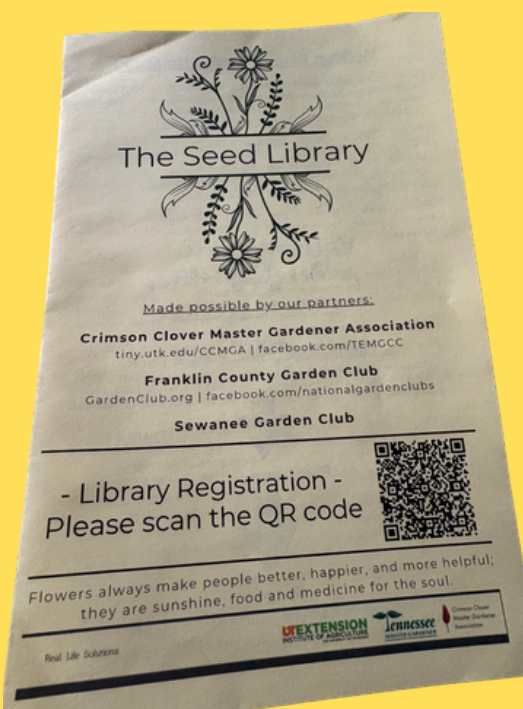


Margaret Mainardi & Rachel Bush



# Franklin County Garden Club

Franklin County Garden Club recently held our **Seed Library**. Free locally collected seeds were separated and packaged by club members. Angie, Mary, Cheryl & June posed with seeds they prepared.



The Club partners with the Crimson Clover Master Gardeners Association to make The Seed Library, founded in 2022, a success.

Daffodil bulbs planted last fall at the Franklin County Senior Citizens Center in Winchester, as part of the club's **2025 Garden Therapy Project**, made a stunning display this Spring!



# Oak Hill Garden Club



Laura Wilczek & Kay Flynn

Laura shared details for cultivating the Shamrock, Oxalis, along with a handout. Kay shared photos of her garden and detailed information on how to grow hydrangeas.



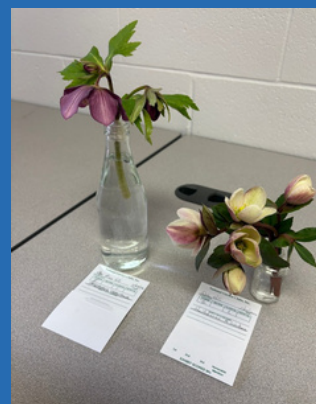
Nancy Hunter shows Georgia Harper a photo of her favorite flower, the Calla Lily Zantedeschia aethiopica.



Kathy Means, Carole Ann McCormick, and Nancy Hunter shared photos of their favorite flowers and gardening books. Gayle Jagers shared her favorite house plant, the Zebra Plant, Calathea, with a handout.



Kay Flynn explains how to exhibit a Hellebore plant for a flower show.



Hellebore  
horticulture

# OPTIMISTIC GARDENERS CLUB

“Let’s Talk Tennessee” was the theme for the March 4, 2026 meeting. State Symbols, Top Agricultural Products, A Rich Harvest of Expressions, “Who We Are”—a poem by TN Poet Laureate Maggie Britton Vaughn—her 1996 Tennessee Bicentennial poem—and of course, Dolly Parton!



The March hostesses: Sharron Hofer, Libby Black, Sheila Byberg & Wanda Copley





Corn Husk Dolls



# Town & Country Garden Club

In February, our club met to put together the agenda for the year. Pace Pope was our hostess at the Community Center. Our February program was “Types of Snake Plants” *Sansevieria (Dracaena trifasciata)*.



Jane Hundley & Denise Thorne



In March we met at the home of Jane Hundley, where we enjoyed a fantastic luncheon. We then learned “How to Keep Orchids Healthy”. Members brought blooming daffodils from their gardens to celebrate the coming of spring.



