Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Fall 2026
Volunteer Gardener

tngardenclubs.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION INFORMATION

4 GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEER GARDENER SUBMISSIONS

5 TFGC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Lelia Haley Johnson

7 PRESIDENT'S AWARD SUBMISSION INFORMATION
Lelia Haley Johnson

8 AUTUMN DEVOTION
Starr Alexander

10 IVAN RACHEFF HOUSE & GARDENS INFORMATION

27 MESSAGE FROM TFGC STATE AWARDS CHAIRMAN
Debbie Shaver

28 IMPORTANT FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE INFORMATION
Lelia Haley Johnson

29 CONSERVATION CAMP: MESSAGE FROM MOTHER NATURE
Anne Leonard

31 TFGC, DEEP SOUTH, NGC REPORTS & OPPORTUNITIES

48 CLUB NEWS & EVENTS—DISTRICTS I, II, III & IV

109 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

112 FEATURED POETRY
Sandy Estes

113 YOUTH GARDENING

121 TRIBUTE TO DOLLY

122 NOTE FROM THE EDITOR
Anna Marie Allen



The ***Volunteer Gardener*** is the official publication of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Lelia Johnson, TFGC President
3475 Brighton Blvd. N.W.
Cleveland, TN 37312
l.johnson924@yahoo.com
423-593-7528

Denise Thorne, Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Director
402 Bass Road
Watertown, TN 37184
denise@tec63.com
615-289-2138

Donna Donnelly, National Garden Clubs, Inc. President
4494 McCords Ferry Road
Elloree, SC 29047-9781
dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org
843-864-7594

Guidelines for *Volunteer Gardener (VG)* Submissions





Deadlines for Submissions:

- January 1 for *Winter VG*
- April 1 for *Spring VG*
- July 1 for *Summer VG*
- October 1 for *Fall VG*

- Please submit articles and photos to the TFGC Website tngardenclubs.org

- A "Message from the District Director" is welcomed from all Districts in each VG edition.

- The *VG* editor wants to be fair to all four TFGC Districts in sharing information in the magazine. If the editor receives a disproportionate number of articles from one District, articles & photos will be included in the order they were received, and some articles may be saved for the next *VG* edition.

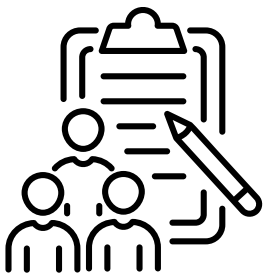
- Format of articles: Because there are many levels of technologic sophistication among club members, the editor will accept a full spectrum of submissions:
—simply a text or email with photos and a description of the club project without any formatting, and the editor will format it for you.
—Please list names of club members in the photos, L. to R.
—Word or Adobe PDF document is acceptable.

- If there are photos of youth and your club does not have written parental consent to publish the youth's photo, the youths' faces will be obscured.

- Length of article:
—Max of 3 pages if submitted in Word or PDF format
—Max of 10 photos if photos and text/article are submitted without formatting

- If you have creative club members who like to write or take photos, please encourage them to submit articles, poems or photos that would be of interest to TFGC. The member and their club will be recognized in a "Special Feature". At the end of each year, outstanding articles, photography and poetry will be nominated by the VG editor for a #68 B, C or D TFGC State Award.

Thanks,
Anna Marie Allen
Volunteer Gardener Editor
annabanana7@comcast.net
text: 615-477-3030



A Message from the 2025 - 2027

TFGC President Lelia Haley Johnson



Hello, TFGC Members:

And goodbye summer with all your excesses....the heat, the rain, the drought, the wind. Nonetheless, I hope you found pleasure somewhere in those days.

We have many good days in the near future. Let me mention a few. There are District Flower Shows listed on the website. Fall District Membership Meetings are scheduled, and I plan to attend each:

District I, October 5 at the Botanical Garden in Memphis.
District II, November 2 at Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Lebanon.
District III, October 30 at the Dayton Welcome Center.
District IV October 16 at the Fox Den Country Club.

Can you guess what is fun, casual, crafty, leisurely, informative, and delicious? It is our biennial Conservation Camp **"Mother Nature Wants You"** in Beersheba Springs. There are still a couple places available. Registration details are on the website too.

October 12th, afternoon, Early Arrival.
October 13th, 10:30-12:00, Annual Meeting.
October 13th, 12:00pm Camp Kickoff
October 14th, All day events and leisure.
October 15th, Breakfast and farewell.

Remember Awards! For the 8th year, Debbie Shaver and her cracker-jack team are poised to judge your Books of Evidence. Bring on the descriptions of your projects.

District Award Books are due to your District Awards Chairman by December 1, 2026.
State Award Books are due to Debbie by January 1, 2027
The President's Award Applications are due to me by January 31, 2027.

Please, check for details in the Awards section of this *Volunteer Gardener*.

Have you ever walked in the gardens of our state headquarters? Have you seen Ivan Racheff's Office? Did you know that his stair elevator chair is in working condition. Perhaps we should sell raffle tickets for a ride at Convention. A Racheff visit is on the schedule. Do not miss the 2027 TFGC Convention, April 21-23 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Knoxville West. Dr. Janet Brown and her team are almost ready with a packed agenda, the usual and the unusual. Did you know you have been BETWIX for 100 years?

This administration has been working hard at Racheff for the past 19 months. Much has been accomplished but there is still so much to do. It can only happen with your help... in-kind donations, volunteer labor, money. As you know my President's Ways and Means Project is Racheff. This issue of the VG has a list of Ways & Means contributors along with a list of improvements needed and those accomplished. Please, take a look.

There has been a smile on my face for months. I am celebrating the addition of three new clubs to TFGC. They have a combined membership of 265. Well done, Ladies. You have invited friends and strangers to meetings. Then you invited them again. You have shown them what TFGC has to offer in friendship, knowledge, and fun. By your examples you have attracted others. Keep igniting the spark in them that you found once upon a time.

