

The background of the entire page is a lush garden scene. In the foreground, there is a pond with dark, still water reflecting the surrounding greenery. Along the edge of the pond, there are numerous pink tulips in full bloom, interspersed with smaller white daffodils. The tulips have a gradient of pink, from light to a deeper magenta. The daffodils are bright yellow with white centers. In the background, there is a grassy lawn with more daffodils and the trunks of several trees. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and spring-like.

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

District II Newsletter

March 2026

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Message from the District II Director

Becky Fox Matthews

It is hard to believe March is right around the corner as I write this in the middle of February. Early daffodils and hellebores (“Lenten Roses”) and *Galanthus* (“Snowdrops”) are in bloom. The fragrant blossoms of *Edgeworthia chrysantha* (“Paper Bush”) and *Hamamelis virginiana* (“Witch Hazel”) are still in tight bud but should be opening soon.

Besides having a plant addiction, I also collect books. My bedside is usually cluttered with a variety of books I’ve borrowed from the library or purchased to read. My current favorite is Night Magic: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark by Leigh Ann Henion. My recent interest in planting a fragrant Moon Moth Garden led me to this book which is a fun and fascinating read! Who knew that Thomas Edison had a Moon Garden!



So far I’ve learned about salamanders migrating, owls nesting, glowworms squirming, moths pollinating— all needing the darkness of night— and how light pollution affects wildlife that require the dark. And I still have more reading to enjoy from this book. I’m curious now to take a nighttime walk around my own yard and the acre of forest behind our yard that provides shelter and shade to creatures I may never see on my trail cam. And after reading about birds navigating by the stars and fireflies, fungi and maggots (!) that glow in the dark, I’ll be reconsidering some of the lighting around my house and will look forward to exploring the darkness for new wonders to see.

I hope you and your gardens survived Winter Storm Fern without too much damage! I know we are all looking forward to springtime.



Becky

2025-2027 District II Executive Board

Director

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Gateway Acres Garden Club,
Judges Council
1006 Waller Road
Brentwood, TN 37027-8349
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2025-2027 District II Committee Chairmen



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bgaylejaggers@comcast.net
615-352-0762 (home)

Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial

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615-838-1359

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Parliamentarian

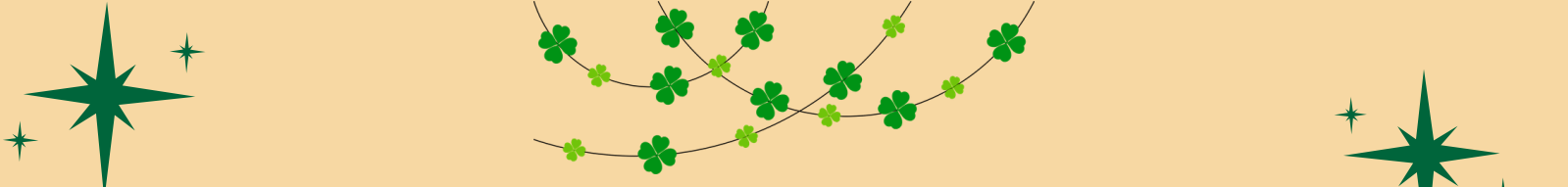
Gwyne Ellis Powers
Country Homes Garden Club
plantprincess2005@yahoo.com
813-833-5907

Vision of Beauty Calendar

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

Ways & Means

Town & Country
Garden Club



Check out the TFGC Website

Updated Forms
Upcoming Events
Volunteer Gardener
News & More!

tngardenclubs.org



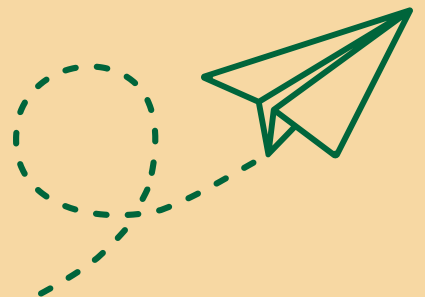


DISTRICT II
CLUB PRESIDENTS,
PLEASE FORWARD THIS
EMAILED NEWSLETTER TO
YOUR CLUB MEMBERS.