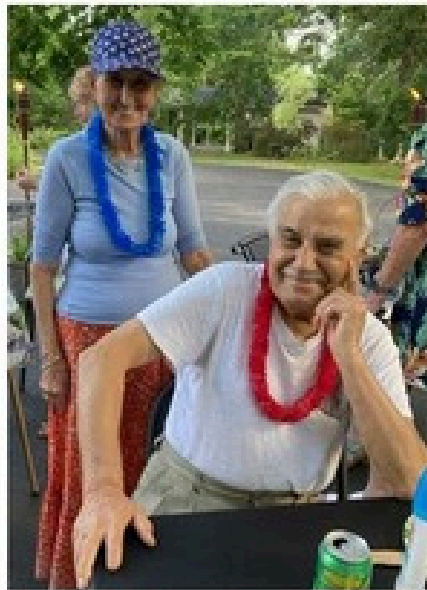
Left to right: Pat Gaylean & Denise Thorne; Flower Designs; Orchids Display  
Submitted by Club President Karen Dawson

# TYNE MEADE GARDEN CLUB

## *March Meeting*

It was great to see everyone and catch up after Winter Storm Fern! Spring can't come too soon! Members met at Johnson's Chapel United Methodist Church for our meeting on March 5. First order of business was to catch up with how we fared with the ice, illnesses, and, most importantly, the loss of a long-standing member, Laila Isa, who passed away suddenly January 31.

Laila had been a club member since 2015 and will be greatly missed. Several options for memorialization were discussed, including planting a tree in the Ellington Agricultural Arboretum or a donation to the Nashville Symphony, which she loved and patronized.



*Laila Isa and her husband Abdallah enjoyed our luau gathering last July, despite the over 100-degree heat.*

Next order of business was to wrap up the 2026-2027 planning by a review of our updated yearbook and upcoming meeting details. The herculean yearbook task was again completed by our president Shannon Thurman and Doris Weakley, who spearheaded the meeting planning. Those ladies are pros when it comes to gathering and compiling info!

A discussion ensued related to our participation in the Horticulture Society's Spring Membership Meeting and the Master Gardener Youth Camp at TSU. A proposal was also made to consider implementing a new educational garden for a local organization. More details will be provided.



Members also brought the promise of spring to our meeting with several lovely designs.



## *"Butterflies & Native Plants"*

Our program this month was given by Janet Brownlee, our former club president.



*Janet Brownlee*

Janet led a lively discussion as she identified butterflies local to Tennessee, as well as their host plants. She passed around a wonderful book, *The Life Cycles of Butterflies* by Judy Burris and Wayne Richards, featuring colorful depictions of butterflies.

Janet identified host plants favored by each species, plus handed out a list of 20 host plants frequented numerous species. Lots of notes were made, and we can't wait to purchase some of those beautiful plants.

The meeting wrapped up and was followed by a delicious chicken potpie lunch.

Submitted by Kathy Brown  
*First Vice President of Tyne Meade*

# VOLUNTEER GARDEN CLUB



Left: Ann Spencer (back to the camera) welcomes Visitors Cindy & Laura Kimbro, daughters of member Aleitha Kimbro, and Chris Carney to the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Right: The meeting was held at the home of Liz Southern, with Liz & Suzanne Bobo serving as hostesses. Members & guests prepare to enjoy the delicious luncheon presented by the hostesses.



Left: Chris Carney, Judy Smith, Ann Spencer, & June Gilmore are seated at the table in the foreground. Standing at the back table are hostesses Suzanne Bobo & Liz Southern.



Left: President Aurelia Swann & Hostesses Liz Southern & Suzanne Bobo listen closely to speaker Chris Carney.

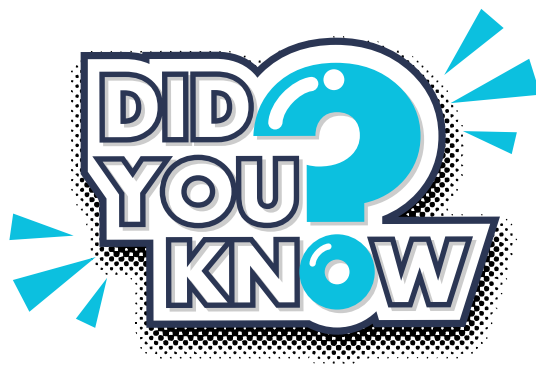
Right: Chris Carney, Division of Forestry Agent of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, spoke to the group about his favorite native trees and warned of some of the most invasive ones.



Left: President Aurelia Swann conducted the business meeting and presented each person attending with a white gladiola bulb to plant in memory of former member Judy Pierce who died recently.