In closing, I look forward to continuing to work with each of you. Your talent, knowledge, dedication, and passion for gardening make up the fibers of TFGC, "our coat of many colors."

Lelia Haley Johnson
TFGC President
2025-2027

President's Award

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Theme: "Plant Tennessee for Years of Greens"

Project: Plant the Flowers and Vegetables that have Endured Through the Last Century.

Share Your Favorites

An individual and/or a club may submit pictures of your flower or vegetable gardens showing and naming the plants used as part of the 2026 TFGC 100th year celebration.

There will be an award for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. All entries will receive a certificate of appreciation.

Please submit your information to Lelia Johnson with at least 2 pages showing and describing the plants. Submission Deadline is January 31, 2027.

Send to:
Lelia Johnson
3475 Brighton Blvd. NW
Cleveland, TN 37312
l.johnson924@yahoo.com

Autumn Devotion

by Starr Alexander

It's October, and Autumn has finally arrived, with all the sights and sounds that make it the most breathtakingly beautiful of all the seasons.

The days grow shorter and begin their descent into winter. The cooler mornings with a hint of frost are the harbinger of the long season of winter that is almost upon us. I breathe deeply and enjoy the sharpness of air in my lungs, and the smell of the fallen leaves crackling underneath my feet brings back childhood memories of piling them up, just to jump in the midst of them and watch the varied colors scatter all around.

The sky is a cornflower blue and the brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow leaves reflecting against it make me stop and just hold my breath at the perfect symmetry of this autumn canvas.

It's harvest time and October's colors reflect this theme. The browns, rust and deep yellow of the gourds, along with the bright orange of the pumpkins, sit row upon row against the now dormant stalks of corn, their duty over for yet another season.



The birds await my generosity at the feeders. The cardinals and jays taking turns with the doves and chickadees. The occasional, but much welcomed, woodpecker signals his return to the neighborhood with the rhythmic tapping on the maple beside the garage, and the flashes of red feathers compete with the cardinals in the trees.

I hear the honking of the Canadian Geese, and thrill at the sight of them sailing through the brilliant blue sky in their familiar V-pattern. I feel a little sad that this season is so short-lived, and yet renewed that it makes up for it with all the magnificent colors available to us. The chrysanthemums with all their glorious shades of yellow, burgundy, and burnt orange are on every porch, and the aroma of hot cider and taste of crisp apples complete the assault on our senses at this time of year.

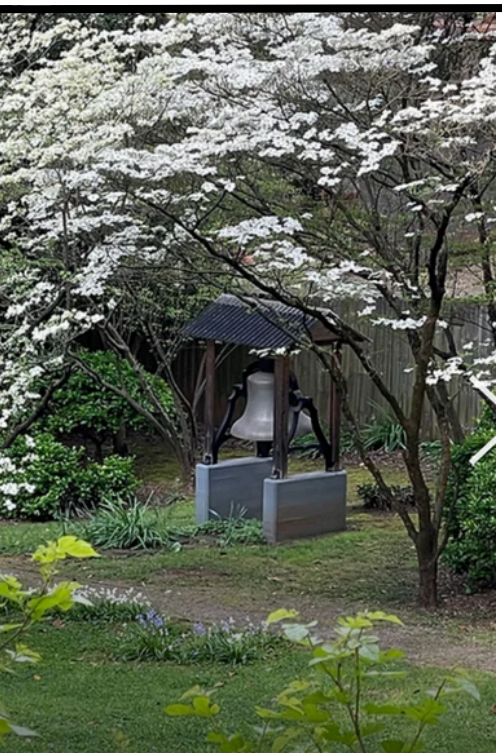
I heard something the other day, that said that the changing of the leaves this time of year is just nature's way of conserving food for the trees for the winter, but I prefer to believe that there's more to it than that explanation. I know that it's God's handiwork, the One who is present in all of us and in nature, and who is the greatest artist of all.

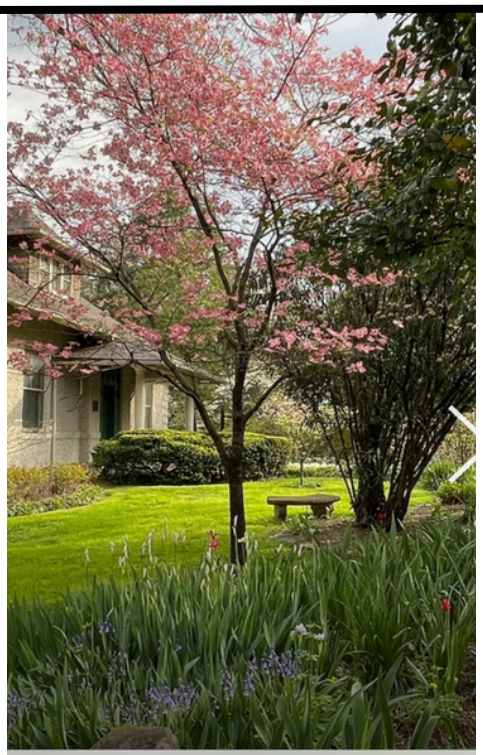
Starr Alexander is a member of the Hickory Valley Garden Club—District III

Ivan Racheff House & Gardens & Arboretum

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
State Headquarters

Ivan Racheff House & Gardens
TFGC Headquarters Arboretum Level II
1943 Tennessee Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921-2686
865-522-6210
racheffhouseandgardens.com







Plant America 250 Red, White and Blue Garden Dedication to Honor Veterans

Please join the National Garden Clubs, Inc., & Tuckaleechee Garden Club, TFGC District IV



Thursday, October 8, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.

Ivan Racheff House and Gardens

1943 Tennessee Avenue

Knoxville,TN 37921

For additional information, Contact: TFGC Inc., District IV Blue Star/Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chair Janie Bitner, Janie.bitner@live.com

This event will be held rain or shine.

