



TENNESSEE FEDERATION
OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

AUGUST 2026

DISTRICT II
NEWSLETTER

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Highlights!

District II Presidents' Meeting

The District II Presidents' Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 14th at the John P. Holt Brentwood Library with District II Director Becky Fox Matthews presiding.



We learned about perfecting Books of Evidence from District II Awards Chairman Gayle Jagers, posting events & news on the TFGC Website from Janeene Larkin Horn & ordering information about the NGC 2027 Vision of Beauty Calendar from Kandee Walker. There was an array of delicious snack food provided by the Hospitality Chairs Tove Rawlings & Jan Vester as well as the Officers & Committee Chairmen. We had the opportunity to support District II Ways & Means at a sales table led by Karen Dawson & the Town & Country Garden Club.

The featured speaker was Bonnie Vaughters, former Deep South Regional Director & National Garden Clubs, Inc. Board Member for 25+ years. She gave an excellent talk about being a superior leader, called "Leap Into Leadership"



She taught us about the Assets of Leaders:

L
E
A
D
E
R
S

Love—Listen—Learn

Encourage—with Enthusiasm

Achievement & Appreciation

Direction—Development—Delegate

Empowerment—Empathy

Responsibility

Seek—Serve—for Success



Inspire Others!



TENNESSEEFEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC

District IIPresidents' Meeting

JohnP.Holt Brentwood Library

8109 Concord Road

Brentwood, TN 37027

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

10:30am CST

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

Invocation/Devotion: Kerri Woodson (for Annette Schrader, Chaplain)

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Karen Dawson

Welcome and Introduction: head table, former TFGC Presidents, garden club presidents

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 DII Elected Officers

Director: Becky Fox Matthews

- Recognize and thank DII Officers and Committee Members
- Need a location for DII Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 Membership Meetings (tables and chairs for 150, + extra tables for registration, food, Ways & Means)
- Conservation Camp

Vice-Director: Karen Dawson

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Kidd

Committee Chairmen Reports:

Awards	Gayle Jagers	
Blue Star & Gold Star Family Memorial Markers		Pam Dowd
Grants	Lola Eslick	
Visions of Beauty	Kandee Walker	

TFGC Website: Janeene Larkin Horn

No Unfinished Business:

Announcements:

Speaker: Bonnie Vaughters "Leap into Leadership"

Door Prizes: Anna Marie Allen

Adjournment: Any further business? If not and no objection, the meeting is adjourned.

Upcoming Events:

Conservation Camp (Oct. 13-14, 2026) and Annual Meeting (Oct. 13), Beersheba Springs, TN

TFGC 2027 Convention (April 20-21), Knoxville, TN

Deep South Convention (March 14-16), Tuscaloosa, AL

NGC National Convention (May 13-17), Madison, WI

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

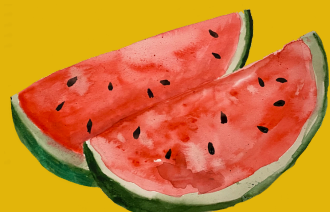
Jennifer Kidd
New Neighbors Garden Club
jkkmd@comcast.net
615-478-4854

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
Gateway Acres 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
Gateway Acres 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

August

IMPORTANT



District II Book of Evidence (BOE) Information from Gayle Jaggers, District II Awards Chairman

**The following pages contain information about the
District II Awards Application process, including:**

- **Which Projects are submitted for District II Awards**
- **Where to mail the District II BOEs—>to Tove Rawlings**
- **Due Date for District II Awards Application: **December 1, 2026****
- **If your Book of Evidence does not match one of the
17 District II Awards, then mail it to State Awards Chairman
Debbie Shaver. Her address is on the Awards Application form.
State BOE Awards Application Deadline is January 1, 2027.**

**Go to the TFGC Website to print the
“TFGC Awards Application”
& “Publication Release Form”
that must accompany each of your District II
Books of Evidence.**

tngardenclubs.org

Book of Evidence (BOE) 2026

1. There is a 3-page limit, (using the front side only, the application plus three more pages.) The 2025-2027 TFGC Application form will be used this year. Access the TFGC Inc. website and click on About Us and then click on Awards and scroll to the application form. **There will not be a new District II Award Application form this year.** The first page of the three pages will be used to write the summary about your project. You may use the next two pages for photos. Address all the topics listed in the NGC Rubric in the summary or you will lose points in the scoring. Rubric topics can also be stated in the photo captions but highlight them so they won't be overlooked. If your project qualifies for several awards, write a different summary and use different photos for each BOE application. The TFGC photo permission form must be signed by non-members. Members may all sign on one permission form.
2. The BOEs will not be returned, so make a copy for your records in case the BOE gets lost in the mail.
3. Binders and vinyl sheets are not allowed.
4. Make one hard copy of your BOE and mail it to Tove Rawlings at PO Box 97, Joelton, TN, 37080-0097 by December 1, 2026. Also send one copy of your yearbook to the same address.
5. BOEs are due **December 1, 2026**. Please include your telephone number and email address. You will be notified when the BOE is received. Contact Gayle Jaggers at bgaylejaggers@comcast.net or call 615-659-9898 for questions.
6. The TFGC Awards Application is not used for your Flower Show BOE. The NGC Flower Show Form is furnished by the TFGC Awards Chairman, Debbie Shaver.
7. For Flower Show Awards see "Flower Show" section of awards on the TFGC website
8. The State Awards Chairman will submit BOE's to the Deep South and NGC awards chairman, when possible. The TFGC state awards chairman is Debbie Shaver. Contact her at H# 423-775-0102, C# 423-322-8565 or buffiescorner@bellsouth.net. Her address is 349 Sharpe Lane, Dayton, TN 37321-7728. Send BOE's that do not match District II awards directly to the state awards chairman by January 1, 2027 or sooner if possible. Do not send a project for an award directly to Debbie Shaver unless it is a project that does not fit the description of our District II award list. Once district awards are judged, they will be sent to Debbie Shaver.

2026 District Awards

Please note the numbers for the District II Awards for 2026 are the same as those for 2025. The award names and numbers will be the same as the TFGC Awards. District II will give seventeen of the TFGC awards for 2026.

If your project matches the following awards you will first apply for a District II Award. Do not send one of the following to the TFGC chairman.

#3 Horticulture

#5 Public Relations

#6 Conservation

#7 Special Achievement Award

#8 Promotion of Gardening Among Youth Award

#13 Historic Preservation Award

#16A Yearbook-Club Award

#16E Yearbook-Group of Clubs, Council, District Award

#19 Garden Therapy Award

#25 National Garden Week Award

#28 Church and Synagogue Gardens Award

#31 The Pam Dowd Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Award

#35 The Juanita Allinder Pollinator Award

#45 Litter Control Award

#49 Landscape Design Award

#50 School Grounds Award

#54 Environmental Education Award

I will forward your BOE's to the state Chairman, Debbie Shaver, once the District II awards committee has judged them for a district award.

Refer to the TFGC Inc. website for a description of the awards. On the TFGC website click on Forms and scroll down to Award Rules. The scoring rubric is on page 12 of the NGC Inc. website. Google NGC Inc. and search for the Scoring Rubric. This is what the committee will use to judge your project. Be sure to address each topic on the rubric or you will lose points. The NGC General Scoring Rubric is on the NGC Inc. website. Click on Awards and scroll down to General Scoring Rubric.

When applying for a District II award, fill out the 2025-2027 TFGC Inc. application form that is on the TFGC web site. Then include the summary page and two pages of photos with captions. Include lots of photos of members and identify them by name. If you apply for several awards for the same project, you must use different photos and write a different summary for each. So when taking photos take enough for several possible applications for the same project. Identify non-members as "volunteers" and include a photo release form (one page with all member signatures and a signed page for each volunteer.)

**Send all BOEs for District II awards and one copy of your yearbook to:
Tove Rawlings, P.O. Box 97, Joelton, TN 37080-0097, by December 1, 2026.**

**Staple all photo release forms together and include them with your BOE.
If more than one project, indicate the award number at the top of the release forms.**

**If your project does not comply with the District awards, send your award to:
Debbie Shaver, 349 Sharpe Lane, Dayton, TN 37321-7728 by January 1, 2027.**

Scrapbooks will not be due until after January 1st. Due date to be announced later.

There is excellent information on how to do BOEs on the TFGC website.

Gayle Jagers
bgaylejagers@comcast.net
615-659-9898

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

2025-2027 AWARDS APPLICATION

Are your release forms on file?

Yes

No

TFGC Award Number _____ TFGC Award Name _____

Date _____ District _____

Name of Club, Group of Clubs (list all clubs) OR Individual (list individual's name and club) applying for the award.

If a Club, Number of Members _____

If a Group of Clubs, list the number in each club _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Is this project NEW _____ OR Continuing _____ When did you start this project? _____

Expected Date of Completion _____ OR is it Ongoing? _____

Be sure to include the WHOLE award number, and the beginning and ending dates of the project. The Award BOE consists of 3 pages, front-side only, *plus this cover sheet*, for a total of 4 pages. Mail one hard (paper) copy to the TFGC Awards Chair. The award applications MUST be delivered to the chair by Jan 1. The 3-page BOE will not be returned.