Right: Judging chairman Ann Spencer and club award winners for the 2025 - 2026 year: Aurelia Swann—Horticulture, Judy Smith—Nomenclature, & June Gilmore—Design.

Submitted by June Gilmore



## This tree is a large herb?

Despite their tree-like appearance, banana (*Musa*) plants are actually GIANT HERBS because their stems lack woody tissue. It has a succulent center, there by being classified as an herb.



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



# APRIL IS NATIVE PLANT MONTH



AN INITIATIVE OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA



## Rep. Greg Vital passes legislation designating April as Tennessee Native Plant Month

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Legislation championed by **State Rep. Greg Vital**, R-Harrison, permanently designating the month of April as “Tennessee Native Plant Month,” passed unanimously in both the House and Senate. [House Bill 1738](#) has been signed into law by **Gov. Bill Lee**, marking what will be celebrated in April as the state’s first official acknowledgement of what will be recognized annually as Tennessee Native Plant Month.

The legislation highlights the environmental and economic importance of native plant species and encourages Tennesseans to incorporate them into landscapes, gardens and public spaces.

“Tennessee’s natural beauty is part of who we are, and native plants play a critical role in protecting that heritage,” said Vital. “By establishing Tennessee Native Plant Month, I hope this legislation raises conservation awareness, supports local agriculture and horticulture industries and encourages more Tennesseans to adopt sustainable landscaping practices. Native plants such as the Tulip Poplar, Iris and Bee Balm support pollinators, birds and wildlife, conserve water and thrive in our climate. Tennessee is home to a wide array of greenery, and I believe there’s a native plant every Tennessean can plant to help preserve the landscapes that make our state unique.”

**House Bill 1738** also recognizes the role of Tennessee’s plant industry in economic development. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture [reports](#) the state’s horticulture industry supports over 13,000 jobs and contributes \$965 million annually to Tennessee’s economy. Tennessee is also home to dozens of garden clubs and nursery operations that promote environmental stewardship and beautification efforts across communities. According to Tennessee State Parks, native plants are cost-effective, require less maintenance, pesticides and fertilizer, improve soil health and restore regional landscapes.

*State Rep. Greg Vital represents District 29, which includes parts of Hamilton County. Rep. Vital serves on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Commerce and Transportation Committee, as well as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee.*

# Upcoming Events





SUMNER COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENERS  
& HENDERSONVILLE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

**GARDENING COMMUNITY  
TALK SERIES PRESENTATION**

**DIFFERENT TYPES &  
GROUPS OF ROSES  
& THEIR PRUNING METHODS  
+ "ROSE PRUNING  
DEMONSTRATION INCLUDED"**

**BY RON DANIELS**

MASTER ROSARIAN  
SUMNER COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

**SATURDAY,  
APRIL 4, 2026**

**@11:00 A.M.**

***HPL COMMUNITY ROOM***



Hendersonville Public Library  
140 Saundersville Rd Hendersonville, TN 37075  
(615)-824-0656 | hpl@sumnercountyttn.gov



# 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](http://www.herbsocietynashville.org)





# Annual Plant Sale

Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**

— 8:30 AM until 1 PM —

**FREE Admission and Parking**

**New Location:**

**Woodmont Hills Church**

3710 Franklin Pike

Locally Grown Native Plants,  
Shrubs, Perennials, Herbs and Vines



**No Pets Allowed**



**Carts Welcome**

Organized by  
The Perennial Plant Society  
of Middle Tennessee

[www.ppsmtn.org](http://www.ppsmtn.org)

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

# SPRING HSMT MEMBER MEETING



**Monday, April 13**

**10:00 AM**

**Botanic Hall**

**Jane MacLeod**

**Featured Presentation**

## What to Expect

- Update on Cheekwood's current initiatives
- Vision and strategic direction for the future
- Preview of the new Parking Pavilion & Welcome Plaza
- Interactive Q&A session




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HSMT welcomes all members &  
friends of HSMT  
to attend

**BOX LUNCHES  
FROM JUNIPER GREEN  
AVAILABLE FOR PREPURCHASE  
\$20 EACH**

RSVP by  
March 31, 2026





Tennessee Council of Nationally Accredited  
Flower Show Judges  
of  
District II