Hello Fellow Gardeners and Friends,

Please join us for the dedication of our Red, White, and Blue Garden promoted by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. as part of their *PLANT AMERICA* theme, encouraging communities to plant red, white, and blue gardens to foster civic beauty and environmental stewardship.

The purpose of this garden is to commemorate and celebrate our nation's semiquincentennial and bring attention and recognition to Blue and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers. This garden is within the Ivan Racheff Gardens & Arboretum located in Knoxville, TN, which is open and free to the public. It is also the state headquarters of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs. The garden has been designed by Dr. Sue Hamilton, a retired horticulture professor and current president of the Tuckaleechee Garden Club, which is in District IV of the TFGC. The garden bed currently includes a USA flagpole and both Blue and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers. The red, white and blue theme is showcased in a variety of plant materials which include evergreen and deciduous shrubs as well as perennials, all with varied textures, forms, flowers, and showy berries and bark. The combined plants provide a dynamic garden which will be ever-changing throughout the seasons and always showcasing red, white, and blue. Plants have been labeled with professional aluminum labels to enhance the educational value of the garden.

Refreshments, music, posting of colors, a flag ceremony, and a bagpiper will be part of the dedication ceremony.

Please make plans to join us in honoring our veterans.

Thursday, October 8, 2026—10:00 a.m.
Ivan Racheff House & Gardens
1943 Tennessee Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921



All the best,
Janie Bitner
TFGC, Inc. District IV
Blue Star/Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chair
865-474-0882
janie.bitner@live.com

Please Join Us for

The Ivan Racheff House & Gardens

2026 Greens Tea

Friday, December 4, 2026

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST

1943 Tennessee Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921



Racheff Committee Meeting

Monday, July 13, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Lelia Johnson who asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance led by Karen Dawson. Lelia asked LaQuita Misner about the minutes of the June meeting. LaQuita asked if everyone had received the minutes of the April meeting prepared by Lori Emery and for additions or corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as emailed.

Agenda Approval: Lelia asked if there were any items that need to be added to the agenda. Hearing no additions, the motion was made by Lori Emery to accept the agenda as presented. Karen Dawson seconded the motion and the agenda was adopted.

Treasurer's Report:

Karen Dawson provided details of the July treasurer's report. Ending balances as of June 30, 2026 are as f ollows:

Operating Account Balance: $ 1188.03

Payroll Account balance: $219.67

Gardens Account balance: $30.38

Wells Fargo balance: $323,828.53

Available balance: $850.39

Coca Cola stock value: approximately $11,454.00

Karen reported that we have a deficit of $2171.97. With no questions, the report was filed for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Lori Emery reported thank you notes to Murray Hill GC, Tyne Meade GC, and Chapman Highway GC. Thank you notes have been sent.
LaQuita Misner asked for the proper way to send in donations to Racheff. Lori reported that she receives some donation information from Karen Dawson who picks donations up from the Racheff P.O. Box. Marilyn Smith shared that she also receives donations for IRHG. She sends the money over to the Racheff account and informs Lori of the donors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Current Leadership Roster/Needs:

Needs: Assistant Treasurer Gift Shop

Bulb Sale/Plant Sale Greens Tea

Gardens Chair Ways and Means

EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, July 13 - Racheff Committee Meeting, 1-3

Wed., July 8 & 22 - Master Gardeners at Racheff, 9-12

Tuesday, July 21 - TFGC 2027 State Convention Mtg, 11-1

Thursday, July 30 - Mustard Seed Camp preparation

Thursday, August 6 - Knox County Council Meeting, 9-2

Monday, August 10 - Racheff Committee Meeting, 1-3

Wed., August 12 & 26 - Master Gardeners at Racheff, 9-12

1

Sue Hamilton asked if she could add something to the calendar. Lelia invited her to tell us about her event. Sue has plans to have a dedication ceremony for Blue and Gold Star Marker Garden on Thursday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m. Since there are no events on the office calendar, the item was placed on the date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOUSE: Lelia called for this report to be moved up on the agenda to allow for Hector Camargo, our contractor, to give a report on the upstairs leak off of balcony #2. Since Hector was not onsite yet, Connie Barker, House Chairman, shared that with the heavy rains, leaking is occurring in two rooms, the back kitchen and the small meeting room. Hector believes we might have one leak from the balcony and one leak from the roof. He cannot get up on the roof to see and is going to get a roofer he knows to look at it.

Connie reports there is hornet's nest in a dead tree in the front corner of the garden near the Mill entrance. She will contact Terminix to remove it. After investigation, it is time for our quarterly visit from them. So, Connie will call and make sure they take care of the nest on their scheduled visit.

Connie has checked and changed out all air filters in the house. Lelia asked about the large return air duct in the main room by the entrance to the small kitchen door. No one had knowledge of that duct.

Upon his arrival after the meeting, Hector removed the vent cover to discover there was no filter on it.

Connie will get the correct filter and Hector will install it right away.

Connie reports that Pam had checked the humidifier downstairs and emptied the collection basin. This task needs to be added to the weekly checklist.

** Tasks still to complete from initial list: repair/replace the ceiling in the main bedroom upstairs and repair the toilet in the small office in the back. The commodes upstairs remain unusable.

LaQuita has reached out to the locksmith working on the internal mechanism for the front door. He has sent over two options which we will evaluate.

FRIENDS OF RACHEFF/MEMORIAL WALL: Linda Ford was not in attendance, but LaQuita had received her report via email. She reports work continues on Plaque #7 as she has received the names of members from now folded Smoky Mountain Garden Club and the 2026 Iris award winners from Linda Daniels.
The Memorial Wall has added two names. One plaque has been received and the second is on order. The Plaques will be installed by Mike James when both are ready.

GARDENS:

We had scheduled a company to come to the gardens today to look over the entire space for leaks. At the Last moment, they informed us that they work inside homes and businesses primarily and were not structured to find outdoor leaks. So, now we will be on the quest to find another company to do the evaluation.