Your current State Awards Chair is:

Debbie Shaver

349 Sharpe Lane

Dayton, TN 37321

423-775-0102

Buffiescorner@bellsouth.net

NGC Awards Program

General Scoring Rubric

Maximum Points

Presentation**5 Total**

Cover sheet included with all sections completed	2	
Application adheres to 3 single-page limit unless other size specified in award description	2	
Application neat and concise	1	

Achievement**65 Total**

Meets NGC Mission & Goals	6	
Scope of project defined	4	
Need identified	7	
Benefit to target (members/recipients/community/etc.)	10	
Accomplishment of goals	8	
Comprehensiveness of work	6	
Activities to attain goals explained	8	
Evaluation of goals reached	4	
Educational	3	
Prior Planning	4	
Very brief history if continuing project (give full credit if not a continuing project)	3	
Other	2	

Participation**15 Total**

% of member participation (may include any type of support given)	12	
Involvement of others (community, government agencies, professionals, youth, facility residents, others)	3	

Documentation**15 Total**

Clear photos when applicable, labeled as needed	5	
Landscape plan when applicable (give full credit if not applicable)	5	
Financial details	5	

100 Total



Note from TFGC State Awards Chairman

June 17, 2026

Debbie Shaver, Awards Chairman

It was brought to my attention that the current **Flower Show Report Form** does not include the following statement:

“50% of club MUST participate in a flower show to receive credit for that show.”

I have spent several days looking back in my computer and finally found an old 2016 report form, and at the bottom it states this. In the process of revamping the form, I have accidentally left this out. And it was brought to my attention a few days ago. My apologies.

They reminded us that a flower show takes a lot of time and work, and that these clubs who do them need just a little more recognition than others. That is why we have ***Flower Show Club of Excellence*** and then we have a *Club of Excellence*.

Now for the 2025 Awards year, I have allowed anyone who enters a flower show to be able to count it for credit for their club, since that statement was not noted on the current form. Unfortunately that will no longer be the case.

Since we have already had clubs in 2026 hold flower shows, **the 50% rule will go back in effect in 2027.**

I am truly sorry that I have overlooked this and thankful that it was caught. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me. Thank you for your understanding.

“See it’s time for me to be on my way”

—Still Looking for someone who will take over...

Debbie Shaver

Go to tngardenclubs.org for a
printable version.

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

2027 DII VOB Calendar Form

**This form is for
District II Clubs
Only**

It's time to place your District II order for the

2027 Vision of Beauty Calendar

The Vision of Beauty 2027 Calendar Order deadline is August 15, 2026.

The cost is \$14.50 per calendar.

Please mail this order form with 1 check from your club, payable to "TFGC District II" for your club's VOB order and mail to:

DII VOB Calendar Chair Kandee Walker

344 Canton Stone Drive

Franklin, TN 37067-7236

Email: twalker10@aol.com

Phone: 615-403-5053

Garden Club Name: _____

Contact Person (please print): _____

Phone Number and Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Number of Calendars Ordered: _____

@ \$14.50 each = \$ _____

Note: Proceeds from the sale of the VOB calendars *no longer* go to the TFGC scholarship fund.

Please do not write below.

This space is for the District II VOB Calendar Chair's Records Only.

Check Number: _____ **Amount Ordered:** _____ **Date Received:** _____

WELCOME TO OUR DISTRICT II

CLUB NEWS



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

text: 615-477-3030

Submission Deadline for the September Newsletter
is August 15th.

Anna Marie Allen

District II Newsletter Editor





Country Homes Garden Club



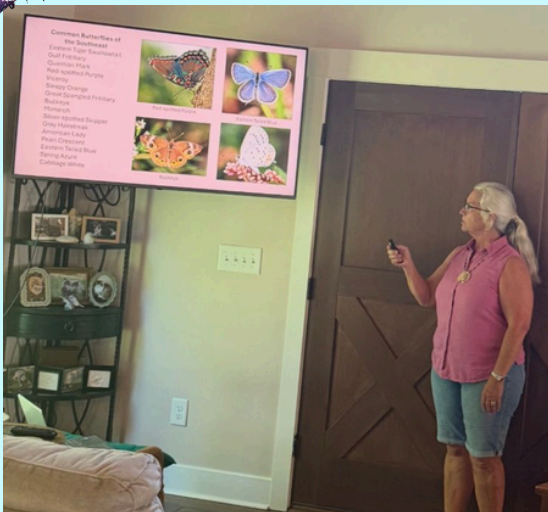
CHGC's monthly meeting for June was held at member Theresa Singer's beautiful country home in Springfield. Twenty members and two guests were present. Jan V., Sandra K., Theresa S., and Tove R. served as hostesses. Judy J. presided, Keri L. led The Pledge of Allegiance and Carol A. gave the devotion before lunch.



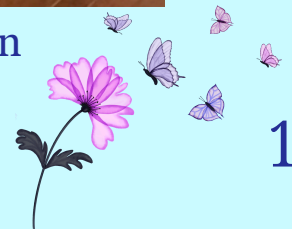
Hostesses: Jan, Sandra,
Tove & Theresa



The lunch table decor featured clear glass bubbles filled with Boxwood greenery, red Bougainvillea blooms, Hemlock cones and Beach nut shells. The bubbles also served as favors for everyone to take home.



A very educational and interesting slide program on BUTTERFLIES was presented by member Theresa Singer, retired entomologist.

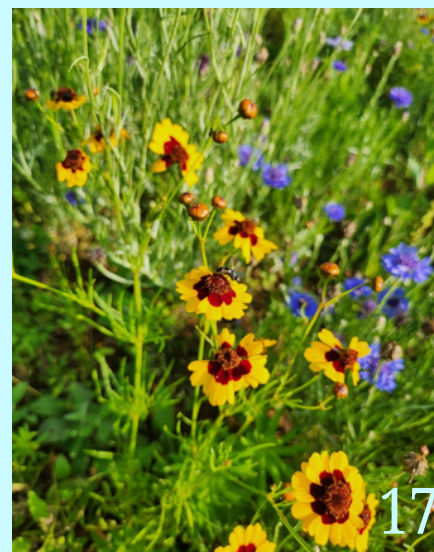
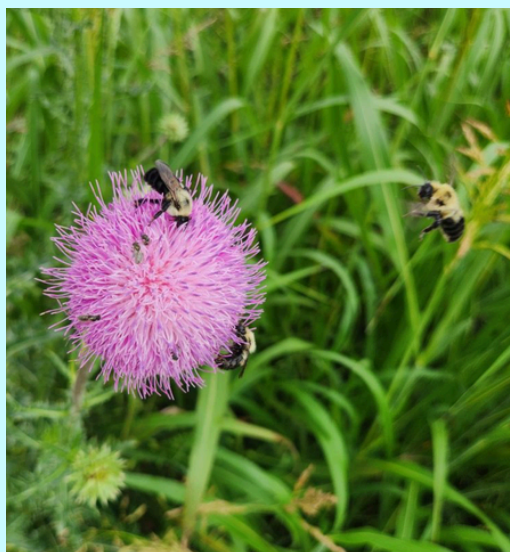


The club members brought an assortment of horticulture specimens and a ten inch two dimensional design was the “Design of the Month”. Jean R., our “in house” NGC accredited flower show judge critiqued the designs and horticulture specimens and also gave valuable “tips” in preparation for flower show entries.



It was a glorious summer day, and after the program, lunch & business meeting, we were invited to tour the meadow behind the house, where we were treated to a wealth of beautiful blooming wildflowers like Bachelor Buttons, Bee Balm & Coneflowers.

**A FUN, EDUCATIONAL AND
ENJOYABLE DAY WAS HAD BY
EVERYONE!**



CELEBRATING THE NATION'S 250th BIRTHDAY



Country Homes Garden Club voted to decorate the bridge crossing EARTHMAN'S FORK, a stream that runs through Whites Creek, for the 4th of July. More than 10,000 motorists (according to TDOT) travel across the bridge daily. Four large American flags were placed—one at each end of the bridge rails—and 6 large red, white and blue banners were also draped on the rails. A festive sight for everyone to view as they cross the bridge.



Additionally, the club placed a large American flag at the Blue Star Marker on Hwy 431 in Whites Creek.

Joy, Martha, Theresa, Judy, Sandra and Tove participated in the 4th of July decoration project.

CHGC member Martha (left) and former member Toni (right)

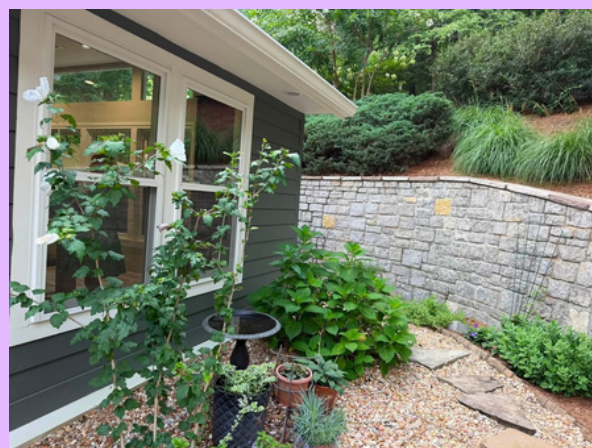




Evening Belle Garden Club



The Evening Belle Garden Club's July Meeting
was held at Megan Rau's house.



