

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

July 2026

District II Newsletter

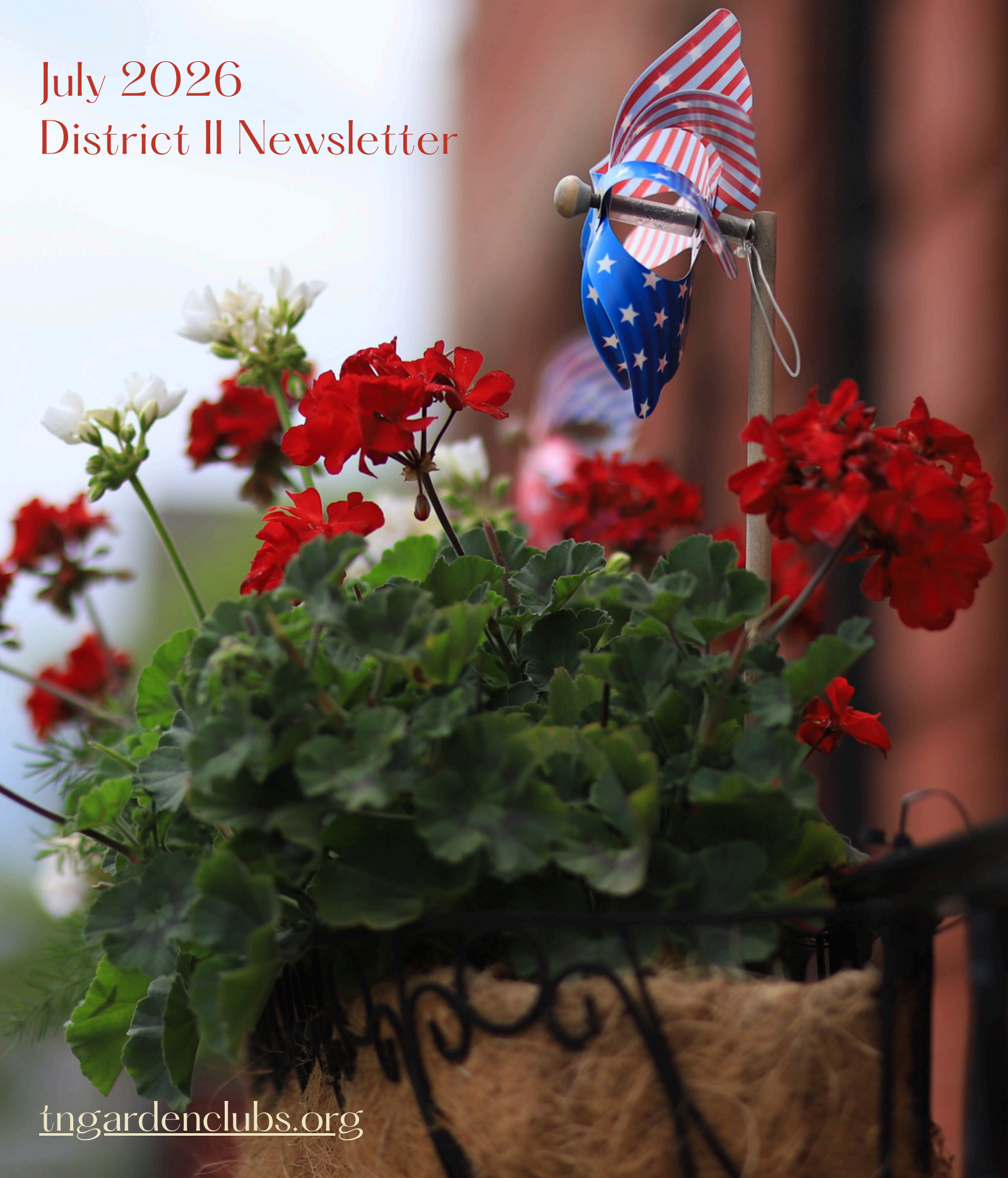


TABLE OF CONTENTS



3	MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT II DIRECTOR Becky Fox Matthews
4	DISTRICT II LEADERS CONTACT INFORMATION
5	2027 DII VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR INFORMATION Kandee Walker
6	SPECIAL FEATURE—NGC FLOWER SHOW WINNERS Marilyn McDonnell
11	CLUB NEWS Here's what District II Clubs have been doing this past month!
56	DID YOU KNOW...THIS VEGETABLE IS NOW GROWN IN SPACE? Jolly Sinha
57	CRITTER REPORT: "DRAGON WITH WINGS" Kathy Rychen
60	SPECIAL FEATURE—CREATIVE FLOWER ARRANGERS OF THE AMERICAS Bette Ann Fields
62	UPCOMING EVENTS
85	NOTE FROM THE EDITOR Anna Marie Allen



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT II DIRECTOR



Becky Fox Matthews

In 2012 the Coalition of American Plant Societies (CAPS) was formed to provide a forum for the leaders of national plant societies to discuss common opportunities and challenges, to network, and to foster mutual success. At one of the CAPS annual meetings I attended in Alexandria, VA, we toured the Smithsonian Gardens in Washington, DC. Being back in DC this week with family, I was thinking about the Smithsonian Gardens and how they have changed over the years.

With over 180 acres of outdoor gardens, Smithsonian Gardens began as functional plantings and parade-ground landscaping. In later years their focus shifted to the use of native plants to rebuild habitat, conserve water, and educate visitors about biodiversity. Across sites like the Native Landscape at the National Museum of the American Indian and the Pollinator Garden by the National Museum of Natural History, staff planted hundreds of local species, creating meadows, wetlands, croplands, and woodlands that support pollinators, birds, and urban wildlife. These landscapes demonstrate how native plants strengthen urban ecosystems. Here are 10 species of plants Smithsonian gardeners rely on—and why they're also great for home gardens.

1. *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed)—a monarch magnet.
2. *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower)—long-blooming and pollinator-friendly.
3. *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan)—attracts bees and birds.
4. *Monarda fistulosa* (bee balm)—fragrant, draws bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.
5. *Solidago* spp. (goldenrod)—late-season nectar for pollinators.
6. *Liatris spicata* (blazing star)—vertical interest, loved by butterflies.
7. *Panicum virgatum* (switchgrass)—structural native grass for habitat and erosion control.
8. *Ilex verticillata* (winterberry)—winter berries for birds
9. *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood)—spring flowers and fall berries; great understory tree.
10. *Baptisia australis* (blue false indigo)—hardy, nitrogen-fixing, long bloom.

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA & try some of these natives in your own garden.



Becky with some of her family in DC



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

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: _____

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

NGC FLOWER SHOW WINNERS

“America the Beautiful”

An NGC Patriotic Petite Flower Show

On behalf of the entire “America the Beautiful” Flower Show Committee, we congratulate all of our winners and a special thanks to all exhibitors and all who aided in making this Flower Show so special in many ways.