Will sponsor an  
**NGC Flower Show Symposium**

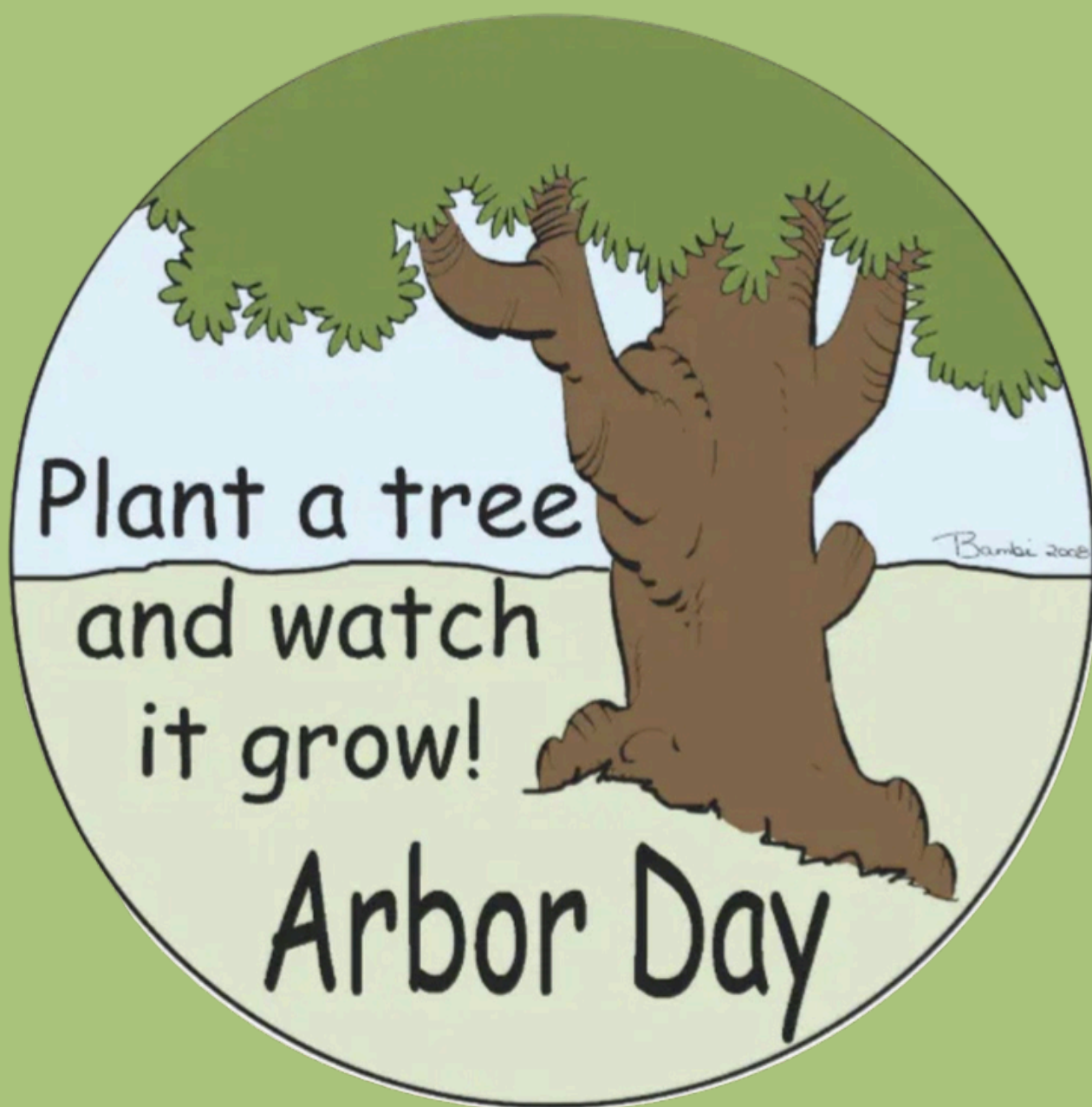
Monday & Tuesday  
April 13 - 14, 2026

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

For more information  
Contact Kathy Rychen  
[kathyrychen@gmail.com](mailto:kathyrychen@gmail.com)

# 2026 National Arbor Day

Friday, April 24, 2026





THE MARKET AT 109

SINCE 2024



Lebanon  
Spring  
Fest

Saturday April 25, 2026

Hosted by Middle Tennessee Events & Festivals and  
The Market at 109

- Helicopter Rides
- 100s of Vendors
- Live Music
- Food Trucks
- Epic Bounce Houses and Kid Zone
- Petting Farms + Pony Rides
- Massive Farmer's Market
- Free Admission, Free Parking and MORE!