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Excerpts from Facebook



1ST

SATURDAY



CLUB

The Legacy Award/Ashland City Mayor's Award was presented in July to the Cheatham County Veterans Park on Bell Street by Mayor Gerald Greer, recognizing the park's beauty and the dedication of those who help care for this special place honoring our nation's veterans.

A heartfelt "Thank You" goes to the First Saturday Garden Club, whose members plant and maintain the beautiful gardens throughout the park. Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to making the Cheatham County Veterans Park a true community treasure!



Pictured (left to right): Caroline Borum, Betty Harris, Mayor Gerald Greer and Dr. Fred Nordquist.



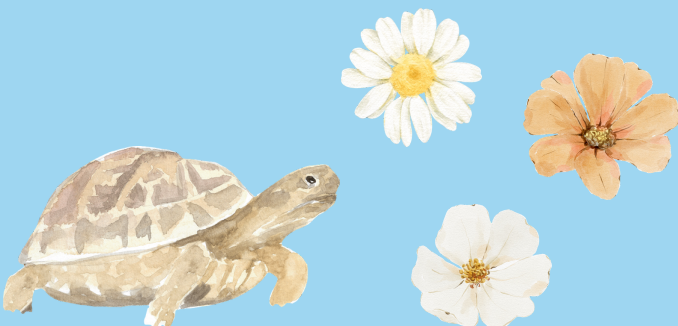
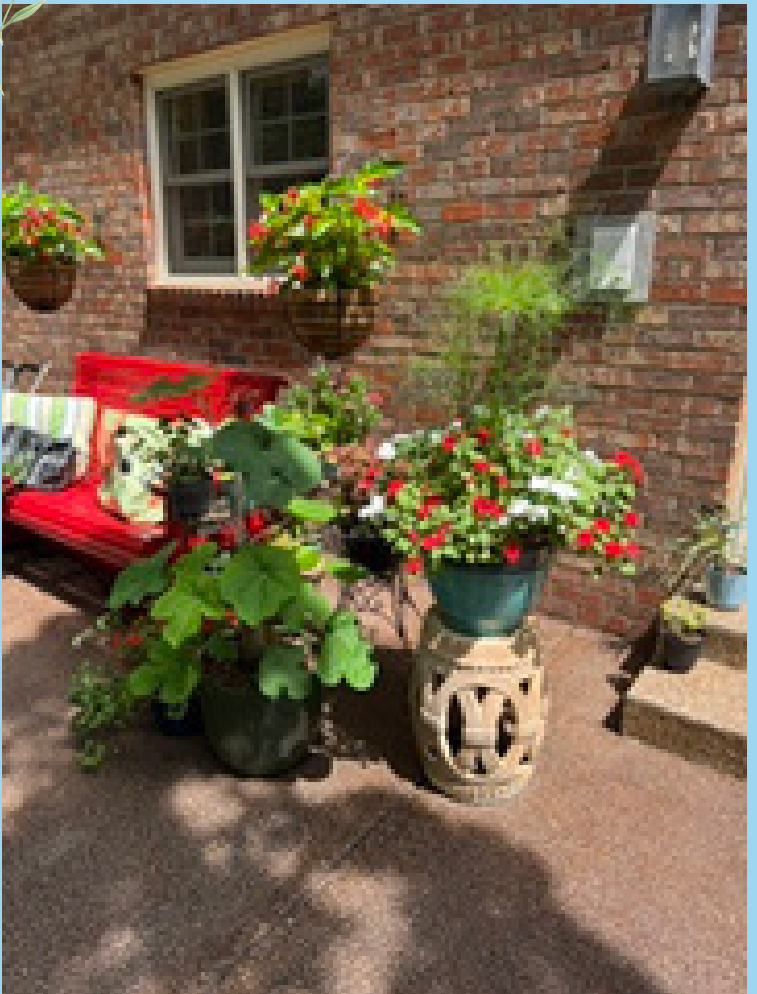
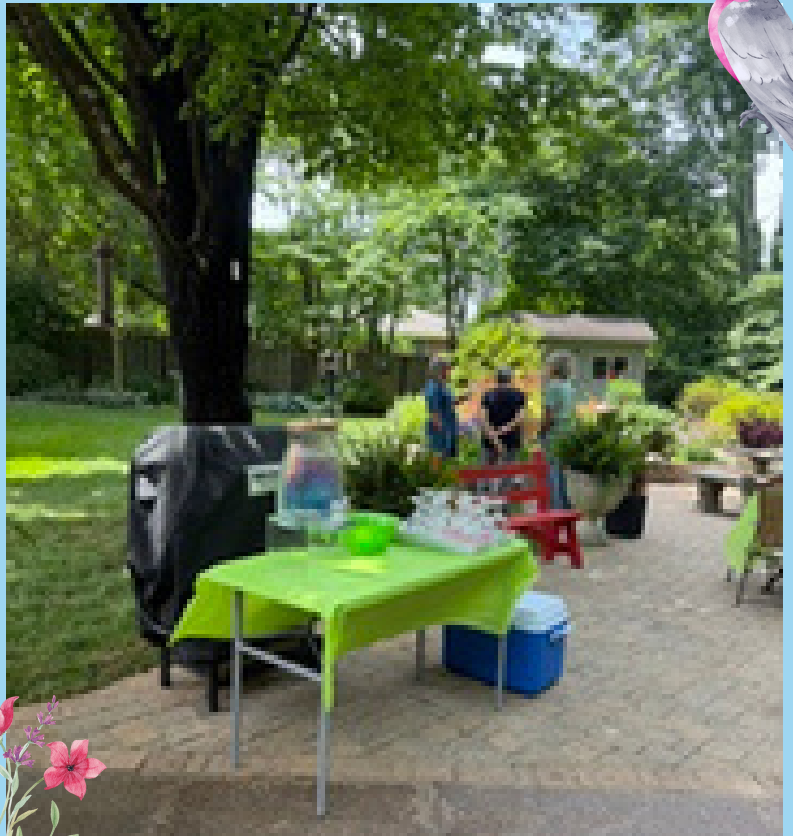
Flower Growers Garden Club

It was a perfect day to be the guests at Linda Peterson's home and tour her beautiful shade gardens. We toured the gardens learning about the many plant varieties, and following, Linda presented a program on *Shade Plants*.

A delicious lunch was prepared and served, outside with the sounds of a water fountain, by Judy Rickman, Jackie McKittrick, Carol Hackney and Linda Peterson of Garden Lovers Garden Club. Everyone had a great time and slowly departed with plants and great memories of a special day.

Thank you Linda and ladies for a special day!!!







Flower Lovers Circle

The Flower Lovers Circle met in May at the Hope Botanical Gardens in Leoma, Tennessee. Jerry Clayton was presented with a donation from the club. He took us on a beautiful tour of the garden. We had our devotional by Betsy Lee then enjoyed refreshments by Gail. We all told of our visits to Hope Botanical Gardens and what each of us liked the most about the garden.

A tour of the garden followed with Jerry leading the way.



Gail, Reba, Lana, & Jerry touring the garden.



Jerry Clayton, Administrator of Hope Botanical Gardens, President Nita Slater presenting the check.
2nd row—Sheila Jones, Mary Ann Harris, Reba Ayers, Betsy Dejong.
3rd row—Beth Ender, Betsy Lee, Janet Buhaly, Gail Watson.

Submitted by Nita Slater



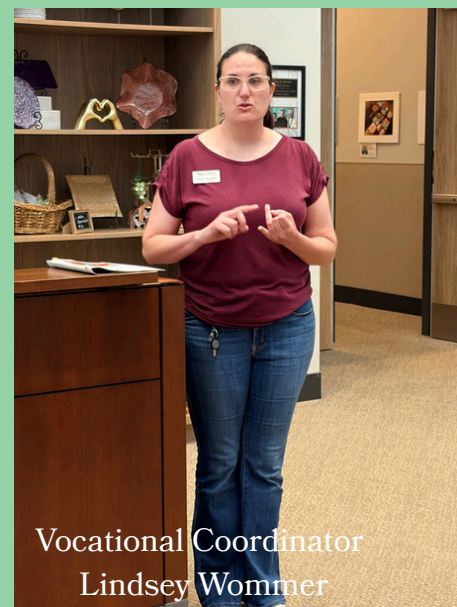
Gateway Acres Garden Club

There were 12 Gateway Acres members who toured **Brightstone** in Franklin, TN, and lunch afterwards at Serrato's Steakhouse. **Brightstone** is a residential program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program was founded in 1999 by Brenda Hauk, a Williamson County Special Ed teacher who saw a dire need for adults who had aged out of care at 22 years. She started the program in the basement of her home, and today the program is housed on a 140-acre pastoral site in Williamson County with plans for more housing expansion in the works. The residences were built in 2022 and each resident has their own space.



Brightstone President & CEO Lee Rose (left) introduced the program, while Events & Volunteers Manager Courtney Eoff took us on a tour of the facility.





Vocational Coordinator
Lindsey Wommer

Courtney conducted the tour and was very engaged in all facets, explaining that the purpose is to make all residents feel happy and productive. Courtney, Lindsey and a resident explained the PATH program where residents work in the community after careful preparation and support. One resident even drives herself to work at Lowe's and especially enjoys the garden center.



Residents make wares for sale including dips, cookie mixes, etc. We observed the ceramics program and gorgeous items for sale. Participants there included some residents in the FLEX program who require more supervision. All of these programs were in the Lehigh Educational wing. Club member Marilyn Lehigh & husband Calvin bring their two adorable dogs to the program frequently.