**Debby Cooper and Carol Bullard,
Show Co-Chairmen**

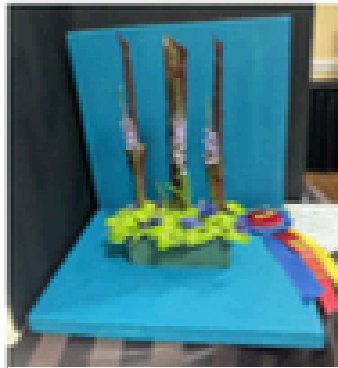
Submitted by Marilyn McDonnell

Design



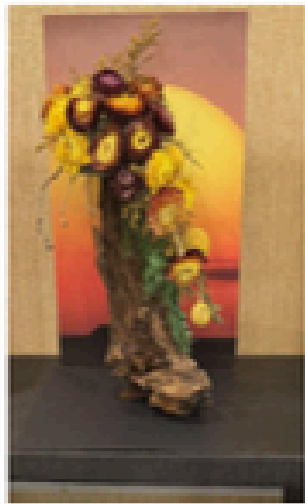
Section A

Designer's Choice Award-Class
1-"Beautiful Understory" Low-
Profile Design-Debbie
Zonca/Illinois



Section B

Tricolor Award-Class 6-"River
Boat Cruising" Parallel Design-
Denise Thorne/Tennessee



Section C

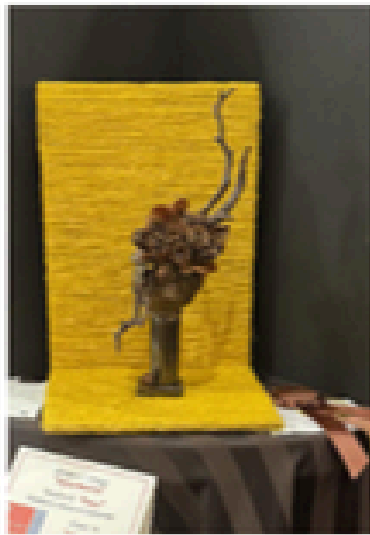
Designer's Choice Award-Class
9-"The Valleys" Cascade
Design-Bonnie
Vaughters/Alabama



Section D

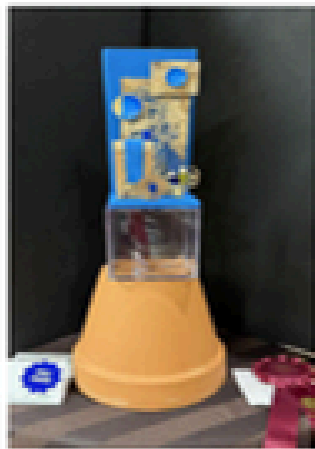
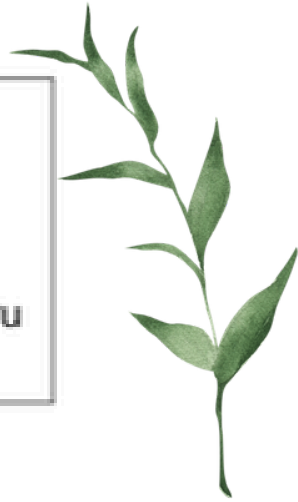
Designer's Choice Award-Class
10-"Desert Bloom" Multi-Rhythmic
Design-Debra Sorrell/New Mexico





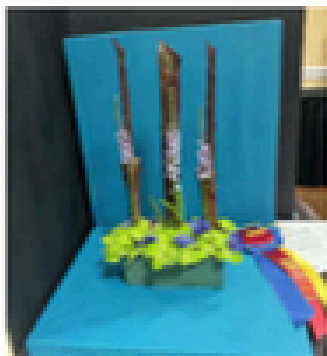
Section E

Award of Distinction-Class
14-"Where the Buffalo
Roam" Creative Line-Mass
Design-Renata Canepa/Peru



Section F

Table Artistry Award-Class
18-"Picnic on the Beach"
Exhibition Table Design-
Jenny Herts/Peru



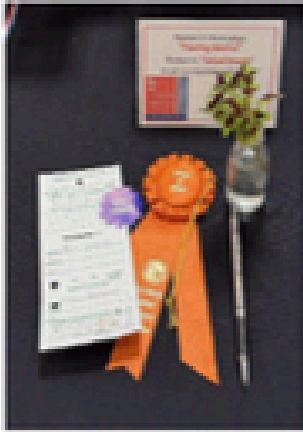
AWARD OF DESIGN
EXCELLENCE-Denise
Thorne-Tennessee-Section
B Class 6



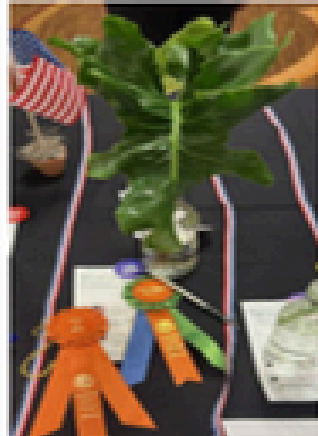
President's Award-Class
8-"The Peaks"
Angular Design-Doris
Duckworth/Colorado



Horticulture



Section A Award of Merit-
Coleus-Pam
Braun/Tennessee



Section B Award of Merit-
Philodendron-
Debby Cooper/Mississippi

Philodendron
(Thaumatococcus)

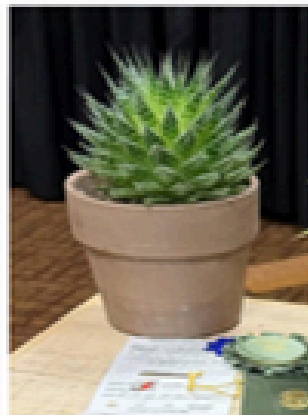
"Crimson Atom"



Section C Arboreal Award-
Spruce-David Robson/Illinois

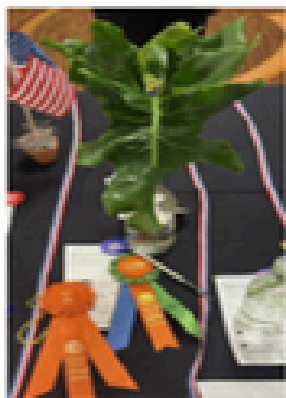
Picea pungens 'Montgomery'

Section D Arboreal Award-No Award Placed



Section E Grower's Choice Award-
Aloe-Sue
Kirkman-Kentucky

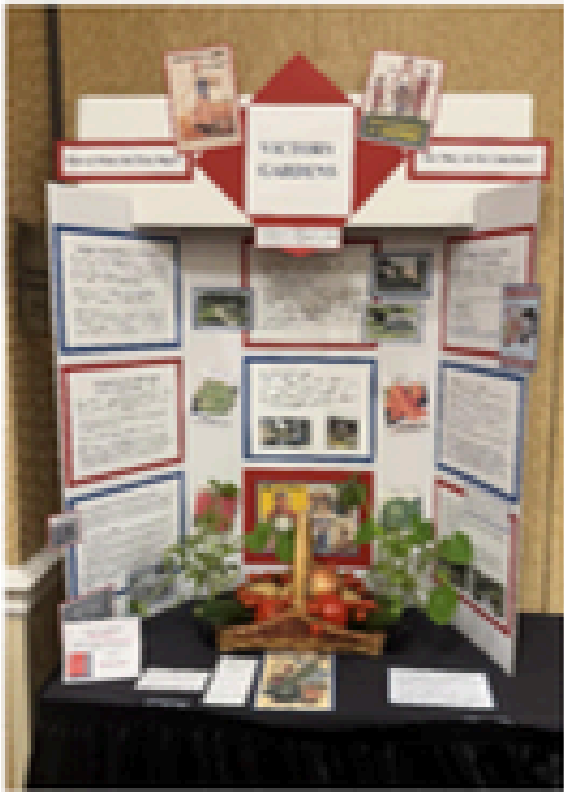
Aloe arista



AWARD OF HORTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

Philodendron-Debby Cooper-
Mississippi

Philodendron (Thaumatococcus)
"Super Atom"