Vendors, Live Music

The Market at 109  
3301 Hwy 109 N  
Lebanon, TN



THE MARKET AT 109

SINCE 2024

FRESH  
LOCAL  
PRODUCE

# 2026

# Plant Swap

## *About the Event*

Rutherford County Master Gardeners invite you to our 2026 annual plant swap! Please bring healthy, pest-free, and labeled plants rooted in soil.

## *Note*

- Bring One, Take One
- Bring Ten, Take Ten
- No Invasive Plants Accepted
- <https://www.tnipc.org/invasive-plants/>

🌱 PLEASE BRING PLANTS THAT WOULD EXCITE YOU TO TAKE HOME 🌱

**APRIL 25, 2026**  
FROM 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM

@ LANE AGRI-PARK  
315 JOHN R. RICE BLVD  
MURFREESBORO, TN

ENTRY  
**FREE**



# TFGC DISTRICT II SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING



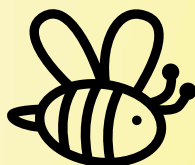
Speaker: Theresa Singer, PhD  
“Solitary Bees in a Honey Bee World”



APRIL 29, 2026  
10:00 AM



BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH  
7777 CONCORD ROAD  
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027



**REGISTRATION INFORMATION  
COMING SOON**



**District II Ways & Means Table Sales by  
Town & Country Garden Club**

**Middle Tennessee Hosta Society**

*Annual Spring Hosta Sale*

**May 2, 2026**

**9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**Williamson County Ag Expo Park  
4215 Long Lane Franklin, TN**



# Spring Garden Festival and Plant Sale



Saturday, May 2, 2026 - 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

The grounds of Williamson County Ag Expo Park - West Side  
4215 Long Lane, Franklin, Tennessee 37064 (Rain or Shine)

- Beautiful perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, and more
- Many plants grown by Master Gardeners
- Garden Shed area featuring new and gently used items for your home and garden
- University of TN Plant Diagnostics information
- Vendors and Food Trucks
- Educational Speakers
- Arts and Crafts
- Children's Area including storytelling, face painting, and other educational activities and fun things to do



**FREE Admission**



Come join us for this annual fundraiser for Williamson County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA), a 501(c)(3) organization. The mission of the WCMGA is to provide research-based horticultural education, while promoting environmental stewardship, via community volunteerism delivered by a dedicated and skilled volunteer network. The WCMGA is part of the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension Office. For more information about WCMGA and our projects, please visit our website at [wcmga.net](http://wcmga.net).



**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

# **2026 Convention**

**May 4 - 6, 2026**



## **St. Louis, Missouri**

**Hotel Information & link as well as Registration & Tentative  
Schedule available at [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)**



ANNUAL  
**PLANT** *Sale*

Saturday, May 9, 2026  
8a-12pm

Baker Building Maury Co. Fairgrounds  
1018 Maury County Park Dr. Columbia

[MauryCountyMasterGardeners.org](http://MauryCountyMasterGardeners.org)



Sponsored by:  
Maury County Parks & Recreation



# Middle Tennessee Plant Swap

Saturday, May 16, 2026

7:00 am - 2:00 pm

Central Time



Henry Horton State Park  
Chapel Hill, TN





# National Garden Week

## June 7 - 13, 2026



## Celebrate National Garden Week in your community!

**This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.**

### **Ideas to Consider:**

- **Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.**
- **Sponsor a hands-on “How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden” workshop at an area nursery.**
- **Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.**
- **Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.**

# *Garden Lovers Club*

presents

## *“Little Things Mean a Lot”*

An NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show

Friday, September 11, 2026

Show Viewing Hours 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Staged at *Through the Grapevine* (Suite 190)