BLUE/GOLD STAR MARKER GARDEN: Sue Hamilton updated the committee on the garden. Plant labels have all been installed and pre- and post-emergent weed control and fertilizer applied. Dedication ceremony to be held in October (see notice above at Calendar).

PLANT IT PINK GARDEN: Lori Emery reports that she is currently doing routine maintenance.

INVESTMENTS: Karen Dawson shared that additional items were needed to sell the Coca Cola stock. She and President Lelia Johnson will meet at Regions Bank Eastridge next week on July 16 to complete the paperwork. Currently we own 162 shares with an approximate value of $13,065.00

Lelia informed the committee that she had invited representatives from each district to join with the Racheff

Investment sub-committee to evaluate what to do with the IRH&G investment funds. Representatives are: Bonnie Vaughters and Phyllis Allen from District I, June Gilmore and Karen Dawson from District II, Evelyn Davis and Maggi Burns will represent District III and Kathleen Boryla-Payne and LaQuita Misner will serve for District IV.
The committee has met twice to date and is still gathering information from various institutions. The next meeting will be Monday, July 20, 2026 via Zoom.

PUBLICITY: LaQuita Misner has learned of an opportunity to represent IRH&G at the East Tennessee History Fair on Saturday, August 15, 2026. There is no fee. We will have to supply our own table and chairs for the event. She asked for permission to take part in the event on behalf of the committee and asked for volunteers to assist her.
Support for the IRH&G website was cancelled when it came due. Updated Racheff information is now on the TFGC website and we are working with Janeene Larkin-Horne and Shannon Thurman on how to move information requests to the committee for response.
Lori Emery will handle the Face Book page.

RACHEFF MANUAL:
LaQuita has completed work on the updates of the Racheff Committee Manual. The committee set to assist in this process has received a copy and had two months to look it over for additions, deletions or correction. Approval has been forthcoming from Maggi Burns and Lelia Johnson from the committee.
The manual will now be presented to the TFGC Board of Directors for their evaluation and approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Carole Whited has recently been in contact with Chris Miles, manager of Commercial Metals Corporation. She would like to invite him to our meetings and ask him to be on our board. She shared that the previous manager used to attend each meeting of the committee and supply information if asked. The group discussed whether he could legally be on our board since the rule has always required membership in TFGC.

Lelia and LaQuita had gone over and met with Mr. Miles prior to this meeting and found him to be very knowledgeable about Racheff, with facts about who had built things on the property and ways in which the company had helped over the years. He is interested in how they can be involved but have to be careful of any danger to the company employees. He provided us with referrals for work needing to be done currently. We

did invite him to our meetings and informed him we would include him on the distribution list for the minutes of committee meetings.

President Johnson asked if there was any other business to come before the committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

In attendance: Lelia Johnson, Gloria Harris, Marilyn Smith, Evelyn Davis, Karen Dawson, Connie Barker, LaQuita Misner, Carole Whited, Kathleen Boryla-Payne, Sue Hamilton and Lori Emery.
Zoom attendees: Phyllis Allen

Respectfully submitted,
LaQuita Misner.
Interim Recording Secretary



Racheff Committee Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chairman Lelia Johnson who asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance led by Carole Whited. She then introduced Chris Miles, Area Environmental Manager at Commercial Metals Corporation next door. Lelia invited Chris to come up and address the Zoom attendees as he gave a brief about himself and the company's involvement with Racheff.

Lelia asked LaQuita Misner about the minutes of the July meeting. LaQuita asked if everyone had received the minutes of that meeting via email on Friday or Saturday and for additions or corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as emailed.

Agenda Approval: Lelia asked if there were any items that need to be added to the agenda. Hearing no additions, she asked for a motion to accept the agenda as presented. LaQuita Misner made that motion, June Gilmore seconded and the agenda was adopted.

Treasurer's Report:

Karen Dawson provided details of the July treasurer's report. Ending balances as of July 31, 2026 are as follows:

Operating Account Balance: $ 1935.18
Payroll Account balance: $ 1024.83
Gardens Account balance: $ 196.40
Wells Fargo balance: $ 326,152.97
Available balance: $ 761.00

LaQuita Misner asked that the expense listed as Garden Club be listed as Garden Expense so as not to confuse with money being donated. Additionally, she asked why the $152 listed in the donations to Friends of Racheff was not credited under Restricted Funds (International Bronze) to be held in reserve for the purchase of the next plaque. Karen did not understand that we had asked that money be held to cover the next plaque until the amount need was met. She will add that amount to reflect the balance in that Designated Fund is $ 367.00. She will adjust that on the fund and the designated fund total which will now be $ 4,712.00 which changes the Available Operating Funds amount to (2,776.82).

Connie Barker made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with corrections. June Gilmore made the second and report will be filed for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Lori Emery reported via Zoom that she will send a card to Jan Brown following Mike's passing. LaQuita Misner passed around the service information for Mike along with the Meal Train link set up by Suzan Bowman to provide meals for the family.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Current Leadership Roster/Needs:

Needs: Assistant Treasurer
Bulb Sale/Plant Sale
Gardens Chair
Gift Shop
Greens Tea
Ways and Means

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, July30-	*Mustard Seed Camp prep*
Friday, July 31-	*Mustard Seed Camp, 9-4*
Thursday, August6-	*Knox Co. Council Meeting, 9:30-1:30*
Monday, August10-	*Racheff Committee Meeting, 1-3*
Wed., August 12&26-	*Master Gardeners at Racheff, 9-12*
Wed; August 19-	*2027 TFGC Convention Zoom, 11:00*
Monday, September14-	*Racheff Committee Meeting, 1-3*
Thursday, October10-	*Blue & Gold Star Marker Garden Dedication, 10:00*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIENDS OF RACHEFF/MEMORIAL WALL: Linda Ford was not in attendance, so Kathleen Boryla-Payne gave a report via Zoom. Linda Ford has received two more names to place on the plaque and the plan is still to reveal the next plaque at the DIV meeting in October.