Educational Top Exhibitor Award

“Victory Gardens”—
Debi Herrington—New Mexico



Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award

Section A

Class 3-“Boston Tea Party”
Decorated Teacup—
Jennifer Herzwells—Peru



WELCOME TO OUR DISTRICT II

CLUB NEWS



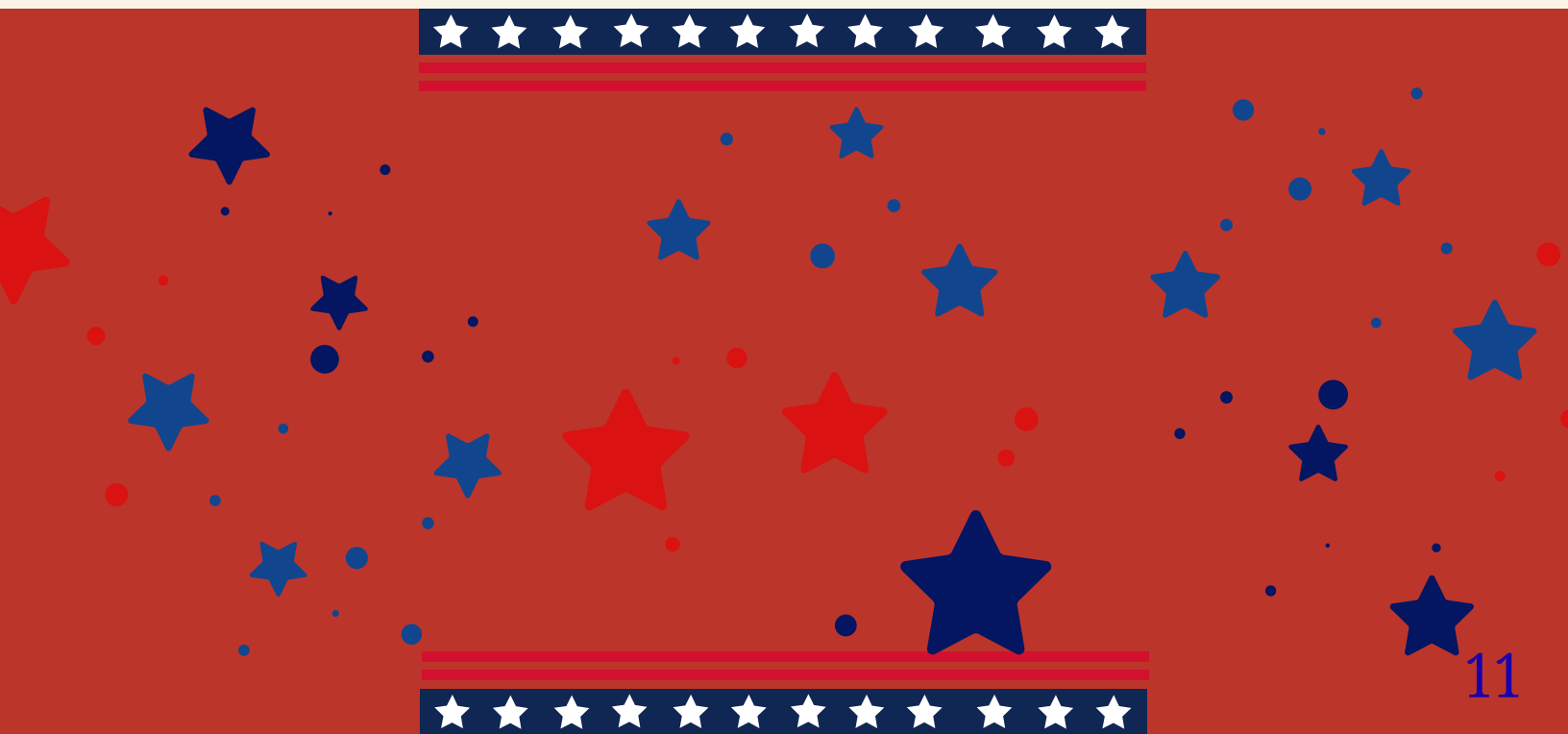
Send your club's photos, meeting news & events to:
annabanana7@comcast.net

text: 615-477-3030

Submission Deadline for the August Newsletter is
July 15th.

Anna Marie Allen

District II Newsletter Editor





COUNTRY HOMES GARDEN CLUB

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK



IN RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK, CHGC ACKNOWLEDGES THE WEEK BY MEETING ON A RAINY MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, TO FILL 10 VASES WITH BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY FLOWERS FROM MEMBERS' GARDENS.

JAN VESTER HOSTED THE EVENT IN HER ENCLOSED GAZEBO. NINE MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THIS PROJECT. THEY WORKED HARD TO ASSEMBLE THE ARRANGEMENTS AND DELIVER THEM TO BE DISPLAYED TOGETHER WITH NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS' COLORFUL POSTER TO 10 BUSINESSES IN THE JOELTON & WHITES CREEK AREA.

THE CLUB TRIES TO DRIVE ATTENTION TO THE PURPOSE OF WHAT GARDEN CLUBS ARE ABOUT. GARDEN CLUBS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE AND BUILD COMMUNITY. GARDEN CLUBS DO FLORAL DESIGNS, PARTICIPATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES, COMPLETE COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEER WORK.



VASES & FLOWERS GALORE!



MEMBERS JAN, MELANIE, KERI, TERRY & SANDRA



MEMBERS SANDRA, BARBARA, TOVE, JAN & TERRY
CREATED ARRANGEMENTS.



ARRANGEMENT & GARDEN WEEK POSTER



FINISHED ARRANGEMENTS



TOVE READY TO DELIVER FLOWERS





LEFT: FLORAL ARRANGEMENT AND POSTER AT THE WHITES CREEK POST OFFICE
RIGHT: JOELTON POST OFFICE EMPLOYEE WITH THEIR ARRANGEMENT.



LEFT: TRUIST BANK EMPLOYEE ENJOYED RECEIVING AN ARRANGEMENT FOR THE BANK.

IN OBSERVANCE OF FLAG DAY, JUNE 14, 2026, CHGC PLACED A WREATH AND FLAGS AT THE CASEY CEMETERY IN WHITES CREEK, TN.



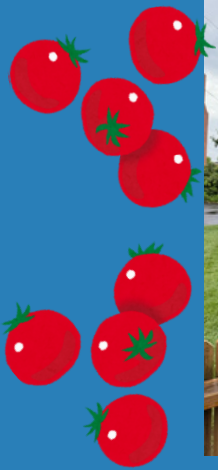


Evening Belle Garden Club



**Club Members worked at Christ The King School
Children's Garden to Celebrate National Garden Week!**





First



Saturday

Garden

Club



The First Saturday Garden Club, in celebration of National Garden week, visited Binkley Farms in Ashland City. We learned history of the farm dating back over 100 years. The farm was first owned by Annabelle and Herschel Perry. Next to operate the farm were Patsy and Thomas Corbin, and later, and to date, it is owned and operated by Jeff & Kathleen Binkley. Through the years, the farm primarily raised livestock and today raises flowers, produce, hay and cattle. The gardens were holding an abundance of more vegetables coming into the summer season!