630 Broadmor Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37129-0902

Admission is free and open to the public  
Handicapped Accessible

Affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

District II of Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

# Whimsical Gardens

An NGC Small Standard *Outdoors* Flower Show  
for the Community

**~Presented by Flower Growers Garden Club~**

Saturday, September 26, 2026  
12 pm ~ 3 pm

Home of Kim Orrand, 1922 Saddlebrook Drive, Murfreesboro TN  
37129 ~ Text {615} 631-4060



***Free~Open to the public, Handicapped Accessible***

Affiliated with: National Garden Clubs, Inc. Deep South  
Garden Clubs, Inc. Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs,  
Inc., District II

***All District II Garden Clubs are invited to  
enter*** ~ {Please contact Kim Orrand text {615} 631-4060  
for the complete Schedule}

Horticulture Division I {container grown succulents,  
decorative foliage, cut flowering & herb specimens}

Design Division II {18 creative designs}

# 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!**



# The Rachel Jackson Garden Club presents



An NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show  
Friday, October 16, 2026

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

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

Show closes at 2:30 pm

OPEN AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC



*Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.*



**will be hosting the  
2027 Deep South Convention  
in Tuscaloosa, Alabama!**

**March 14 - 16, 2027**



**Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Tuscaloosa Alabama Downtown**

- Roaring 20's Reception • Historic Mansion Tours
- "Petals of the Past" Plant Shopping • Festive Hat & Tea Party
  - Alabama Crimson Tide Stadium Tour
  - Informative Lectures & Programs

Registration Information Coming Soon 46



# Save the Date

**April 19 – 21, 2027**

**Tennessee Federation of  
Garden Clubs, Inc.  
2027 Convention**

**“Entwined with Nature for Over 100 Years”**

**Embassy Suites  
West Knoxville**

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**2027 Convention**

**May 13 - 17, 2027**

*Madison, Wisconsin*



# How Do We Meet This Challenge?

## National Garden Clubs



Challenges  
You  
To

**Forge Forward  
with  
New Members  
While Protecting  
Your Legacy  
of  
Existing Members**

# By Following These Guidelines

### Attract New Members

- Show Enthusiasm!
- Nurture Excitement About Your Club with Projects and Activities
- Share Ideas to Spark Interest of Prospective Members
- Offer Gardening Advice
- Publish a Newsletter Filled with Horticulture Tips;
  - Leave Copies in Your Local Library
  - Give Copies to Realtors in Your Area to Give to Prospective Buyers
- Provide Opportunities to Meet Other Members of Their Community
- Wear Shirts with Your Garden Club's Name When Working in Your Community
- Volunteer to Make Flower Arrangements and Publicize Your Club's Participation
- List Your Garden Club in Your Community Newcomer's Guide

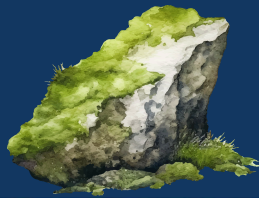
- Publicize the Activities of Your Garden Club with Articles and Pictures in Your Community Newsletter and Local Newspaper
- **Invite People to Your Meetings and Ask Them to Become Members**

### Keep Existing Members

- Reach Out and Talk to Someone New at Your Meetings
- Arrange Your Programs to Fit the Needs of Both New and Long Time Members
- Be Flexible - Are the Rules of Your Club too Restrictive?
- Listen to the Needs of Your Members and *Implement Their Suggestions*
- Call Members Who Have Stopped Attending Your Meetings. Offer to Pick Them Up and Bring Them To Your Next Meeting

- Make Visitors Welcome to Your Meetings and Functions By Assigning a Member as Greeter
- Assign New Members to a Current Member as a Buddy to Answer Their Questions and Introduce Them to Other Club Members
- Respect the Changing Roles of Our Members
- Analyze the Strength of Your Longtime Members and Find or Create Jobs for Them
- Make Your Members Feel Needed
- Shorten Your Business Meetings
- Energize, Educate and Incite Curiosity in Your Projects and Activities





# THE NESTING MATERIAL STATION

She can't find what she needs. You have it in your house.



Empty  
suet cage  
+ stuffing  
= done

✓ OFFER

✗ NEVER



Pet fur —  
#1 material



Raw cotton



Dryer lint —  
crumbles wet



Long string —  
strangulation



Natural yarn —  
under 3 inches



Dried moss



Human hair —  
cuts circulation



CAROLINA  
CHICKADEE

You gave her 300 fewer trips.