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

annabanana7@comcast.net

**THANK
YOU**



"Spring's Subtle Song"

An NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show

Presented by

T. A. G. S.

Tennessee Arrangers & Growers Society

Judges Study Group

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

The Flower Show will be staged in the

Banquet Suite of

Through the Grapevine

630 Broadmor Boulevard

Murfreesboro, TN 37139-0902

Free to the Public with viewing hours:

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

Member of

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. (DSGC)

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (TFGC)

TFGC District II





Annual Herb & Plant Sale



brought to you by



THE HERB SOCIETY OF NASHVILLE

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Please note we are opening earlier this year

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Fairgrounds Nashville - Expo 1

Over 14,000 plants

Herbs, Vegetables, perennials and annuals
including member grown plants

Shop early! Many varieties sell out quickly!

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



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





Annual Plant Sale

Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee

Saturday, April 11, 2026

— 8:30 AM until 1 PM —

FREE Admission and Parking

New Location:

Woodmont Hills Church

3710 Franklin Pike

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



No Pets Allowed



Carts Welcome

Organized by
The Perennial Plant Society
of Middle Tennessee

www.ppsmtn.org

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

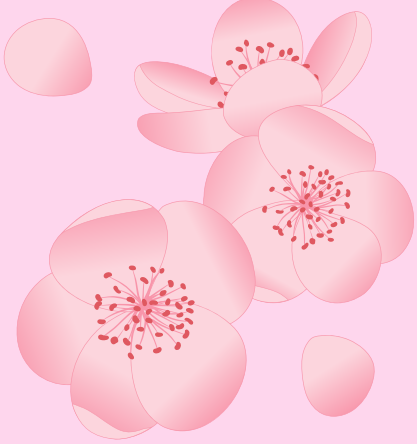
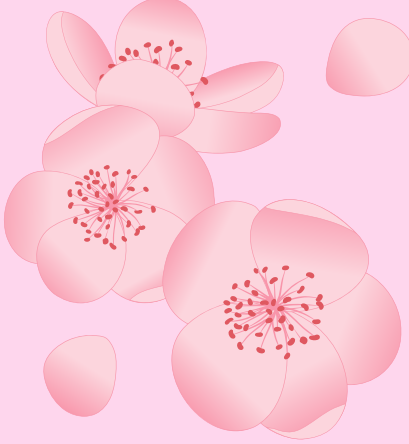
Tennessee Council of Nationally Accredited
Flower Show Judges
of
District II

Will sponsor an
NGC Flower Show Symposium

Monday & Tuesday
April 13 - 14, 2026

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

For more information
Contact Kathy Rychen
kathyrychen@gmail.com



District II



Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

10:00 am

Brentwood Baptist Church

7777 Concord Road

Brentwood



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. 😊**



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

Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.



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



March 14 - 16, 2027



**Embassy Suites by Hilton
Tuscaloosa Alabama Downtown**

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

Registration Information Coming Soon 13

Congratulations **to Bette Ann Fields**

2023-2025 District II Director & Co-president Gateway Acres Garden Club

The World Association of Floral Artists

**will be holding the
WAFA World Flower Show,
“A Land of Contrasts”
in Sydney, Australia
March 17 - 23, 2027.**

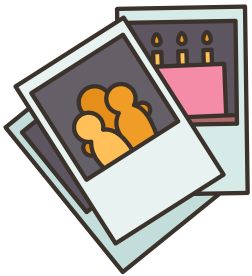
**Bette Ann Fields has been
chosen from “The Americas”
field of qualified international
Master Flower Show Judges to
judge the Honorary Country
Display at Sydney Olympic Park
on March 18, 2027.**





Club News

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

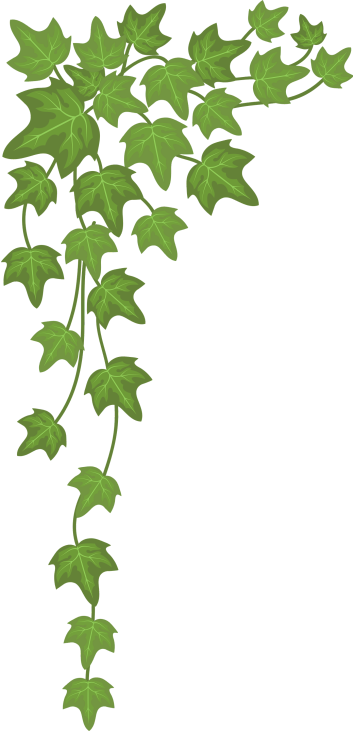


Submission Deadline for
April Newsletter is March 15th.