Excerpts by Melissa Womack on Facebook

Flower Growers Garden Club



“Plant America for Pollinators” starting in Murfreesboro



It was a great day to plant seeds at Middle Tennessee Christian School! The seeds had been sorted by club members, and we borrowed seed spreaders to plant them. Students, Club members and Bee Class Teacher, Jay, had a great day, so now we wait with expectation. Additional boxes had been added and the planting area was extended to include a bed alongside a Murfreesboro Municipal Airport runway. Although honeybees typically forage within 2 to 5 miles radius from their hives, we expect they will enjoy the buffet we have provided, which is much closer. Also, we are excited to see our plants from last year already peeking up. FGGC met at Maggie Shelor's Sunset Hollow Farm and were impressed with the gardens she has created from scratch and an arbor made from leftover fencing located on the farm and so much more. The potluck lunch and fellowship were enjoyed by all. Again, a big “Thank You” to TFGC for the Endowment Trust Fund Grant that made the pollinator seeds possible, and thank you Melanie Heston for connecting us with Middle Tennessee Christian School's Honey Bee Farm and saving our “Seed Project”. Karen Dawson, TFGC District Vice Director and Bee Keeper presented an excellent and informative program “What's Up With the Bees”.



“Plant America for Pollinators”
bed alongside a Murfreesboro Municipal
Airport runway.

Karen Dawson



Horticulture & Arrangements



Sunset Hollow Farm



Bee watering station



Maggie Shelor



Submitted by Patty Compton
& Kim Orrand



Franklin County Garden Club



**FCGC celebrated National Garden Week June 7-13, 2026
and displayed a signed Proclamation at the
Franklin County Public Library in Winchester.**



“Re: Create” Arts and Recreation Camp was held June 15-19 in Winchester, TN. FCGC members and fifty 2nd & 5th graders participated in the program.



Lola, Helen, Pedie, Karen, Marian, Carter, Sheree



Karen Rizzuti lead a program on *The Miracle of Seeds*.

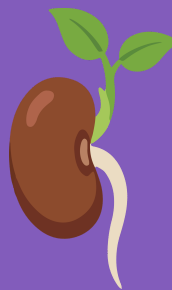


Sheree Hidalgo instructing students





Members helped students identify seeds, and assisted them in planting green beans in a clear cup so they could see the seedling roots and watch the plant's growth progress.



Who's hiding under the table?



Gateway Acres Garden Club

Met on June 5th at Richland Country Club
for lunch & an informative program by Marty Reich.



Standing l. to r.: Susan Sinclair, Cheryl Magli, Anne Owen, Marilyn Lehew, Theresa Menefee, Martha Garman, Becky Fox Matthews, Sara Jo Gill, Pam Braun, Bette Ann Fields, Connie Baird, Lori Emery, Marty Reich, & Ann Webber. Seated l. to r.: Anna Marie Allen, Laudi McDonald, Kippie Leland, Lynne Wallman & Camille Baskerville





Marty Reich, club member & Master Rosarian, presented a program on Roses. She then gave a lovely arrangement to Lynne Wallman.



Lori Emery & Lynne Wallman



Theresa Menafee, Ann Webber,
Pam Braun & Becky Fox Matthews



Photos by Sarah Jo Gill & Anna Marie Allen

Harpeth Bend Garden Club

Took a Field Trip to “Fast’s Greenery” in Arrington, TN
then took an arrangement to National HealthCare Corporation (NHC) of
Cool Springs for National Garden Week with Red, White & Blue
—a nod to our Nation’s 250th Celebration!

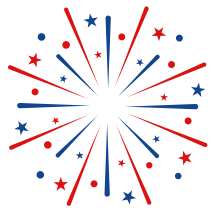


Left to right: Betty Chapman, Claudette Ryan, Karen Brommer,
Marsha Hunt, Robin Nash, Jean Pickard, Kandee Walker,
Missy Hetzer & Margaret Reeves





Submitted by Marsha Hunt



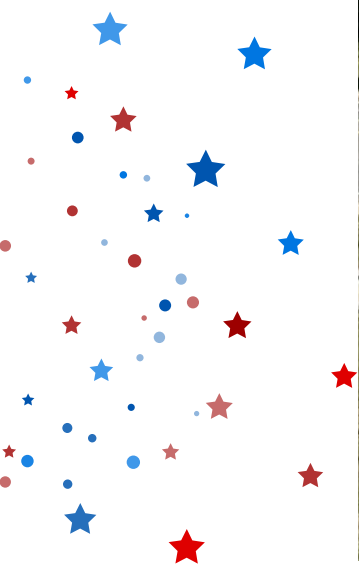
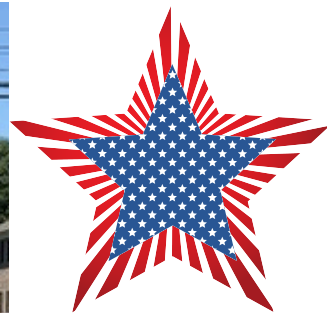
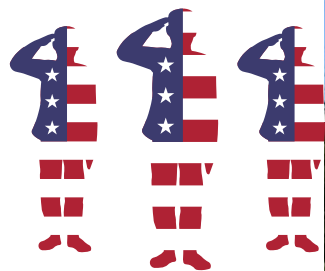
Lake Forest Acres Garden Club



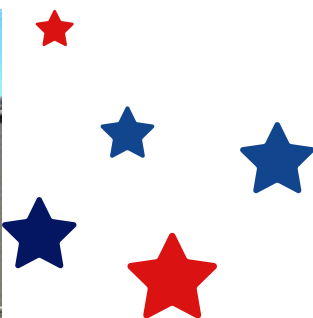
Each year, several members of the Lake Forest Acres Garden Club get together for the spring planting of flowers at the Blue Star/Gold Star markers which are located to the left of Mt. Juliet City Hall. Our Club donated the markers to the City of Mt. Juliet in 2018 & 2019. A special thank you to member Lucricia Cole and her husband Bud, who is also a veteran, for being instrumental in securing the donations for the markers. We also want to thank City Manager, Kenny Martin, for making it all possible.

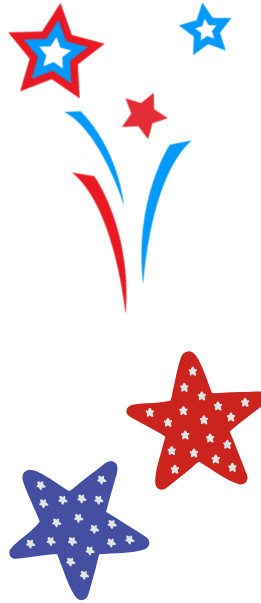


Submitted by Anice Rouse



In honor of our service men and women, Lake Forest Acres Garden Club members (Doris Wyatt, Lucricia Cole and vice president Dana Caldwell) observed Armed Forces Day (May 16, 2026) by placing service flags at the Blue Star/Gold Star markers in Mt. Juliet.