GARDENS:

Sue Hamilton,KathleenBoryla-Payneand their husbands, Ron and Walter have inspected the lower gardens with Pam to mapoutwherethewaterlines, valves and spigots are located. Last week, they inspected each individual spigotforfunctionalityandleakage. She is submitting a report that is good news. There are only a few spigots notfunctioningproperly.Approximate cost is $ 128.00. The report will be attached to these minutes. Today, they haveinspectedthetwospigots in the upper garden that run off of the house and both are in good working condition.

Additionally,theyhaveevaluatedthepond in the lower garden. It actually functions as a lake with water continuallyseepingbackdownintothewell. It has a new pump (replaced under warranty June 2026) that feeds water to twolocations(upperendandlower end). When water valve is placed at half, the upper end of the lake is fed, andwhenwatervalveisopenallthe way, both upper and lower ends are fed. The timer box for the pump Is very oldandneedstobeupgraded.Cost would be approximately $ 38.00. In the same location, the main breaker isfallingoffofthewall.Nocostto reattach with longer bolts.

Finally, theelectriclinetotheMemorialWall fountain has been severed. Recommended that we make an appointmenttogetanelectriccompanyto give us an estimate on cost to repair. We previously secured a bid from BroadwayElectricfor$2500.00torun a new line to the fountain. Recommend that we do not use them after they chargedusobscenefeetochange a few light bulbs in the elevated entryway. Suggested we might also consider solarpoweredpumpsincetechnology with them has come so far.

Sue reportsthatsheandherhusbandhave asked to kill the weeds in the lawn of the upper gardens. They will hold offofthatactivityuntilwedecide if we are going to dig up the electric line to the fountain.

BLUE/GOLDSTARMARKERGARDEN:

SueHamiltonreportsthegardenis looking good and a dedication has been scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

PLANT IT PINK GARDEN:
Lori Emery reports that she is currently looking at replacing mulch that has washed out during heavy rains. Sue Hamilton asked if she was using shredded bark and recommended it because it is better at staying in place. Also, there are rocks in the upper gardens not being used if that could be a solution.

HOUSE:
Connie Barker reports that Terminix was here for the quarterly inspection. Entire house was sprayed for pests, all traps were checked, emptied and reset. Terminix sprayed the hornet's nest thoroughly in a dead tree on the corner of the upper garden. She has changed all the filters except for the one large return-air vent that had to be special ordered. The wisteria over the pergola was sprayed for kudzu worms which will kill the wisteria.
Additionally, Hector has resurfaced the balcony. He scraped the old sealant off and reapplied fresh. He is here today to inspect whether that has resolved the small meeting room ceiling.
The back kitchen ceiling leak was addressed last week when Jon Grindell from Tennessee Roofing Plus came by to evaluate the problem. He looked through all of our rooms upstairs and down and then said he would be inspecting the roof with his drone. He will send a report with a recommendation for repairs/costs when he has it prepared. His first observation is that the flashing/drain tiles were not done properly when the roof was replaced.
During Mustard Seed Camp, Connie Barker met with a parent who is a new professor at UT in the College of Plant Sciences, Sustainable Landscape Design & Construction. He wanted to discuss the ramp on our property and Proposed the use of some of his students to rebuild it. Connie has since attempted to email his using the contact information he provided with no luck. Sue Hamilton might be able to assist us in finding the contact information.
Finally, Connie reports that the only remaining item on her original report of repairs is the upstairs bedroom ceiling where the plaster has failed resulting in holes to the roof. We need to research finding a plasterer who can bid the project.

INVESTMENTS:
Lelia asked those who had been directed to check into advisors give a report of their findings. Karen Dawson has me with Noelle Lewis at Edward Jones Knoxville. Noelle can transfer our portfolio as is with no transaction fee. They can act as a holding company with the IRHG board making investment decisions or they can charge us an annual 1.35% fee to act as a fiduciary, giving us advice and investing our funds as we direct.
Kathleen Boryla-Payne asked us how much they would charge to close our account. The answer was $50.00.

Evelyn Davis shared that she has spoken with Ava Elkins at Raymond James Knoxville. She has shared our Wells Fargo information as well as reports on our needs/income to the broker. It will take approximately two weeks for them to evaluate our situation and make a determination.
She also spoke with Preston Price and got more information to him in order to have a more complete proposal of how he could help us.
President Johnson will schedule a Zoom meeting when all information has been collected.

Lastly, Karen Dawson reports that we received a check from part of the Coca Cola stock sale. We have a check for $6985.30 for the first 800 shares. We should be getting another check for the balance of 82.465 shares shortly.

PUBLICITY:
LaQuita Misner will be representing IRH&G at the East Tennessee History Fair on Saturday, August 15, 2026. We will have to supply our own table and chairs for the event. She asked for volunteers to help fold the brochures she has on hand for the event. Chris Miles, CMC, volunteered to print 100 more for the committee and Sue Hamilton Volunteered to make the correction of the P. O. Box number on the flyers for us. Thanks to all.

WEBSITE:
Support for the IRH&G website was cancelled when it came due. Updated Racheff information is now on the TFGC website and we are working with Janeene Larkin-Horne and Shannon Thurman to link Racheff to the TFGC website carrier.
The sign on the front gate needs to be updated with the TFGC website information and other avenues for distribution of the new information need to be identified. The district directors need to be notified to share the information with their presidents and garden club members.

NEW BUSINESS

INSURANCE: Karen Dawson reports that we had an in-person meeting with our insurance agent prior to the general meeting to discuss our current policy, changes and coverage. Currently we are paying $8069 for building, contents and business income coverage. The policy premium will increase by $110.00 to $ 8179.00 beginning on 09/20/26 through 09/20/2027. Other companies were approached for comparison with no better results. The deductible on this policy is $2500.00 and it is a replacement policy. Coverage includes the buildings and structures, and persons volunteering, employed or using the property. Our surety bond will need to be moved as that company carrying it currently is ceasing that coverage. We currently have coverage under the main policy, but Will need to increase the amount to $1,000,000. Mr. Blount will inform us of the premium adjustment for that.