The program raises their own produce, including a bounty crop of blackberries this year, and we were gifted squash and peppers as well as dips upon departure. The lead gardener was preparing a field for pumpkins, melons, etc. The rapport between staff and residents was so inspiring!



We ♥ Our Volunteers



Master Gardener Karen Rogers (left) volunteers 40+ hours per week to maintain the garden.



Kippie & Janie listen to Courtney telling us about the Brightstone garden.

After our visit, we had lunch at Serrato's Steakhouse in Franklin. The restaurant was not crowded, so conversation flowed easily. The food and service were excellent. Our next meeting is the Silent Auction (our primary fundraiser) on August 13th at Theresa Menafee's house. We look forward to seeing everyone there!!!

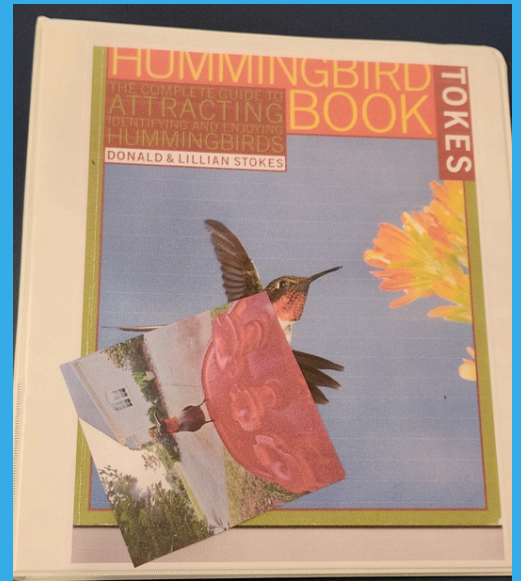


Marty Reich & Martha Garman enjoy burgers at Serrato's Steakhouse.

Submitted by Martha Garman

Harpeth Bend Garden Club

The Club met at the beautiful home of Margaret Reeves, where Margaret presented a program on *Hummingbirds*.



Left to right: Alma Henson & Margaret Reeves;
Margaret's presentation & the *Hummingbird Book*.



Kandee Walker
& Claudette Ryan



Jean Pickard
& Joan Bailey



Karen Brommer





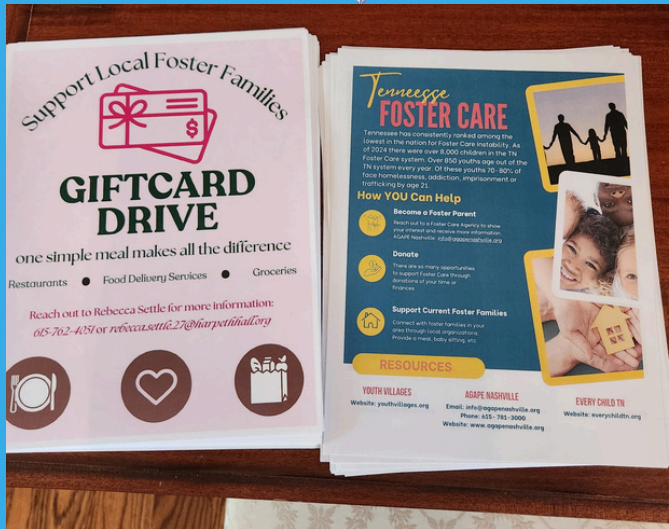
Betty Chapman & the Horticulture & Arrangements



Missy Hetzer



Marsha Hunt, Nina Rinaldi & Joan Bailey



Margaret's granddaughter spoke to the Club about her Girl Scout Project —A Gift Card Drive for Foster Families!



Lake Forest Acres Garden Club

The Lake Forest Acres Garden Club held its June 22nd meeting at the home of member Connie Blevins, hosted by Connie and member Gaye McFadden.

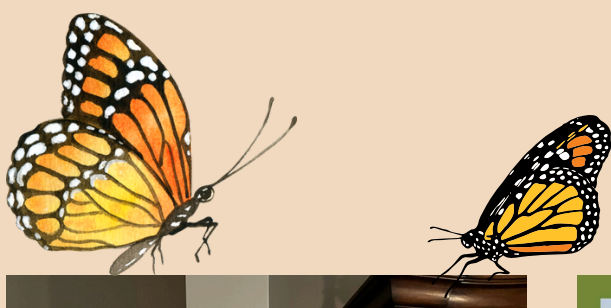
Gaye spoke to the club about the importance of Milkweed and the part it plays in feeding the caterpillar larva as it molts and forms a chrysalis which undergoes metamorphosis for about 9 to 14 days and then becomes an adult

Monarch butterfly. A complete metamorphosis takes about 30 days. Connie also spoke to the club about the migration and lifespan of the Monarch butterfly. Adult Monarchs typically live for just 2 to 6 weeks. However, the “super generation” hatched in late summer lives up to 8 months. This migratory generation travels up to 3,000 miles from Canada and the northern United States to central Mexico or the California coast to hibernate for the winter.

Monarch populations face several declines due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change. We can all help by planting native milkweed and nectar-rich flowers in our gardens to provide essential food and breeding grounds.



Gaye McFadden



As you can see pictured, at our meeting Connie surprised the club by releasing some Monarchs that she had grown, and you can also see her beautiful backyard gardens.

Thank you, Connie and Gaye for such a fun meeting!



Connie Blevins



Submitted by Anice Rouse

Leipers Fork Garden Club

The Leipers Fork Blue Star Memorial Marker, cared for by Clare Maness, is once again in the Fourth of July celebration spirit.





Our June meeting was a fun time making concrete leaves.

Pam Braun led us with instructions and we went to work.

Pam furnished the sand, concrete & leaves. Her home had the perfect covered area with lighting to do this as it had been raining earlier. Pictured are Pam Braun, Cherry Lane Darken, Anne Goetz, Belinda Leslie, a guest Laurie Bouchard, the birthday girl Darlene Bortner, Mary Dosen & Beverly Parker.



We all got our bending exercise that we needed making our concrete leaves.

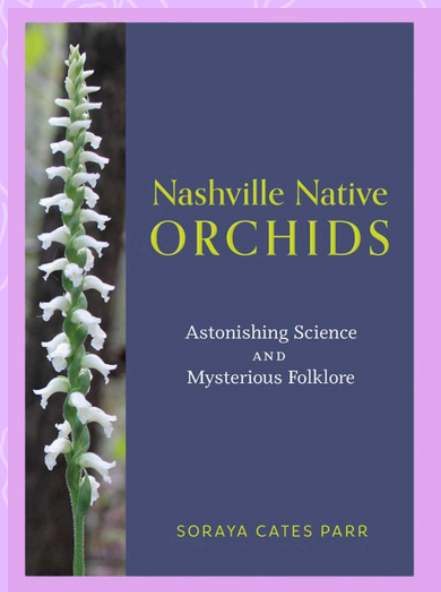


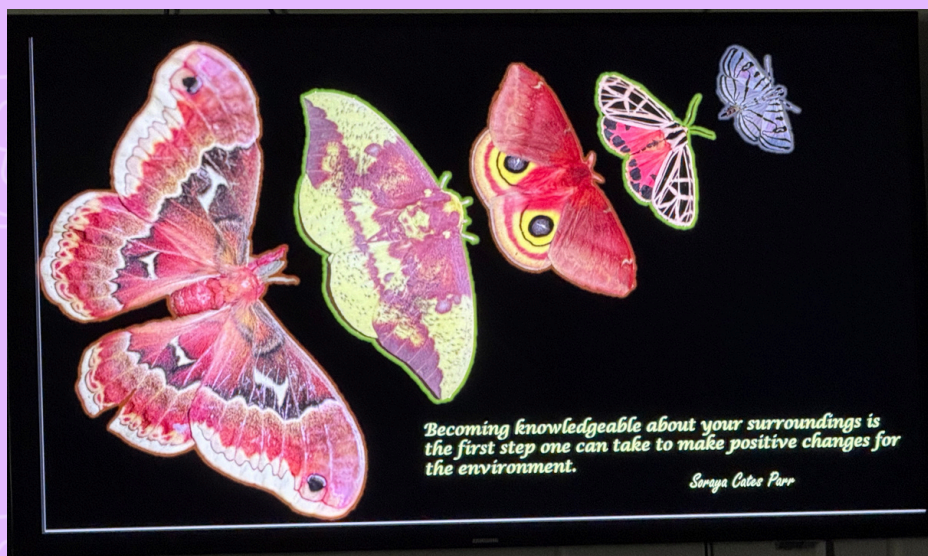
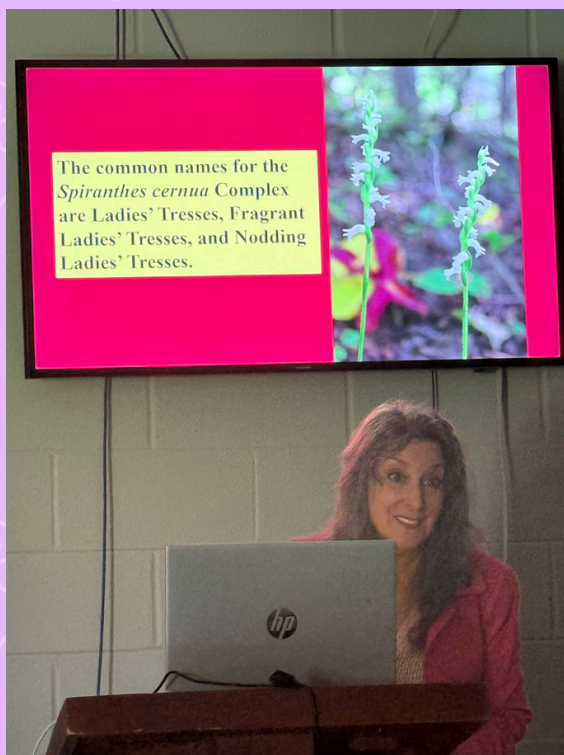
Debbie Layman had the right idea using her concrete leaf for her downspout.