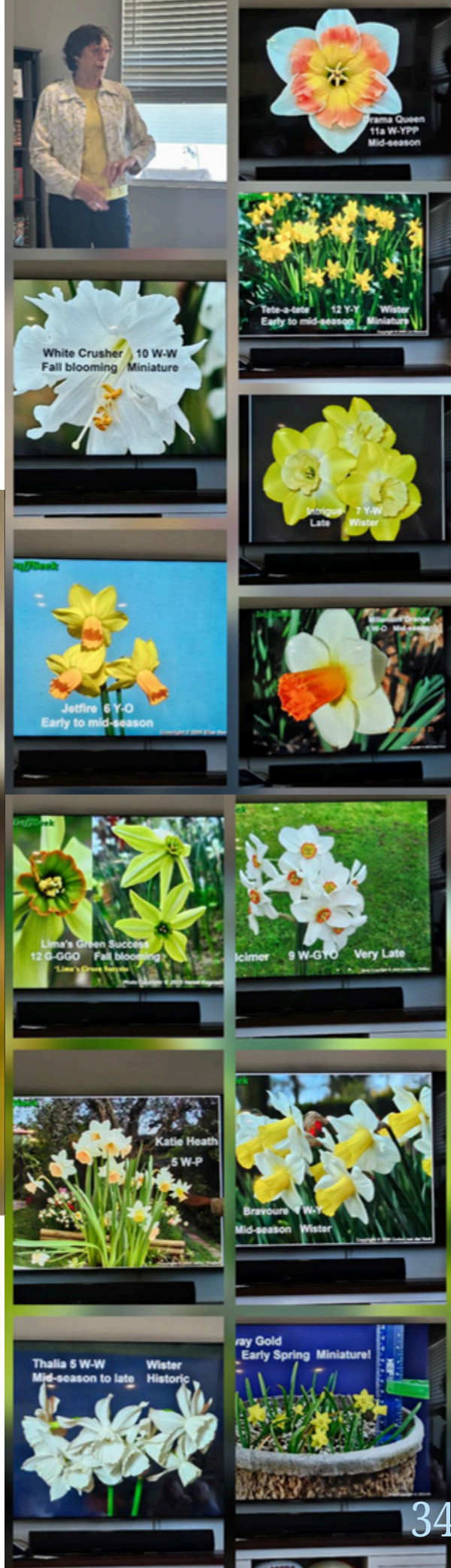
Club president Anice Rouse, Vice president Dana Caldwell, Judy Parrish and Becky Brazier honored Judy's 104 year-old veteran Uncle Glenn Pardue, who served as a military gunner on a merchant ship in World War II. The Club gifted him and his wife Madolyn with a delicious chocolate cake (yes, he's the cute young thing on the cake!) and a beautiful wreath to show our love and appreciation for his service.



Uncle Glenn Pardue (in suspenders) attended the unveiling of the Blue Star Marker in 2018 with three other veterans. His wife, Madolyn (not pictured) also attended. Thank you so much Uncle Glenn!!



The Lake Forest Acres Club held its May 18, 2026 meeting at the home of Vice President Dana Caldwell. District II Director Becky Fox Matthews, who is also the current president of the American Daffodil Society, spoke to the Club about the many varieties of Daffodils, how to plant and care for them, and which daffodils grow best in Tennessee's climate.



We want to give a BIG thank you to Becky Fox Matthews for giving her time and expertise. And a special thank you to Dana Caldwell for sharing her home for this meeting.

In observance of Memorial Day this year, the Lake Forest Acres Garden Club honored our veterans and Gold Star families who have lost their loved ones, with wreaths for the Gold Star marker in Mt. Juliet. As we all want to remember our military for their unselfish sacrifices and for giving their lives for our freedom in this great country, thank you, thank you, thank you! God Bless America.



*Grateful,
Thankful and Blessed*



god bless
AMERICA

Three horizontal red stripes, a common motif in American patriotic designs.

In order to thank some of our local community during this year's **National Garden Week**, the Lake Forest Acres Garden Club performed good deeds for all those who have given their time, kindness and efforts to keep our community safe, healthy and beautiful. Our Club also gives to our friends and neighbors who are incapacitated and need a warm heart and a helping hand.



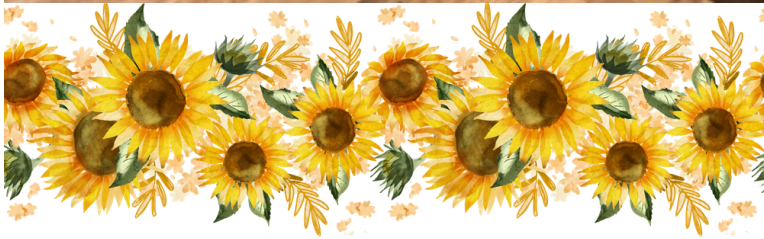
Members Beverly Lutz (with grandchildren) and Joan Pillow took their annual cookies and flowers to the men and women who serve at the WEMA Station No. 4 in Mt. Juliet.



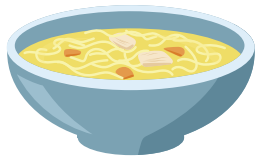
Members Doris Wyatt, Lucricia Cole and Connie Blevins prepared sack lunches for **Needham's Nursery** which has donated all the plants for the Blue Star/Gold Star Markers since 2018. The Needham family has also been active in the Mt. Juliet community during national holidays in performing drone and fireworks displays.



Members Lucricia Cole (Doris Wyatt & Connie Blevins, not pictured) gave peaches to **Tennessee Oncology of Mt. Juliet** where Lucricia is receiving treatments. We thank Tennessee Oncology for being so gracious and kind throughout her journey this year.



Judy Parrish and Becky Brazier took flowers, chicken noodle soup, popcorn and a cherry icee to their friend Ellen Hinson, who resides at Charter Senior Living. Ellen has cancer and continues to stay cheerful and grateful to Judy and Becky for everything they do!



Leipers Fork Garden Club

The Leipers Fork Garden Club had their May Meeting at the home of Cherry Lane Darken. Her inviting round front porch always brings the most members to the meeting. After a delicious and expertly planned dinner we met under her carport for our annual plant swap which everyone looks forward to. All went home with something new to plant, and feeling excited.



In honor of National Garden Week, the Leipers Fork Garden Club spent the morning at Timberland State Park just off the Natchez Trace Bridge. It was a hot day but people were there to enjoy a walk and just see the park. We had a table with free plants and free seeds to give away. Those that took something were appreciative of us following our mission statement. Park Ranger Michael also gave a presentation on the pollinator garden and spoke highly of planting native plants. We also went home with some new plants that grow at the park that none of us had. It felt rewarding being there in spite of the heat.



Submitted by Faye Sturm

OPTIMISTIC GARDENERS CLUB

SHARED THEIR FLOWERS FOR A SPECIAL 2026 SPRING PARTY BENEFITING OAKLANDS MANSION ON MAY 30TH. MEMBERS MADE 30 FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Submitted by:
Lillian Hibbett



June display at the *Technology Engagement Center* in Murfreesboro



Optimistic Gardeners Club president Lillian Hibbett with
Lucy Mizener & her grandmother /club member Dot Taylor.
Lucy won 1st place for Tennessee 5th graders in the
2025 Smokey Bear Youth Poster Contest.

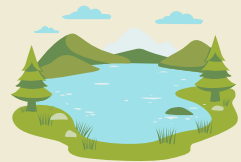
Youth photo release on file.

Optimistic Gardeners Club



Lake

It was a beautiful view for our June meeting at Jeaneen Benedict's Center Hill Lake home.



Hostesses: Jeaneen Benedict,
Lillian Hibbett, Trudy Bain &
Jeanne Teeter



Barbara Forsythe, Sheila Byberg,
& Anita Wherry



Rachel Reynolds, Jenny Reid,
Sharron Hofer & Beth Binkley
enjoying lunch on the deck.



Carol Anne Beasley, Ruth
Taylor & Jeaneen Benedict



“Gardening Game”
... lots of thinking!



Jeaneen shared information
about hydrangeas.





Wanda Copley shares ideas for
decorating with artichokes.



Hosta collection by Jenny Reid
Photos by Lillian Hibbett

Horticulture at the meeting

To Celebrate National Garden Week, on June 10th the Optimistic Gardeners Club visited the home, gardens & woodworking shop of Kay & Sam Clark in Smyrna.





Lisa in the garden with peppers & tomatoes. Kay has 26 kinds of tomatoes & over 40 kinds of peppers that will soon be ripe!