We will continue to maintain a workers compensation policy. Mr. Blount will convey an amount it would cost to move that coverage to his agency, but felt we were getting a good deal where we were already. He will remove the name of Hal Watts as a renter on our policy.

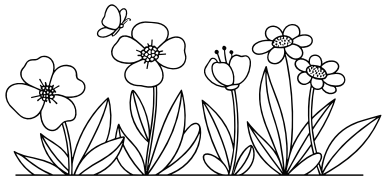
GREENS TEA 2026:
December 4 will be here before we know it. Lelia Johnson will set up a Zoom meeting to discuss ideas and plans for the event. Look for an email invitation.

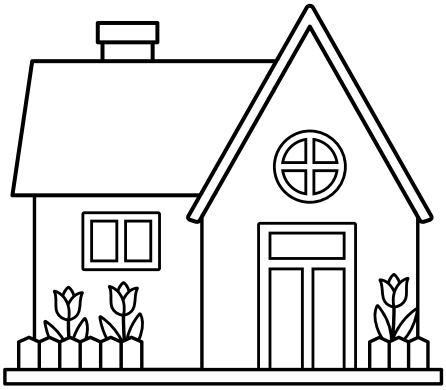
Sevierville Garden Club is presenting a flower show at the Tennessee Valley Fair the weekend of September 11-13, 2026 from 1p.m.-6p.m. at the Kerr Building in Chilhowee Park, 3301 E. Magnolia Avenue, 37914

President Johnson asked if there was any other business to come before the committee. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

In attendance: Lelia Johnson, Gloria Harris, Marilyn Smith, Evelyn Davis, Karen Dawson, Connie Barker, LaQuita Misner, Carole Whited, Sue Hamilton and Catherine Bell.
Zoom attendees: Phyllis Allen, Kathleen Boryla-Payne, Lori Emery, and Bonnie Vaughters.

Respectfully submitted,
LaQuita Misner.
Interim Recording Secretary









Ivan Racheff House
"Let's Get it Done!" List

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
Attic	Ceiling	Needs access panel installed where A/C ductwork goes into attic from HVAC mechanical room						
Attic	Insulation	Insulation missing or damaged from leaks						
Back office bathroom	Ceiling tile	Ceiling tile needs to be replaced						
Balcony	Ceiling	Balcony from Upstairs bathroom ,outer storage closet ceiling panel loose						
Balcony	Door	Balcony from upstairs bathroom , door slider screen off the track						
Balcony	Structure	1.Balcony over meeting room. Repair leak before continued exposure compromises structure : UPD 9/12/2026 Leak due to incorrect pitch of floor and stopped up drain. Repairs Trinity Construction & Hector Camargo 2. Balcony over small meeting room leak on exterior side wall of balcony into wall and ceiling of small meeting room, also need gutter repair				Safety		1. Oct. 2025

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
Basement	Door	Need threshold on door; entry for snakes, rodents and insects				Health		
Basement	Furnace	Not working and control board was rejplaced by Josh York $550						12/2/2025
Bathroom by North bedroom	Plumbing	Plumbing condition unknown.UPD 9/12/26 water is turned off need plumber to look at plumbing for toilet and sink.						
Bathroom by North bedroom	Wall Covering	Ceiling and wall cracks						
Dining room	Closet	Full of material and linens ; needs to be organized and unused materials donated						
Entrance	Ceiling Tile	One Ceiling tile need to be replaced. - UPD 9/12/26 previous small leak around plumbing pipe from upstairs						Feb. 2026
Entrance	Door	Front door and side door Gasket Weatherstrip Seal						Feb. 2026
Entry Hall/Stairwell	Wall Covering	Wallpaper lifting at seams						Apr. 2026

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
Front Kitchen	Plumbing	Sink leaked water into cabinet and on to the floor due to worn out sink drain and P-trap . UPD Apr. 2026 Sink still not draining, old galvanized pipe replaced with pvc from sink opening to connection in wall			12/4/2025			4/6/2026
Gift shop	Ceiling Tile	Ceiling tile needs to be replaced						
Gift shop	Lighting fixtures	Cover missing from florescent light fixture						replaced
Green bathroom	Ceiling tile	Ceiling tile needs to be replaced						
Green bathroom	Wall Covering	Wallpaper loose						Apr. 2026
Green bathroom	Window	Caulking around window needed						
Library	Ceilling Tile	Stained ceiling tiles need to be replace						
Main Entry	Exterior door	Side panel glass pane broken						
Main kitchen	Cabinentry	Kitchen drawer center guide missing; inoperable						Repaired Dec. 2025

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
Main kitchen	Ceiling tile	Ceiling tiles stained						replaced Feb. 2026
Main kitchen	Closet	Nedds to be cleaned						Apr. 2026
Main kitchen	Lighting fixtures	Ceiling fluorescent light fixture cover missing. Upd 9/12/26 2 covers still missing			Feb. 2026			
Main kitchen	Lighting fixtures	Fluorescent light fixture over sinkk missing cover and does not come on						
Main Meeting Room	Ceiling Tile	Ceiling tiles missing where leak from 2nd floor dormer: UPD 9/12/26 tiles, removed, rotted wood from years of water leakage replaced. Contractore Leetha Marber & Hetor Carmago ???		Sept. 2025				Dec. 2025
Main Meeting Room	Door	Gasket Weatherstrip Seal and lock reaalignment						Feb. 2026
Main Meeting Room	WIndow	Storm window broken on front of house for meeting room						
Mr. Racheff's Office	Window	Damaged storn window on front of house into library						
Mr. Racheff's Office	Window Treatment	Blinds damaged, repair or replace						