Oak Hill Garden Club



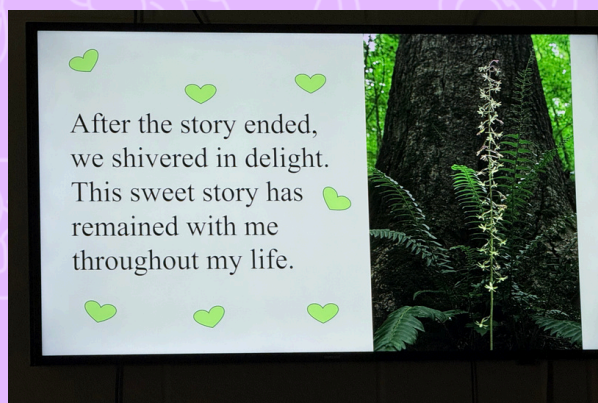
Oak Hill Garden Club members met on June 24th to hear a presentation by special guest & author Soraya Cates Parr. She signed copies of her book “Nashville Native Orchids”.





“Esteemed scientists through the ages have disputed the details of the orchid’s evolution, geographic origin, morphological variability, and suspected hybridization within the species.”

—Soraya Cates Parr



Horticulture at the Meeting



Optimistic Gardeners Club



July 1st Meeting at Oaklands Mansion



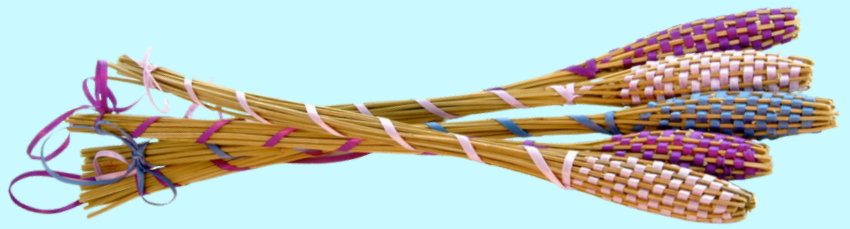
Hosts: Joe, Lynn & Trudy with preserved roses centerpiece



Sheila, Mary, Kay & Carol
Beautiful Patriotic Display
by Kay Clark



Design by Ruth



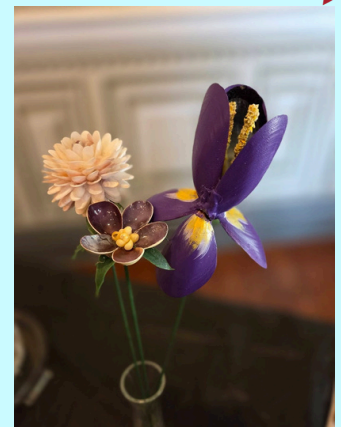
Sharron recently taught a lavender wand workshop at a lavender farm in Hohenwald, Tennessee



Mary, Wanda & Libby



Kim & Barbara





Beth with her underwater design



Sixteen year-old speaker started a recycling business in his neighborhood.



Learning about Agriculture classes offered in Rutherford County High Schools





Town & Country Garden Club



Several members of the *Town & Country Garden Club* attended the 125th Spring Outing—a special celebration on May 13, 2026 that marked 125 years of this cherished tradition at Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage. “Guests gathered for an unforgettable afternoon on the lawn, highlighted by keynote speakers Norah O’Donnell and Kate Anderson Brower, who discussed their book *We the Women: The Hidden Heroes Who Shaped America*. Their conversation offered a powerful reflection on the women whose leadership, vision, and perseverance have helped shape our nation’s story.”



T&C members Traci Pope, Pace Pope & Parker



“A breathtaking field of 1,776 American flags filled the grounds at The Hermitage—each one representing a story of honor, remembrance, and the enduring spirit of our nation.”



Submitted by Denise Thorne,
with excerpts from *The Hermitage*
Facebook page.



Keynote speakers Kate Anderson Brower & Nora O'Donnell



Parker, Traci Pope & Cathy Burgman



Nora O'Donnell signing
her book for Parker

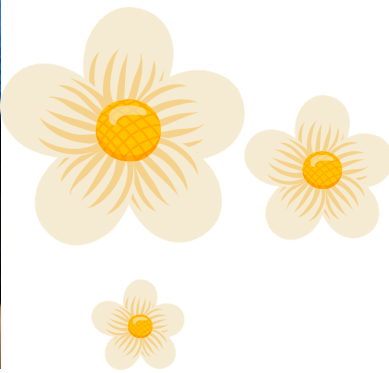


In June, Town & Country Garden Club participated in the **Lebanon-Wilson County Library Summer Reading Program.**



Karen Dawson led the program on “Bees”.
This is the fourth time we did a program for them.





Tyne Meade Garden Club

Garden Club members Go To Camp!

Tyne Meade Garden Club was delighted to be invited to present the program 'Flower Arrangements' on Wednesday, June 17 at the UT Junior Camp on the Tennessee State University campus. Four Tyne Meade club members conducted the program—Doris Weakley, Nancy Goodrich, Janeene Larkin Horn, and Mindy Brodbeck, along with several Davidson County Master Gardeners. With the goal of hands-on participation by the campers, Tyne Meade supplied tin cans, construction paper (to “dress” the cans), greenery for the flower arrangements and extras flowers. Tyne Meade also provided hand-outs detailing meaning and use of flowers over time.

Janeene introduced the foundations of a great flower arrangement—design, balance, rhythm, and scale. She then demonstrated use of these concepts by starting an arrangement and building it out until its pleasing final appearance.



Janeene beginning an arrangement with a student.



TMGC supplied a blue ribbon for each camper who completed an arrangement and Nancy bestowed the ribbons to the campers as she discussed their designs. The boys especially liked the ribbons, pinning them on their shirts.



A pleasant and educational afternoon for all!

Club Member's Recognition



Doris Weakley, a 22-year member of Tyne Meade, has received the local DAR Conservation Committee's Outstanding Achievement in Conservation Awareness certificate. The recognition was granted based on an in-depth review of her years of direct efforts promoting awareness and collaborating with Davidson County Master Gardeners and Youth Camp for Junior Gardeners. Demonstrating this dedication, her personal gardens have been certified in various areas of conservation. Doris is one of six DAR members, the only one from Tennessee, distinguished with this recognition. These six will vie for the national award. Congratulations, Doris!!



Volunteer Garden Club

Lynfield Gardens is owned and operated by Chris and Stephanie Sarsfield on their acreage in Bell Buckle. The Sarsfields derived the name of their business from the phrase “*love thy neighbor*” and the “*field*” from their last name. They grow fruit trees, blackberries, and turkeys as well as flowers on their property. Volunteer Garden Club members gathered near Fern Cottage, the gift shop and welcome area, on Friday, July 17, to begin their flower gathering and arranging activity.

Stephanie Sarsfield provided information about her business and property, how the couple became interested in developing such an endeavor, and the steps it has taken to get to where they are today. She provided the *Volunteer* members with the tools and vessels they would need to gather flowers for the bouquets they would be preparing. Once the flowers had been collected, members were provided with vases for arranging their bouquets.

Following the meeting those who wished gathered for lunch at the Bell Buckle Cafe.

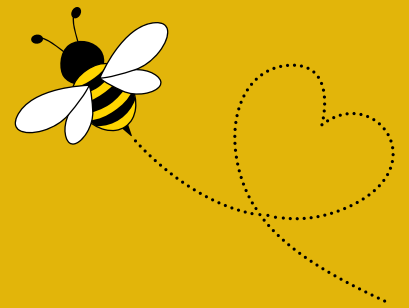




Left to right: Frances Baucom, Ann Spenser, Mary Alexander, Aleitha Kimbro, Suzanne Bobo, Kinsey Emery, Michelle Bobo, Tina Johns, June Gilmore, Aurelia Swann, Judy Smith, and Liz Southern.



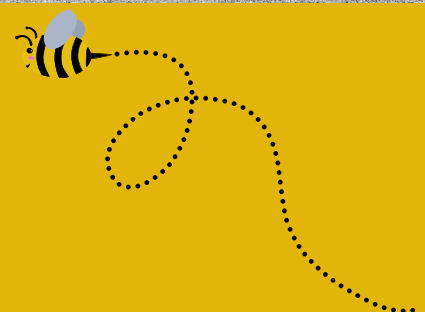
Stephanie Sarsfield







Seated left to right: Ann Spenser and Aleitha Kimbro.
 Standing left to right: Frances Baucom, Stephanie Sarsfield, Aurelia Swann, Judy Smith, Mary Alexander, Liz Southern, and Tina Johns.