Lillian Hibbett, Guest—Anna Marie Allen, & Kay Clark with Kay's magnificent Staghorn Fern





Sam & Woody





Kay with some of her early garden harvest



Welcome to Sam Clark's Woodworking Shop!



A few of Sam's creations



Garden Club Research Fascinates Club



Tyne Meade Spring activities continue to bring our club members together. Our June meeting speaker was Sandra Shelton, who is a member of the Nashville Historical Foundation Board and former proprietor of Pangaea in Hillsboro Village. Her topic was "Satsuma's Women Owners and Garden Clubs of Yore."

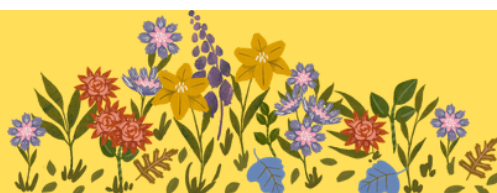
By conducting research in Nashville Public Library's Archives and Special Collections, Sandra was able to find photos of private gardens and local garden club events from old newspaper stories. The program brought back Nashville memories for many of us.



Sandra Shelton (speaker), Betty Abernathy, and Dixie Riddle share



Carol Smith, Jackie Bellar, and Doris Weakley catch up their Spring activities.



Club Plant Sale Brings Fun & Profit

Tyne Meade members again participated in the Richland-West End Neighborhood Yard Sale held on Saturday, June 6. Our lifetime member and former president, Marlene Key, was kind enough to host our club's offerings again in her own lush yard.

In anticipation of the sale, club members divided and potted native plants, tropicals, and houseplants in the preceding months. On sale day we met many garden-minded shoppers, sold all of our plants, and enjoyed our time together in the sun.



From left are club members Kathy Brown, Donna Cook, Marlene Key, Sheila Turk, and Doris Weakley. Not pictured are Carol Smith and Sandra Eagye.



A shopper and our display of gorgeous plants!



Lebanon's Year Round Garden Club Hosts Flower Show at Historic Mitchell House



YRGC Flower Show Co-chairs Cindy Howard & Emily Peyton received permission from Mayor Rick Bell & the City of Lebanon to select one of the city's most recognizable historical homes as the location for the club's latest biennial NGC Standard Flower Show, which was held June 4th and was open to the public the same day. The Mitchell House, named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, is now owned by the City of Lebanon and used for offices as well as special events.

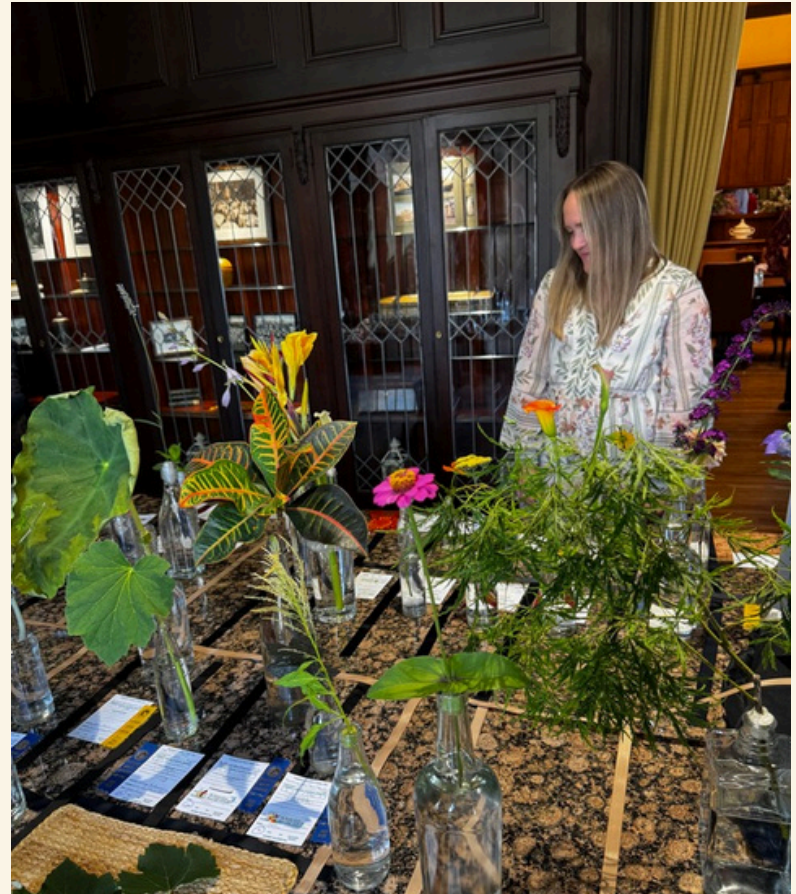


Mayor & Mrs. Rick Bell (first row) welcomed the members of the YRGC at the Mitchell House for the club's biennial flower show. Shown are officers, front to back: Aileen Foutch—treasurer; Emily Peyton—show co-chair; Janet McCluskey—secretary; Linda Weast—president; Cindy Howard—vice president and show co-chair; and Mandy Wilson—2nd vice president.



The co-chairs of the flower show, which filled the home's first-floor rooms, selected the theme of "The Mitchell House Through Time," with each design category featuring changes in the past decades, including the establishing of Castle Heights Military Academy on the property, during which the home was used as junior school housing and the site for special events such as formal receptions and dances for the senior school. In addition to homelife, educational, and social events, years later the home would become the Cracker Barrel office location as well as the headquarters for the Sigma Pi Fraternity.

"We were thrilled to be able to have our show at the Mitchell House. It is a beautiful venue with its rich history, high ceilings, amazing finishes, and central location in Lebanon," stated Cindy Howard. "We were so excited to open up the show to the public. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this flower show such a success."



Horticulture specimens entered in the show were displayed in the dining room, and the two educational exhibits, "No Other Place on Earth, Cedars of Lebanon State Park" and "Sadie Ford Heritage Farm: Insights into Yesterday and Inspiration for the Future," were located in the entry hall. Design entries were displayed in the hallways and the parlor. Club member Coty Gregory's entry in the Reflective category earned the Award of Design Excellence.

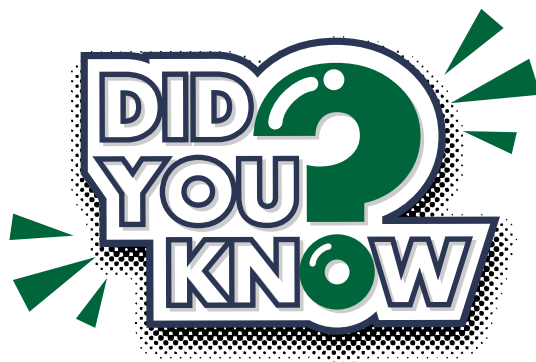


**Award of Design Excellence
Entry by member Coty Gregory**



Dr. David Mitchell, originally from Pennsylvania, graduated from Cumberland University and was named president of the university at age twenty-six. He planned the home for his young family and construction on the home began in 1906 and completed in 1910. The Mitchell House was designed by the Nashville firm of Thompson, Gibel & Asmus, who also designed the original buildings for Castle Heights Military Academy on the same property.



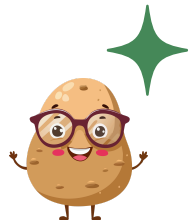


This Vegetable Is Now Grown in Space?

In the fall of 1995, a team of researchers clipped 10 leaves from a potato plant. They planted 5 in dirt on Earth and sent off 5 in moistened soil into space. Within a couple of weeks, after several tests, it was proven that the extraterrestrial tubers were nearly the same as their grounded counterparts!