Franklin County Garden Club

Franklin County Garden Club started 2026 with a new Board. Thank you to Sheree for stepping up to be our leader this year!



After much preparation, the February meeting was held using the new procedures established by the Board with input from members. It's going to be a good year!



TFGC District II Director Becky Fox Matthews was our special guest presenter for February; she has a passion for everything Daffodils!



We had 23 people in attendance at the meeting, including 4 guests and our speaker. Cathy Crownover and Becky Fox Matthews helped judge the 2 designs and 12 horticulture specimens brought in by members.



Broadview Elementary Fifth Graders in Winchester, TN learned about birds and made pinecone bird feeders to take home. Karen Rizzuti was the Franklin County Garden Club team leader teaching the students about birds. The club is excited to welcome spring, and will be working in the school garden soon!



Harpeth Bend Garden Club

February 11, 2026 Meeting

The club met at the home of Marsha Hunt for a Valentines Soup & Sandwich Luncheon, meeting & 2026 planning survey.

Kandee Walker gave a presentation on “The Resurrection Garden” as a possible Easter project.



Red Velvet Cake... Yum!!



Robin Nash & Beth Harlow help Joan Bailey celebrate her recent 90th Birthday!



Robin Nash, Mary Dorning & Jean Pickard congratulated Joan.



Left: Guest Marisa Borchers, vice-president Kandee Walker & secretary Marsha Hunt
Right: "The Resurrection Garden" by Millstone Nursery



Leipers Fork Garden Club

January was the time for us to begin planning for our upcoming year. We were greeted by our hostess, MaryLee Bartlett, in her quaint B & B. We enjoyed some very tasty snacks as well as each other's company. There were some great ideas and suggestions from our members such as dividing plants, birdwatching, and Japanese flower designs that had the most interest. It was unanimous that we are looking forward to spring with some reporting that they had daffodils already blooming.



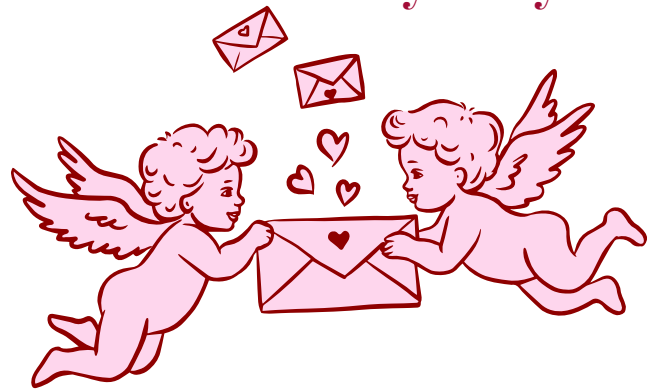
Submitted by Faye Sturm

Optimistic Gardeners Club February 4, 2026 Meeting

**Hostesses:
Trudy, Jeaneen,
Kay, Jeanne
& Kim**



**A beautiful dried wreath
was given to Lillian Hibbett
by Trudy Bain.**



A delectable Valentines luncheon



Submitted by Lillian Hibbett; photos by Julia Wilson

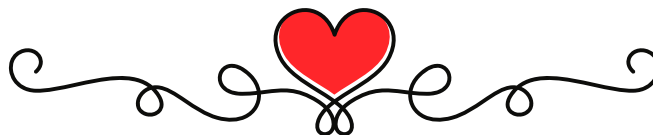
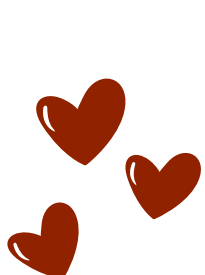


Club president Lillian Hibbett presented an educational exhibit on the Northern Cardinal. Pictured left to right: Mary McCord, Lillian Hibbett, & Rachel Reynolds

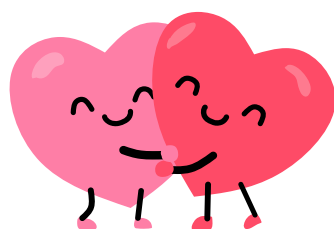


Xeriscape Educational Exhibit by Jenny Reid





**Beautiful table centerpiece arrangements were fashioned
in ribbon embroidery purses!**



Tussie Mussie

A “Tussie Mussie” is a small handheld Victorian-era bouquet, or posy, traditionally composed of fragrant flowers and herbs.