Lunch at the Bell Buckle Cafe

Left to right: Aleitha Kimbro, Aurelia Swann, Ann Spenser, Kinsey Emery, Suzanne Bobo, Michelle Bobo, Judy Smith, Liz Southern, June Gilmore, Frances Baucom, and Mary Alexander.



Critter Report

by Kathy Rychen

"Sneaky Cute Troublemaker"



Just a few facts you may not know about Raccoons.

1. Raccoons are not Rodents or Marsupials; they belong to the Procyonidae Family which means their scientific name means "Washer Dog" and "Trash Panda" is an internet approved nickname.
2. Raccoons are omnivores meaning they eat both plants and animals.
3. Raccoons are among the most intelligent mammals in North America.
4. Female Raccoons are called 'Sows', Male Raccoons are called 'Boars', Baby Raccoons are called 'Kits'. When Kits are comfortable they emit a soft purring sounds much like domestic cats.
5. About two (2) months of pregnancy, a female raccoon gives birth to a litter of about 1 - 7 'Kits', which are born blind, deaf and helpless usually in early spring. The stay with their Mother for 6 to 12 months while learning survival skills.

6. A Raccoons Paws 'see' for them. Raccoons are known to dip their food in water which is called 'Dousing' before they eat. Because they have such a strong sense of touch, they inspect their food using their hands. The water has been thought to enhance their tactile ability.
7. Raccoons have five (5) fingers like humans. This behavior is also believed to be rooted in their aquatic foraging behaviors. In the wild, they dip their hands in water in search of food. Even in captivity, they associate food with water, hence the food-dousing behavior.
8. Compared to other animals, raccoon hands are almost human-like. These well-developed front paws are what gave raccoons their common name in English. The name "raccoon" originates from the word "Aroughcun", a Powhatan term that means "one who scratches with its hands".. Raccoon hands have thumbs that, although not opposable, provide them with more dexterity than their relatives. Because of these thumbs, raccoons can grab things and unscrew jar lids, slide latches on doors, open pet doors, lids on trash containers, camping coolers, etc.
9. They have surprisingly good night vision due to their distinctive masklike fur around their eyes isn't just cute, it serves a purpose by reduces glare and enhances their night vision.
10. Raccoon senses are powerful, but they are not known to have a great sense of sight. However, raccoons do have good night vision. Similar to cats, they have a reflective layer in the lenses of their eyes called the tapetum lucidum which enhances their vision of nearby objects. That said, they don't have a wide range of vision with limited depth perception. They are mostly color blind. In addition to poor distance vision, raccoon eyes are also not great at distinguishing colors. However, raccoons have been shown to be sensitive to green light.
11. Raccoons are intelligent. One of the most popular raccoon facts is their tendency to be clever and intelligent. In fact, zoologist Clinton Hart Merriam once described them as more cunning than foxes.
12. In one study, raccoons have demonstrated enough intelligence to open 11 out of 13 complex locks in less than ten attempts. This study reaffirmed that raccoons' cerebral cortex can be compared to those of primates.
13. Urban raccoons are smarter than their rural counterparts.

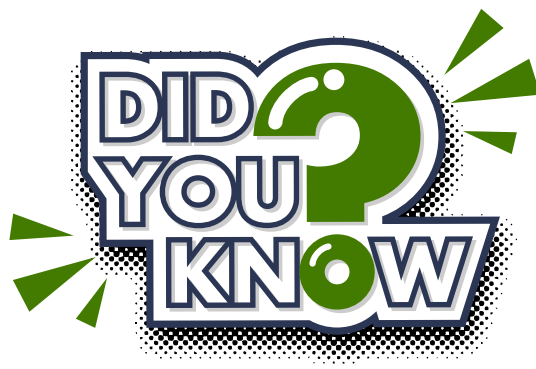


14. Raccoons that live in cities are exposed to a wider diversity of obstacles thanks to humans, which leads to more clever and cunning raccoons.
15. Raccoons can be unpredictable, like the Marvel character Rocket Raccoon from *Guardians of the Galaxy*, actual raccoons also have a propensity for cleverness, mischief, and unpredictability. Despite their soft and cuddly appearance, they can get aggressive especially during the mating season. Definitely one of the raccoon facts to keep in mind if you encounter one in real life.
16. Raccoon face markings may have a purpose. Raccoons have a great sense of smell. Raccoons have a heightened sense of smell that helps them move around at night and communicate with other raccoons. Like many mammals, they mark their territories with urine, feces, and anal gland secretions.
17. Although they look friendly and adorable, it's best not to approach a wild raccoon or let them interact with your pets. Not only are they wild and unpredictable, they are known to carry parasites and diseases. Some of the most well-documented diseases carried by raccoons are the lethal rabies virus, canine distemper, and leptospirosis. Raccoon poop may also carry roundworms that can be passed on to humans.
18. They have a good sense of hearing, aside from an excellent sense of touch and sense of smell, raccoons also have sensitive hearing. A raccoon's hearing is so sharp that it can detect even the movement of earthworms underground.
19. Some predators for Raccoons are Coyotes, Owls, Bobcats and Domestic Dogs as well as Humans and also major threat to habitat destruction.
20. In 1926 a live Raccoon was sent to President Calvin Coolidge as a Thanksgiving gift that was intended to be eaten, instead, President Coolidge adopted her and named her 'Rebecca'. It is told that she became a White House pet, walked with a leash, and loved playing in the bathtub.



Kathy Rychen
Lives in Mt. Juliet TN
In 1973 became an active member of
Rachel Jackson Garden Club.
In 1981 organized and an active member of
T.A.G.S.
(Tennessee Arrangers & Growers Society)
which is an NGC Flower Show Judges Study Club.
An active member of the District II Judges Council and an
NGC Emeritus-Master Judge.
Enjoys the challenge of seeing the potential of things that
most discard but can be made into containers for
Standard Size and Petite Size Designs.





Is Bamboo a grass or tree?

Bamboo (*Bambusoideae*) is often confused as a tree because it extends about 100 feet tall. Some species may even be marketed as bamboo trees, but scientifically speaking, bamboo is 100% grass.

It is the tallest and largest member of the grass genus.

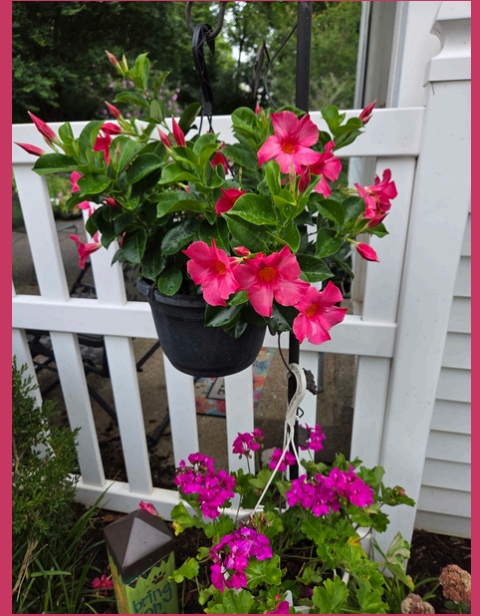
Bamboo is a colony plant like grasses. It does not need fertilizers, pesticides, or irrigation to improve its growth, instead, it spreads like weeds!



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?”

Featured Gardens

Lillian Hibbett
Optimistic Gardeners Club
Murfreesboro



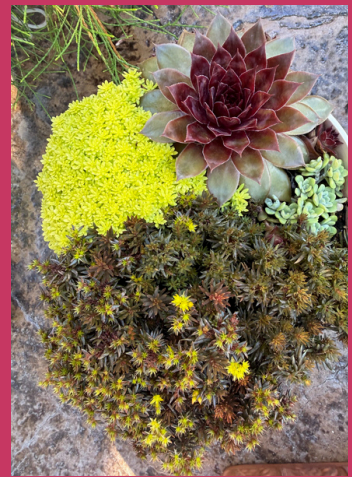
Asha Joyce
Evening Belle Garden Club
Nashville

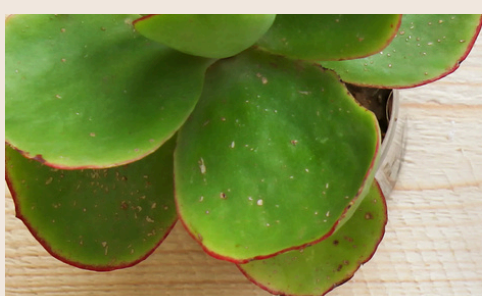


Denise Thorne
Town & Country Garden Club
Watertown



Bette Ann Fields
Gateway Acres Garden Club
Hendersonville





UPCOMING EVENTS

- Flower Shows
- Luncheon
- Meetings
- Plant Show
- Fashion Show & Tea
- Conservation Camp
- Sparkling Settings
- Conventions





SUMNER COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
& HENDERSONVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY



**GARDENING COMMUNITY
TALK-SERIES PRESENTATION**

**THE BUZZ ABOUT
SOLITARY BEES IN A
HONEYBEE WORLD**

BY DR. THERESA SINGER
PHD IN ENTOMOLOGY



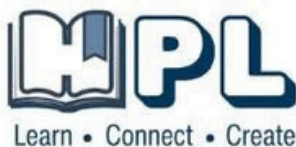
**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 1, 2026**

@11:00 A.M.