This experiment highlights the potential for farming in extraterrestrial settings, paving the way for future space exploration.

Potatoes prove that even humble vegetables can reach for the stars!



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?”

**Rachel Jackson Garden Club
Critter Report for
June 18, 2026
by Kathy Rychen**

“Dragon With Wings”



I hope you enjoy some of these interesting facts about dragonflies.

Dragonflies are ancient insects. Long before the Dinosaurs roamed the Earth, dragonflies took to the air over 300 million years ago.

Dragonfly Nymphs live in water, this is why you will see Dragonflies and Damselflies around ponds and lakes. They are aquatic. Female dragonflies deposit their eggs on the water's surface, or in some cases insert them into aquatic plants or moss. Once hatched the nymph dragonfly spends its time hunting other aquatic invertebrates. After molting between six and 15 times, a dragonfly nymph is ready for adulthood and crawls out of the water to shed its final immature skin.

When a nymph is finally ready for adulthood, once it is out of the water and maybe on a rock or a plant stem, it molts one final time.

This process takes several hours or days. Until their bodies fully harden, they are weak flyers and highly vulnerable to predators like birds and other predators that consume a number of young dragonflies in their first few days after their emergence.



The eyes of a Dragonfly.

Relative to other insects, dragonflies have extraordinarily keen vision that helps them detect the movement of other flying critters and avoid in-flight collisions. Thanks to the two huge compound eyes, the dragonfly has nearly 360 degrees of vision and can see a wider spectrum of colors than humans. Each dragonfly compound eye contains 28,000 lenses or ommatidia, and a dragonfly uses about 80% of its brain to process all the visual information it receives.

Dragonflies are able to move each of their four wings independently. They can flap each wing up and down and rotate their wings forward and back on an axis. Dragonflies can move straight up or down; they can fly backward and stop and hover and make hairpin turns at full speed or in slow motion. They can fly forward at a speed of 100 body lengths per second about up to 30 miles per hour.

A male dragonfly fights for territory and for females and behaves aggressively toward other males that cross their flight paths. A female dragonfly will play dead to avoid mating. Male dragonflies have multiple sex organs. For most all male insects the sex organs are located at the tip of the abdomen, but this is not true for the male dragonfly. The sex organs are on the underside of the abdomen, up around the second and third segments. The sperm is stored in an opening of the ninth abdominal segment. Before mating, the dragonfly has to fold his abdomen in order to transfer his sperm to his penis.

Dragonflies are cold blooded but have ways to keep warm or cool. When they are on patrol and because they can fly back and forth, they create a rapid whirring movement with their wings which raises their body temperatures.



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.

Special Feature

Welcome to the
Creative Flower Arrangers
of the Americas
Tampa, Florida



Bette Ann Fields

Gateway Acres Garden Club





Challenge Design!
Bette Ann with friend Carol Friedman



GET READY FOR

UPCOMING EVENTS!



Flower Shows

Lectures

Meetings

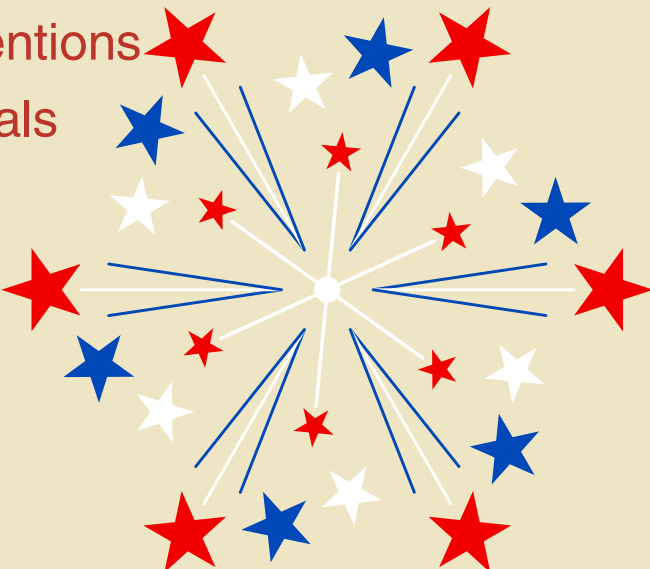
Camps

Symposia

Conventions

Festivals

Fairs





The Oak Hill Garden Club
invites everyone to their
June Meeting!

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

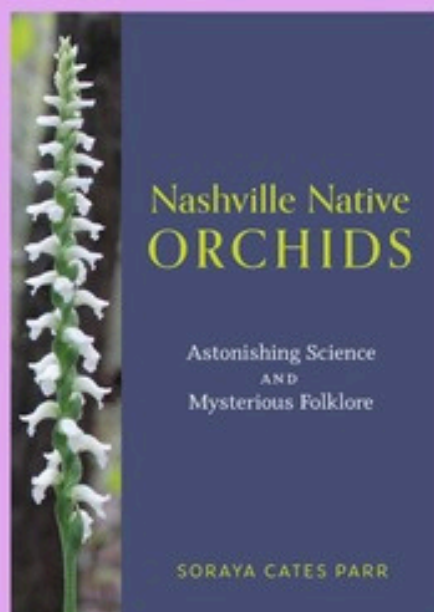
10:20 am

Bellevue Methodist Church

7501 Old Harding Pike

Nashville

The speaker will be renowned author Soraya Cates Parr,
Author of "*Nashville Native Orchids*"



After many years as a professional touring musician, Soraya Cates Parr obtained her degree in plant and soil science and became the orchid specialist at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens. Her articles have appeared in the American Orchid Society's *Orchids* magazine.



Flower Show and Plant Sale

Sponsored By: The Middle Tennessee Daylily Society

—  **6/27/26**  —

Ellington Agricultural Center
Ed Jones Auditorium
416 Hogan Road Nashville, TN

Daylily Sale | 10:00 - 3:00

.....
Flower Show | 10:00 - 3:00

— Why Attend this Event? —

- ✓ Attend a world class daylily exhibition featuring rare and amazing flowers.
- ✓ Purchase the best daylilies offered for your garden by experts!
- ✓ Learn the best practices to care for and grow from experienced gardeners.

*Join us and be inspired
by the beauty of daylilies!*



Middle Tennessee Iris Society

ANNUAL IRIS SALE

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026

8:00AM - 1:00PM

(OR UNTIL WE SELL OUT)

**CRIEVEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL | 451 HOGAN RD**



**FREE PARKING
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



LOCALLY GROWN



**CREDIT CARDS, CASH
& CHECKS ACCEPTED**

DISTRICT II PRESIDENTS' MEETING



Presidents & All District II Club
Members are invited to come for an
informative meeting, program, sales,
fellowship & door prizes

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10:00 AM

MEETING STARTS AT 10:30 AM



J.P. HOLT BRENTWOOD LIBRARY

**8109 CONCORD ROAD
BRENTWOOD, TN 37037**

Program: "Leap into Leadership" by Bonnie Vaughters,
Former Mississippi President & Deep South Director
and Current NGC Board of Directors member,
teaches us how to be a great club president!

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
District II
Becky Fox Matthews, Director
1006 Waller Rd.
Brentwood TN 37027
615-838-1359
becky@lostfrogs.com



Date: 6/3/2026

To: TFGC District II Presidents

Re: District II Presidents Meeting
July 14, 2026; 10:30 a.m.
The John P. Holt Brentwood Library

Brentwood, TN 37027

July 14th 

This is your official call for the Tuesday, July 14, 2025, District II Presidents Meeting at The John P. Holt Brentwood Library, 8109 Concord Road, Brentwood, TN 37027. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

Bonnie Vaughters is a past State President of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi and Deep South Director, as well as a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Board of Directors for 27 years. She will present "Leap Into Leadership" on how to be a good garden club president. Bonnie currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Deep South Region and Garden Clubs of Mississippi and Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs. At the 2026 NGC convention in St. Louis, she received the Golden Circle Award for 25 years of service as a member of the NGC Board of Directors.