Used to convey secret messages through the “language of flowers” and to mask unpleasant odors, these small bouquets were often held in silver holders or tied with doilies.



Trudy Bain, Jenny Reid & Rachel Reynolds



Julia Wilson, Jan Crossett & Anita Wherry



**Ruth Taylor
led the demonstration**



Sandy Estes, Trudy Bain & Carol Anne Beasley



Rachel Jackson Garden Club

February 19, 2026 Meeting

The program was a Sight Unseen Design Workshop by speaker Kathy Rychen titled "Just Do What You Like". Each member & guest participated by furnishing all components for a Design Standard or Petite, but someone else used the furnished items to create a design, that was judged and critiqued.



"Tulips For One"



"Seeing Red"



"Up, Up & Away"



"Which Way Do I Go?"



"Art in Black & White"



"Hide & Seek
Under The Tree"



"I Want You To Want Me"



"Wiggle Time"

Rachel Jackson Garden Club
Thursday, February 19, 2026
Report on Exhibits - Chairman Kathy Rychen



Division I - Study Design - Section A - Class SD - Entry 1
Exhibitor - Bobbie Wolcott 3rd

"Up and Away We Go"

Design Type -

Cascade HB pg. 73

Plant material

Rosa (Roses)

Unknown Found tree stump

Exhibitor used a Three-dimensional
Staging Panel with matching Underlay
as the Frame of Reference



Division I - Study Design - Section A - Class SD - Entry 2

Exhibitor - Kay Wells 2nd

"A Lenten Palm"

Design Type -

Creative Line Design HB pg. 74

Plant material

Helleborus 'Lenton Rose'

Helleborus 'Pink Frost'

Cycas revoluta 'Sago Palm'

Exhibitor used a Three-
dimensional Staging Panel
without an Underlay as the
Frame of Reference.



Division I - Study Design - Section A -
Class SD - Entry 3

Exhibitor - June Cortner 1st

"Stack Me Up"

Design Type -

Creative Line Mass Design HB pg. 74

Plant material

Solidago canadensis 'Goldenrod'

Aspidistra elatior 'Cast Iron Plant'

Eryngium alpinum 'Sea Holly'

Rosa (Roses)

Exhibitor used a Three-dimensional
Staging Panel with matching Underlay
as a Frame of Reference.



Division I - Study Design - Section A -
Class SD - Entry 4

Exhibitor - Kathy Crownover 2nd

"The Comfort of Green"

Design Type -

Grouped Mass Design HB pg.78

Plant material

Cyperus diffusus 'Papyrus'

Thaumatococcus bipinnatifidum

(Philodendron)

Aspidistra elatior 'Cast Iron Plant'

Beaucarnea recurvata 'Ponytail Palm'

Exhibitor used a Three-dimensional
Staging Panel with matching Underlay
as a Frame of Reference

Town & Country Garden Club

Ladies of the Town & Country Garden Club traveled from Lebanon to Nashville on January 12, 2026 to attend the Winter Meeting of the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee at the Belle Meade Carriage House. The speaker was Margot Shaw, founder & editor-in-chief of *Flower Magazine*.



Cathy Burgman, Karen Dawson, Jo Lovelace & Jane Hundley enjoyed the meeting and festivities.

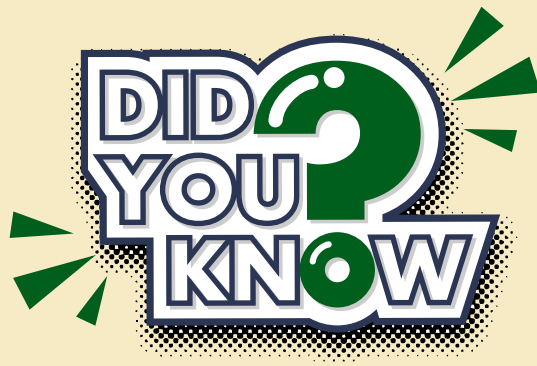
Members of the Town & Country Garden Club & guests attended the second 2026 Deep South Garden Club, Inc. Scholarship Fundraiser at the home of Denise Thorne on January 23, 2026. Club members in attendance included Dr. Jim & Jane Hundley, Cathy & Don Burgman, Jessica Robinson, Gary & Denise Thorne & Karen Dawson.