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
Pink bathroom	Ceiling tile	Ceiling tile needs to be replaced						
Small Meeting Room	Ceiling tile	Multiple ceiling tiles stained, replace. UPD 9/26 - Replaced but new leak from balcony area above			Feb. 2026			
Small Meeting Room	Lighting fixtures	Fluorescent ight fixture covers missing. UPD 9/12/26 One fixture does not work, has a short.						Feb. 2026
Small Meeting Room	Wall Covering	Wallpaper needs to be repaired						
Stairwell	Wall Covering	Wallpaper needs repairing						Apr. 2026
Upstairs closets	Door hardware	Silver closet needs lock installed						
Upstairs green bathroom	Appliance	Electric wall Heater. Disable or remove				Safety		
Upstairs green bathroom	Lighting fixtures	Lighting fixture needs repairs: UPD 9/12/26 fixture working						

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
Upstairs green bathroom	Plumbing	Corroded plumbing						
Upstairs Kitchen	Appliance	Stove condition unknown						
Upstairs Kitchen	Plumbing	Sink condition unknown						
Upstairs Kitchen ?	Wall Covering	Cracks in wall						
Upstairs living areas	Appliance	Electric wall heater; Previous evidence of scorching , Disable or remove				Safety		Disabled when incident happened
Upstairs living room	Ceiling	Plaster cracks						
Upstairs living room	Wall Covering	Plaster cracks						
Upstairs North Bedroom	Ceiling	Needs repair						

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
Upstairs North Bedroom	Wall covering	Paneling by bed needs to be fixed						
Upstairs Storage closet	Ceiling	Missing access panel in A/C room ceiling						
Upstairs Storage closet	Door hardware	Need a lock on silver closet						
*	Battery Smoke Detector- inside main kitchen on 1st floor	Critically out of date, must be replaced. Should not be locates in kitchen relocate to wall in small meeting room abvoe door into kitchen			Mfg. date 1990's	Safety	Immediate	
*	Battery Smoke Detector- in back hall between front kitchen and bathroom on 1st floor	Critically out of date, must be replaced			Mfg. date 1990's	Safety	Immediate	

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
*	Battery Smoke Detector-on upstairs dining room wall above door into kitchen	Critically out of date, must be replaced			Mfg. date 1990's	Safety	Immediate	
	Wired Smoke Detector- on ceiling in Main meeting room: 10 year battery backup					Safety		Dec. 2026

Room/Area	Building Component	Condition	Est. Cost	Scheduled Install or Repair Date	Last Install or Repair Date	Health or Safety Concern	Priority	Completed Date
*	Carbon Monoxide Detector in Basement near Gas heating system				??	Safety		
*	Carbon Monoxide Detector needed in living area on 2nd floor outside Gas heating system door					Safety		

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 accidently 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

Important Flower Show Information

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. (TFGC)

Tennessee has additional requirements for All TFGC Garden Club Flower Shows All State and County Fair Flower Shows & All Plant Societies Flower Shows

1. **The Schedule from any of the above Flower Shows must be presented to the State Schedule Review Chairman (Kathy Rychen – kathyrychen@gmail.com) not later than four (4) months prior to the actual staging of the flower show. The *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows* on page 19 1.A.2. states that "At least three (3) months prior to the show, the schedule is made available to all show chairmen, club members, non-member participants and Judges." Because of this requirement, the state schedule review chairman needs sufficient time before the three months to review the schedule and for the club to make any corrections to have the schedule approved.**

2. **The schedule must conform for Tennessee Awards.**

3. **Any corrections or updates as suggested by the state schedule review chairman must be rectified/corrected and schedule returned to the chairman before the show is approved and the schedule is printed for distribution.**

4. **The only thing that NGC requires for exhibiting and judging credits is that the Schedule and Flower Show both adhere to the rules requirements, policies and procedures as established by NGC for Flower Show. All NGC rules, requirements, policies and procedures MUST be followed... per the HB with updates as listed on the NGC website (www.gardenclub.org) For NGC Flower Show Judges, if a Schedule doesn't conform to NGC, then no exhibiting or judging credit can be given.**

Thank you,
Lelia Haley Johnson
TFGC President
2025 - 2027



A Message from Mother Nature

(She really wants YOU!)

Dear Conservation Campers,

Here are updates on the exciting things that will be happening at this year's Conservation Camp at Beersheba Springs Assembly. Tuesday morning, October 13, will start with the 2026 TFGC Annual Meeting (at 10:00am CST). The meeting will end with an invitational skit to the 2027 Convention in Knoxville. Who would want to miss that? After a delicious lunch (more about this later), the camp will officially open at 1:00pm. There will be a wonderfully informative program on "Propagating from Seed with Success" followed by a hands-on seed workshop. Later take a walk and look sharp as you scavenger hunt by colors, then participate in a Pine Cone Critters craft workshop. There will be time to visit a local pottery studio and also a gift shop in an historic home or just rock on the porch until dinner time. After dinner you will be entertained by some games and an old fashioned story teller.

On Wednesday morning there will be a program on safely foraging and a visit to the Beersheba Springs Museum. After lunch in the "Wings to Soar" bird program 7 different raptors including a Bald Eagle will take center stage and you can get as up close and personal as you wish.



Then you are invited to craft a headpiece in my honor. It will be time for "The Mother Nature Crown Craft" workshop (bring scissors and a glue gun if you have them). When you all have made an appropriate headdress, you can put it on for the group photo on the steps of the old hotel. How fun is that!

After dinner they were planning a TFGC's Got Talent Show but I am thinking maybe TFGC doesn't have any talent. No one has contacted Anne Leonard (leonardtfgc2003@epbfi.com) to register an act. Come on now, I know that can't be true. I am sure there is a wealth of talent just waiting to be unleashed. The more ridiculous the better. Don't be shy.