It is very important that you, another officer or a representative from your club attend this meeting; all club members are welcome to attend so please share this call letter with your members. Your club must have a representative at this meeting if you wish to receive a Standard or Club of Excellence Certificate.

District committee chairmen and officers will place information about their chairmanships, projects, and events in your President's Folder. Please remember to take the contents of the folder back to share with your club members.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.

Sincerely,
Becky Fox Matthews, District II Director



Roadtrip!!

The Dayton Garden Club
presents

“Healing Beauties”

An NGC Petite Small -Standard Flower Show

Friday, July 24, 2026

Staged at the *Rhea County Welcome Center*
107 Main Street
Dayton, TN 37321

Show Viewing Hours 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Open and Free to the Public



Nature Education Society of Tennessee
&
Center for Environmental Education
present



NEST Wildflower ID Classes

Register now at
<https://www.NEST-TN.org>
Class size limited
\$200/person



In this college level series, NEST founder Leslie Anne Allen will cover the basics to learn how to identify wildflowers by their plant family characteristics. Some of the topics covered will be flower parts, leaf shapes and other botanical terminology to familiarize you with the terms needed for successful navigation of botanical keys and field guides.

This course is taken as a whole and classes are not offered individually.

All classes will meet at the MTSU campus in Murfreesboro on the following days from 1-4:30pm:

***July 26**

August 2,9,16,23 and 30

*July 26th class is a mandatory prerequisite, no make-up class available. You must attend this date to continue in the course.

No refunds after July 26, 2026.

Make-up classes available for August 2-30 classes only, limit 2 per person.

Full terms and conditions can be found at [NEST-TN.org](https://www.NEST-TN.org)

August 22, 2026

Nashville Native Plant Symposium

Rewilding Our Urban Suburban Landscape

August 22, 2026 | 9am - 3:30pm

Southeast Community Center

5260 Hickory Hollow Pkwy #202, Antioch, TN 37013



Visit our website to view presentation summaries and speaker biographies.

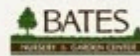
Keynote Speaker, Dwayne Estes PhD

*From Native Plants to Native Ecosystems:
Rewilding Tennessee's Communities*



www.nashvillennativeplantsymposium.org

Thank you to our 2026 lead sponsors!



Eco-Genie



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}

*"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.



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

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





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

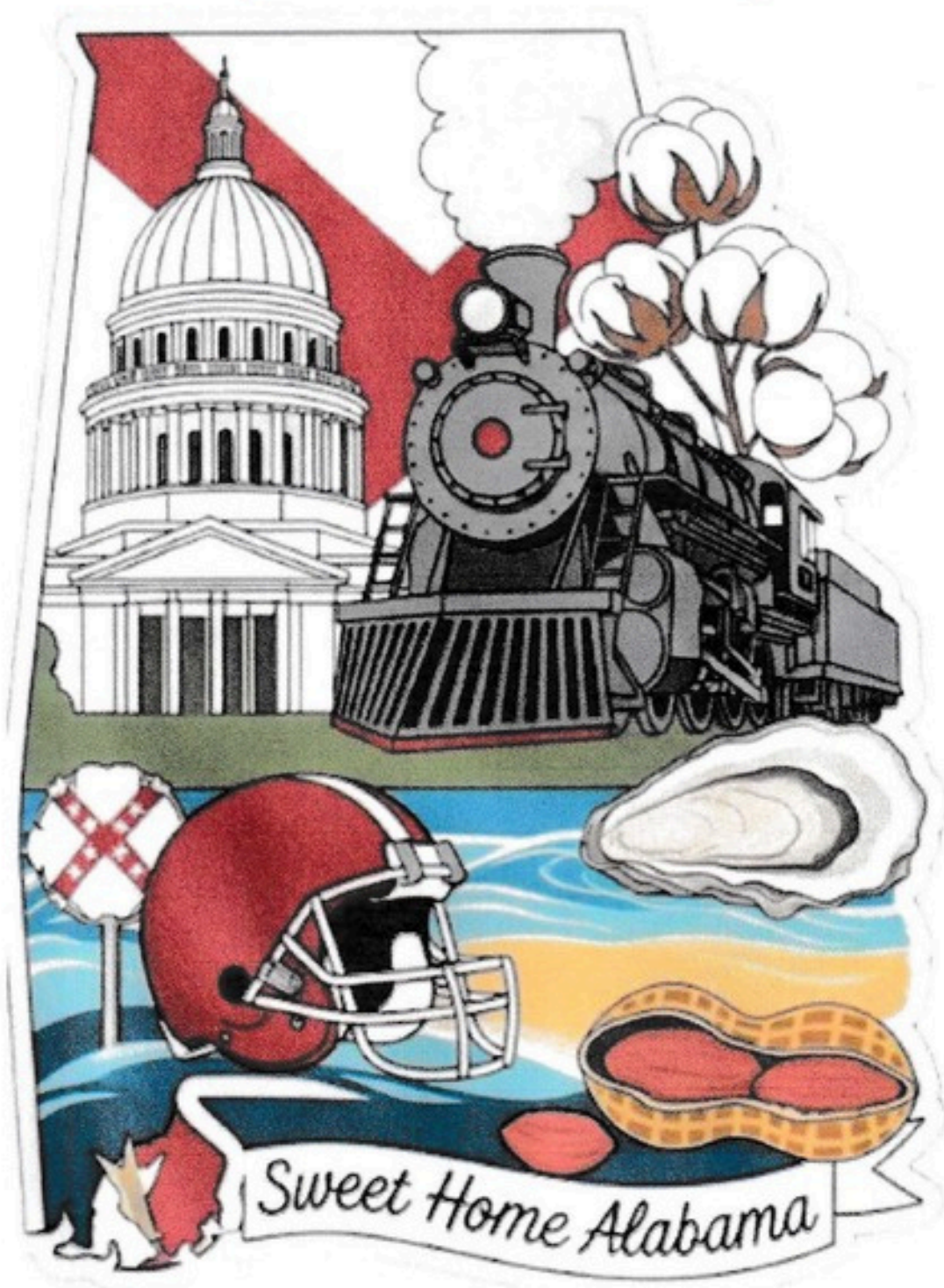


PRESENTS

*Sparkling
Settings*



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



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



Join us at the Walton Ferry
Arboretum for

SERVICE SATURDAYS



**Last Saturday
of every month 8-10 AM**

*Bring water, garden gloves, sunscreen, bug spray
and a hard-working attitude!*



Join us for our monthly Service Saturdays, where volunteers work together on gardening, invasive plant removal, litter cleanup, and beautification efforts to help keep the arboretum a place for all to enjoy!



Brought
to you by



**Keep Walton
Ferry GREEN**

Walton Ferry Arboretum/ESA
Walton Ferry Road
Hendersonville





If you've made it this far,

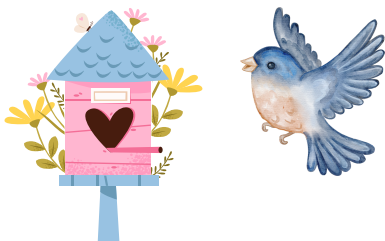
Thank You

for reading the July 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
annabanana7@comcast.net