Door Greeters—Randy Stevens & Gary Thorne



Submitted by Denise Thorne



This flower was used to make glue?

In the past, Bluebell bulbs were used in the production of glue. The mucilage found in the bulbs was extracted and mixed with other ingredients to create a sticky substance that had various uses. Their sticky sap was once a key ingredient in bookbinding, arrow-making, and making starch for stiffening dress ruffles in the 15th Century.



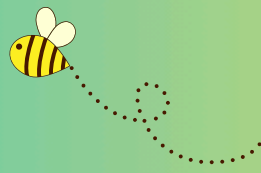
Jolly Sinha is a member of TFGC, the Rachel Jackson Garden Club, New Neighbors Garden Club, T.A.G.S., District II Judges Council, HSMT & the Organization of Floral Art Designers (OFAD). She is a regular contributor to the column “Did You Know?”

Summary of
Upcoming
Events

& Submission Deadlines



March*



9

- Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
2026 Annual Members' Business Meeting & Awards
Presentation—ZOOM Meeting 10:00 am Central Time

15

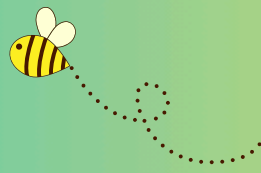
- Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society Spring Meeting
3:00 pm
Bradford Room of The Frist Learning Center
Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville
(Attendees are asked to enter through the back Cheek
Road entrance and park in one of the lots on that end of
the property.)
- Submission deadline for
April District II Newsletter

21

- Middle Tennessee Hosta Society Membership Meeting
1:00 pm
Goodlettsville Branch of the Nashville Public Library
205 Rivergate Parkway Goodlettsville, TN
Lesley & Taylor Wortham present:
“From Seed to Sprout: Mastering Soil Blocking Indoors”



March*



28-29

- **Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society Daffodil Show**

Massey Auditorium in Botanic Hall

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville

Saturday and Sunday, March 28 & 29

ENTRIES are from 7:00 am - 10:15 am Saturday morning.

The show is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Saturday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm &

Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

The show will include horticulture, floral design, photography and art.

Contact Becky Fox Matthews at becky@lostfrogs.com or cell: 615-838-1359 for more information.

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- **An NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show**

“Spring’s Subtle Song”

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

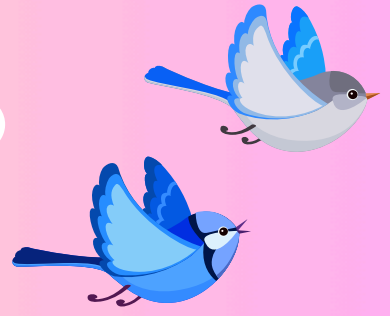
Opens at 1:00 pm. Closes at 3:00 pm.

Banquet Suite of “Through the Grapevine”

630 Broadmor Blvd. Murfreesboro



April



1

- **Submission Deadline for Spring Volunteer Gardener**

11

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

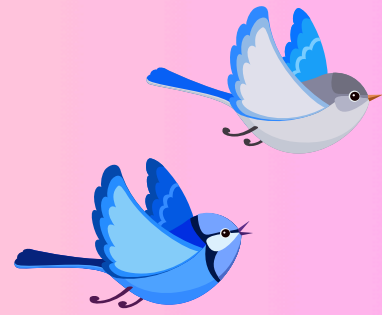
- **Perennial Plant Society Plant Sale
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Woodmont Hills Church
3710 Franklin Pike Nashville**

13

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



April



13-14

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

15

- Submission Deadline for May District II Newsletter

24

- National Arbor Day!



29

- Spring District II Meeting
10:00 am
Brentwood Baptist Church
7777 Concord Road Brentwood





2

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

4 - 6

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

15

- Submission Deadline for
June District II Newsletter

16

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



Bees

Ways you can help the bees



Keep honey bees



Purchase sustainable honey



Create bee-friendly spaces



Remove swarms responsibly



Create a bee bath



Plant trees for bees



Provide homes for native bees



Avoid pesticides & herbicides



Skip weeding your garden



Don't harm bees



Teach kids about bees



Leave garden stems in winter