HPL COMMUNITY ROOM



SUMNER COUNTY
MASTER
GARDENERS
GROWING TOGETHER



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

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.

~Presented by Flower Growers Garden Club~

Whimsical Gardens

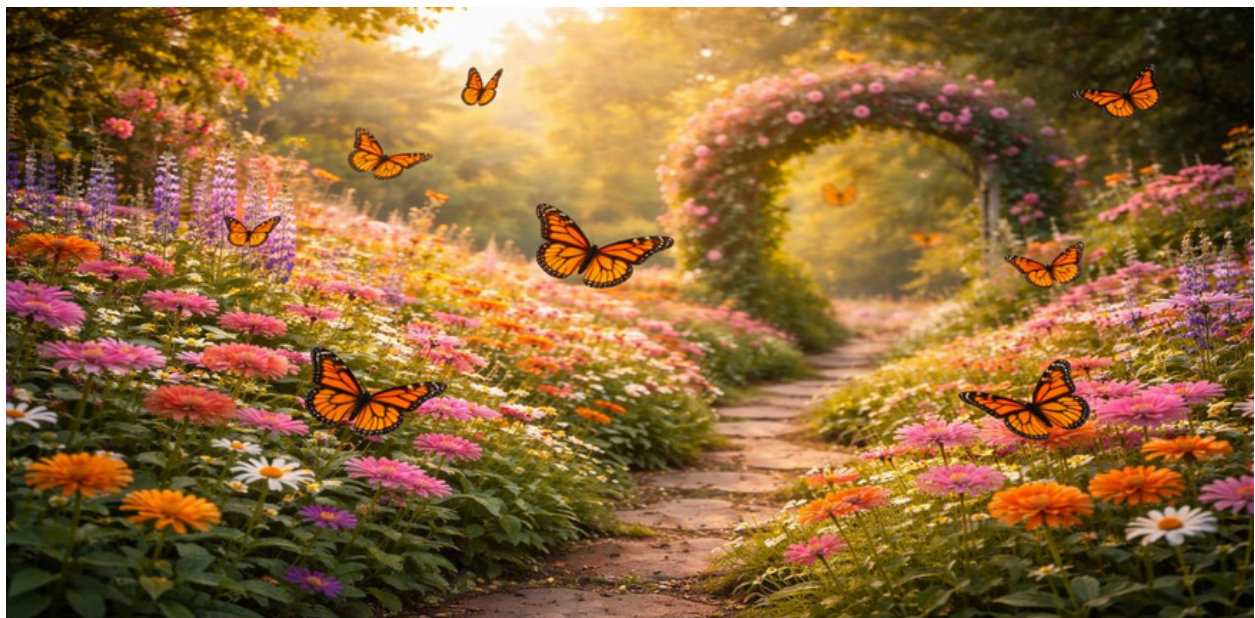
***An NGC Small Standard Flower Show
for the Community***

Saturday, September 26, 2026

12 pm ~ 3 pm

Located Outdoors:

1922 Saddlebrook Drive, Murfreesboro TN



**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

**CELEBRATING OUR
HERITAGE WITH FALL IN
THE COUNTRY**

**ELEGANT LUNCHEON BENEFITING
DEEP SOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Tuesday, September 29, 2026
Beginning 11:00 AM CST**

**Hosted by Denise Thorne
Deep South Garden Clubs
Regional Director 2025-2027**

**402 Bass Road
Watertown, TN 37184
\$25.00 in advance
\$35.00 at the door, subject to availability**

**RSVP To Tricia Ortalano
DSGC Treasurer
504-259-8536
1104 Farrington Dr.
Marrero, LA 70072**



"Celebrating Our Heritage with Fall in the Country"

An NGC Standard Flower Show

**Tuesday, September 29, 2026
12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.**

**402 Bass Road
Watertown, TN 37184
615.289.2138**

Sponsored by:

Beachaven Garden Club
Country Homes Garden Club
Oak Hill Garden Club
Town and Country Garden Club

Members of:

National Garden Club, Inc.
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
Tennessee Federation of Garden
Clubs, Inc. District II

**Open and free to the public -
handicap accessible**



The Nashville Rose Society is hosting a National American Rose Convention October 2-5, 2026, at the Music City Sheraton. The rose show will be held on October 3-4th 2026, and will attract exhibitors from around the country. Horticulture, design, and photography are featured in the show. There are 59 horticulture classes that include old garden roses, hybrid tea, David Austin, single petal, and more. The design division has traditional, East Asian, and modern in both standard size and miniature roses. There are even categories for the novice exhibitor who has not won a blue ribbon in both horticulture and design. Rose photography is also included in the show and has various categories of roses from blooms to macro photography and creative interpretation. The rose show is a perfect opportunity to see a wide variety of roses displayed in various formats. There will not be another occasion to participate in this unique event. The rose show will be free and open to the public on October 3, 2026, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and October 4, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Parking is \$10.00. See www.medleyofroses.org for more information on exhibiting, rose show and convention schedules.

Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Sunday, October 3, 2026

Branching Out
Fashion Show & Tea

Dillards at Green Hills

Nashville

Time TBD



**Mother Nature Wants YOU
at 2026 Conservation Camp**



**Make plans now to attend the
TFGC 2026 Annual Meeting and
"Mother Nature Wants You" Conservation Camp.**

Since TFGC has yearly business to conduct and there is not a convention this year, the 2026 Annual Meeting will be held at Beersheba Springs Assembly (October 13th 10:00am CST) followed by Conservation Camp at 1:00pm CST. Having the Annual Meeting precede camp saves you travel time and costs.

We have options for your convenience. If you fill out the Conservation Camp registration form you are already registered for the Annual Meeting. (Be sure and mark the delegate section.) If you are coming for the Annual Meeting only and not staying for camp, fill out the Annual Meeting registration and mark the delegate section on that form. The delegate count is very important for conducting business.

We hope you plan to attend both events. At the end of the Annual Meeting there will be skit inviting you to the 2027 TFGC Convention. Conservation Camp activities include a wonderful program on "Propagating from Seed with Success" and seed workshop, a scavenger hunt, guides to foraging in the wild, a storyteller, animal visits, and hands-on crafting making pinecone critters and a natural crown, fit for Mother Nature herself. (We can all wear our crowns for the group photo.) But don't worry, there will still be plenty of time to visit and rock on the porch.

Do you sing, dance have any special abilities? The camp will end with a rousing "TFGC's Got Talent" show on the last night. We want individuals and groups to perform, the more ridiculous the better. (Contact Anne Leonard leonardtfgc2003@epbfi.com for more info and to register your act.)

As you can see we are putting together an informative, active and fun filled two days and all we need is YOU. Remember "Mother Nature Wants You" and it's not nice to fool Mother Nature!

**Anne Leonard and Debbie Shaver
Your Camp Counselors**



Go to the TFGC Website for a printable version of these forms: tngardenclubs.org

Mother Nature Wants You!

TFGC Conservation Camp 2026

October 13-14

Beersheba Springs Assembly

55 Hege Ave. Beersheba Springs, TN 37305

Last Name _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

First Name _____
(Please print your first name, as you want it to appear on your name badge.)

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone ____ / ____ - ____ Email _____

Garden Club _____ District _____

Annual Meeting is Tuesday, October 13 10:00am CST

Delegate: (circle one) Yes No

Who qualifies as a delegate? All TFGC Officers
All TFGC Board Members
All Club Presidents
One selected member for every 10 members in a club

PACKAGE PLANS INCLUDE LODGING, MEALS, REGISTRATION FEE & TAX

The following room and board prices are for the modern rooms at the Assembly. While these rooms have private bathrooms, air conditioning and provided linens, there are no hair dryers, phones or TV's. Rooms are not equipped with coffee pots but coffee will be available in the hotel lobby and in the dining hall 45 minutes before breakfast at 8:00am CST.

Check in time is after 3:00pm CST and check out time is before 11am CST.

Mark all that apply

EarlyBirdPackage, includes Annual Meeting:

for Campers arriving Monday (Oct. 12 after 3:00pm CST check in time) and staying through Thursday (Oct. 15th) breakfast 8:00am CST (checking out before 11:00am CST)

(Includes: registration fee, 3 nights, 8 meals and Tax)

Single occupancy, per person **\$475** _____

Double occupancy, per person **\$330** _____

Roommate _____

Full Camper Package, includes Annual Meeting: for Campers arriving Tuesday (Oct. 13th at 10:00 amCST) and staying through Thursday (Oct. 15) breakfast 8:00am CST (checking out before 11:00am CST)
(Includes: registration fee, 2 nights, 6 meals and TAX)

Single occupancy, per person	350.	_____
Double occupancy, per person	250	_____
Roommate	_____	

Part Time Camper

Registration fee: per day	30	_____	
Guest/Spouse	15	_____	
Meals: Tuesday, October 13 th Lunch	15	_____	Noon CST
Supper	20	_____	6:00pm CST
Wednesday, October 14 th Lunch	15	_____	Noon CST
Supper	20	_____	6:00pm CST

Total amount of check \$ _____

Discount for Overnight Campers: Deduct \$20 from total if registering before August 1.

Send check (payable to TFGC Conservation Camp 2026)
and this registration form by September 28th to:
Diane Ryder, 1551 Pickett Road, Signal Mtn., TN 37377.
Questions?
Call (423) 505-5604 or email to: dianeryder@epbfi.com

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED
AFTER SEPTEMBER 28TH



For Those **NOT Going to Conservation Camp and
Only Attending the Annual Meeting**

2026 TFGC Annual Meeting Registration

**October 13 at 10:00am-Noon CST
(Before Conservation Camp starts at 1pm CST)**

Beersheba Springs Assembly

55 Hege Ave., Beersheba Springs, TN 37305

Last Name _____ Date ____/____/____

First Name _____

(Please print your first name, as you want it to appear on your name badge.)

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone ____/____-____ Email _____

Garden Club _____ District _____

Delegate: (circle one) Yes No

Who qualifies as a delegate? All TFGC Officers

All TFGC Board Members

All Club Presidents

One selected member for every 10 members in a club

Annual Meeting One Day Attendee: meeting Tuesday, October 13, 10:00am CST

Includes registration fee and lunch \$30 _____

Annual Meeting Package: for members arriving on Monday (Oct. 12 after 3:00pm CST)

dinner plus breakfast and lunch (Oct. 13)

(Includes: registration fee, 1 night, 3 meals and TAX)

Single occupancy, per person 175 _____

Double occupancy, per person 125 _____

Roommate for double room _____

The room and board prices are for the modern rooms at the Assembly. While these rooms have private bathrooms, air conditioning and provided linens, there are no hair dryers, phones or TV's. Rooms are not equipped with coffee pots but coffee will be available in the hotel lobby and in the dining hall 45 minutes before breakfast at 8:00am CST.

Check in time is after 3:00pm CST and check out time is before 11am CST.

Send check (payable to Conservation Camp 2026) and this form by September 28 to:

Diane Ryder, 1551 Pickett Road, Signal Mtn., TN 37377.

Questions? Call (423) 505-5604 or email to: dianeryder@epbfi.com

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER SEPTEMBER 28TH



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



SHOP THE MOST DIVERSE PLANT SELECTION IN THE REGION
ANNUALS | CACTI | CARNIVOROUS | FLORALS | NATIVES | PERENNIALS | TROPICALS

TENNESSEE PLANT SHOW



FALL 2026



NASHVILLE'S FIRST TWO-DAY PLANT SHOW



OCTOBER 24 & 25
THE FAIRGROUNDS NASHVILLE
401 WINGROVE STREET — EXPO 3
WWW.TENNESSEEPLANTSHOW.ORG

Saturday 10AM — 4PM
Sunday 10AM — 3PM



HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Fall
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10:00 a.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

JOURNALIST AND PODCASTER DEMETRIA KALODIMOS
WILL INTERVIEW SCULPTOR ALAN LEQUIRE
ABOUT THE ADDITION OF WATER FEATURES TO HIS ICONIC *MUSICA*
INSTALLATION, AS WELL AS THE CREATION OF A NEW URBAN PUBLIC PARK
AND GREEN SPACE SURROUNDING IT.

Botanic Hall
Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville



*Save
The
Date*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2026

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

PRESENTS

*Sparkling
Settings*

BOTANIC HALL CHEEKWOOD



A photograph of a winter scene. The ground is covered in a layer of snow. Several trees are visible, their branches and leaves heavily laden with snow. The trees have dark brown trunks, and the snow is a bright white. The background is a dense forest of snow-covered trees.

Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Winter Membership Meeting

Monday, January 25, 2027

10:00 am

Botanic Hall

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

DEEP SOUTH CONVENTION MAR 14-16, 2027
Tuscaloosa, Alabama - Embassy Suites Hotel



PETALS OF THE PAST, ROARING 20^S NIGHT, TEA PARTY AT HISTORIC MANSION, TOUR UNIV OF ALABAMA FOOTBALL STADIUM, DESIGN PROGRAMS, GREAT FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS, AND SHOPPING



The 2027 Deep South Annual Convention Registration March 14 - 16, 2027

Sweet Home Alabama



EMBASSY SUITES, 2410 University Blvd, TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35401

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Garden Club _____ State _____ District _____

List any special dietary needs (medical only) _____

CHECK ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOU

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| ☐ Garden Club Member | ☐ Club President | ☐ Deep South Life Member | ☐ Deep South Board Member |
| ☐ Deep South Officer | ☐ NGC Officer | ☐ Flower Show Judge | ☐ Landscape Design Consultant |
| ☐ NGC Board Member | ☐ Delegate | ☐ Alternate | ☐ Environmental Consultant |
| ☐ NCG Life Member | ☐ Guest/Spouse | ☐ Garden Study Consultant | |

REGISTRATION AND PRICING INFORMATION

OPTION 1 - COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE includes 3 day registration, 2 luncheons, 3 banquet dinners, entertainment and programs - **\$360.00**

OPTION 2 - BUILD YOUR OWN PLAN PACKAGE

- ☐ Daily Registration Fee (required for all events/tours/meals) - \$30.00
- ☐ Sunday, March 14 Early Arrival Program and Dinner - \$55.00
- ☐ Monday, March 15 *Petals from the Past* Luncheon - \$55.00
- ☐ Monday, March 15 Design Banquet with Benny Campbell - \$65.00
- ☐ Tuesday, March 16 Dragonflies and Damselflies Luncheon - \$55.00
- ☐ Tuesday, March 16 Formal Awards Banquet and Officer Installation - \$65.00
- ☐ Late Registration Fee (late after January 10, 2027) - \$50.00

LOCAL TOURS requires advanced registration, no exceptions, non-refundable

- ☐ Monday, March 15 Tour of the Historic Jemison-Van De Graaff Mansion and Tea Party - \$15.00
- ☐ Tuesday, March 16 Tour of the University of Alabama Football Stadium - \$35.00
- ☐ Tuesday, March 16 Tour of Twice as Nice Consignment Shop and Peanut Shop - \$5.00

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make checks to **DEEP SOUTH CONVENTION** and mail with form to Rachel Thomas, 4253 Hwy 107, Fayette, AL 35555.

E-mail: harleyt2006@yahoo.com, 205-270-2324. Convention confirmation will be emailed.

For USPS mail acknowledgement of registration, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Embassy Suites, 2410 University Blvd, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Booking Link <https://group.embassysuites.com/61plqm> Rate \$149.00 per night 2 queen or king, or call 205-561-2500 and let reservations desk know room reservation for the Garden Club of Alabama/Deep South Convention Code 927.

Hotel has free parking, free made to serve breakfast with omelets, complimentary evening reception with 2 free drinks per room, newly remodeled and located in downtown area, indoor pool, and business center.

EVENT SUMMARY

- Sunday evening begins with a reception honoring our Deep South Director, Denise Thorne, at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner and a fascinating presentation by University of Alabama Professor Ian Crawford on Birds in the Decorative Arts.
- Monday's luncheon will feature *Petals from the Past* nursery, with the owner sharing information about his unique antique roses and other hard-to-find Southern plants. Guests will also have the opportunity to purchase plants after lunch.
- Monday evening begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m. honoring Denise Thorne and all six state presidents. Attendees will have the opportunity to greet before dinner, followed by a floral design program by Benny Campbell.
- Tuesday's luncheon will feature University of Alabama professors who will introduce us to the fascinating world of dragonflies, damselflies, and other exotic insects.
- Tuesday evening, wear your Roaring 20's or Jazz Age attire for the formal reception and enjoy an evening of fun and lively music provided by Ken Bausano.
- Unique tours options are provided for Monday and Tuesday afternoon.

The full agenda will be posted online. See you soon! Karen Merrill, 2027 Convention Chairman

For questions please contact Cindy Boone, Convention Co-Chairman, cindysboone@gmail.com, 703.328.8833

TOTALS ENCLOSED

_____ CONVENTION

_____ TOURS

_____ TOTAL

- REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 1/10/27.
- NO REFUNDS AFTER 1/10/27
- REGISTRATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE
- NO WALK-INS
- MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND ANY DSGC FUNCTION, PROGRAM, MEAL OR TOUR



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**

Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Spring Membership Meeting & Coffee

Monday, April 26, 2027

10:00 am

Botanic Hall

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2027 Convention

May 13 – 17, 2027

Madison, Wisconsin



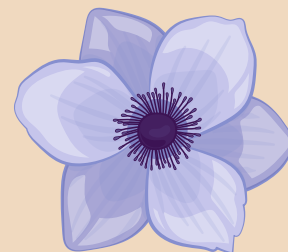
Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee



Community



FLOWER SHOW



Coming in Late Fall 2027

Details to Follow





If you've made it this far,

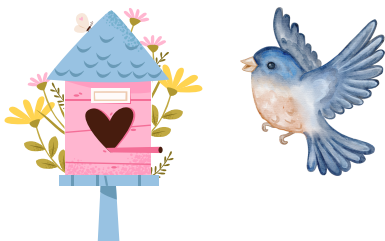
Thank You

for reading the August 2026

District II Newsletter

The articles & photos included in this & all issues are provided by you the reader. If you have a suggestion or a gardening interest that you would like to see in the publication, please let me know, and I will do my best to include it.

I don't have email addresses for every District II member, so I rely on club presidents to forward the email containing the Newsletter to their club members. If you would like to receive the District II Newsletter directly to your inbox from me, just email me, and I will add you to the email list. 😊



Anna Marie Allen
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