Ok, about the food, it's going to be wonderful. Although it's a bit early for the chef to makeup the actual menu (because he will be choosing what is fresh in season) sample menus are at the end of this message.

All this to say that I will be very sad if you miss this year's fun and educational Conservation Camp and **it's not nice to disappoint Mother Nature!**

Mother N.

Conservation Camp

Sample Breakfasts

French toast
Casserole Scrambled
Eggs
Grits
Yogurt
Fruit

Bacon
Scrambled Eggs
Grits
Biscuits and Jelly
Yogurt
Fruit

Sausage Patties
Scrambled Eggs
Breakfast Potatoes
Oatmeal
Cinnamon Biscuits
Yogurt
Fruit

Sample Lunches

BBQ Pulled Pork
Baked Beans
Cole Slaw
Bun
Salad Bar
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Hamburger Steak with Onions
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Salad Bar
Sugar Cookies

Chicken Tenders
Potato Wedges
Green Beans
Salad Bar
Brownies

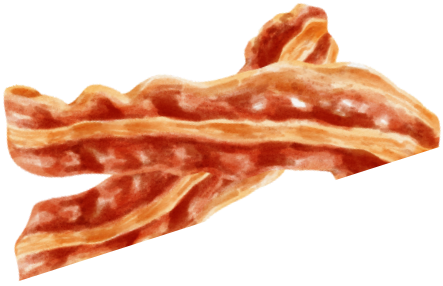
Sample Dinners

Baked Ham
FriedChicken
Macaroni and Cheese
SouthernGreen Beans
Corn
Roll
Salad Bar
Banana Pudding

Beef Tips with Gravy
Grilled Chicken
Rice Pilaf
Mixed Vegetables
Roasted Broccoli
Roll
Salad Bar
Apple Crisp

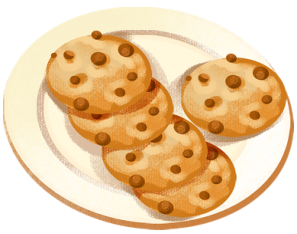
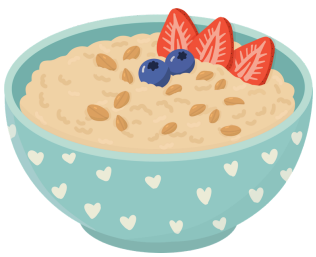
RoastedTurkey
Country Fried Steak
Dressing with Gravy
Green Beans
Sweet Potato Soufflé
Roll
Salad Bar
Cherry Cobbler









YUMMY!



TFGC, Deep South & NGC News, Reports & Opportunities

2026 TFGC Endowment Trust Fund Grant Recipients



Congratulations goes to the 4 clubs and one district receiving matching grants from the TFGC Endowment Trust Fund for 2026. Matching grants were awarded to District I, Garden Club of Rosemark and Germantown Garden Club also in District I while Busy Bees Dayton Garden Club in District III and Tuckaleechee Garden Club in District IV rounded out the five grant recipients. The matching grants ranged in value from $1,000.00 to $357.50 and the total amount awarded to the five clubs combined is $2,957.50.

Both District I and The Garden Club of Rosemark will each use their grant money to refurbish a Blue Star Marker. District I ‘s marker is located at the Memphis Botanic Garden installed in 2007 while the Rosemark Marker was dedicated on April 4, 1998 and is located in the Rosemark community. Mr. Tom Snellings of Historical Restorations Markers who is approved by the NGC will be contracted to do the work restoring the two markers to their original pristine condition. The restorations should be good for the next twenty years. These two projects promote Civic Development and Historic Preservation, two of the purposes of the TFGC as stated in its charter and bylaws.

Germantown Garden Club will use their grant money to establish a new bluebird trail in the area of Municipal Park. The location of the trail will provide citizens with the opportunity to learn about bluebirds which became the city bird for Germantown several years ago. The Germantown Garden Club will present programs for children at the library about how to care for bluebirds so its population can continue to grow. Hopefully the programs will encourage children and their parents to establish one or more bluebird boxes in their own yards. The Germantown Parks and Recreation Department and the Shelby County Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society will determine the placement of the bluebird boxes with this combined effort further strengthening the relationship between Germantown Garden Club and the City of Germantown. The club will monitor the boxes, make repairs and report the bluebird activity (eggs laid, hatched and nestlings fledged) to the Shelby County Chapter of the TBS who will report the numbers to the TBS. This project promotes Endangered Species, one of the TFGC purposes.

The Busy Bees Garden Club will use their grant money to enhance their beautification project of the Dayton, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. The plants and shrubs already installed are resilient and easy to grow incorporating native plants, providing a great display of color and a habitat for pollinators.

Phase two partially funded by the grant will include starter native plants, native flower and pollinator seed, a pollinator hotel, materials for a free library box, a garden bench, and signs for the description of plants, their purpose and names. This project promotes the TFGC purpose of Landscape Design.

The Tuckaleechee Garden Club will use their grant to enhance the landscaping the garden club currently maintains at the Townsend Elementary School’s flagpole and school sign. The grant will

also allow the garden club to add new landscape to the left side of the school entrance doors. Upon completion of the landscape project, the students, school staff, parents and visitors will be greeted with color, texture and a pleasing landscape which will offer interest throughout the changing seasons. This project like the Dayton Garden Club project promotes the Landscape Design purpose of the TFGC.

Hopefully, the new grant projects will offer inspiration for other clubs to apply for TFGC Endowment Trust Fund Grants in the 2027 application cycle. The trustees look forward to awarding more grants next year helping our TFGC Garden Clubs to make a positive difference in their communities while creating an awareness of the good work and value of garden clubs. If your club is not ready to embark upon a new project with a grant application, you can still participate in the ETF grant program by being a financial contributor. Donations can be made to the fund in any amount in memory of someone, in honor of someone or because you believe in the value of the ETF and want to make a difference and want to see the funds remain viable. The Trust Fund depends upon all of us for its success so why not donate TODAY. Go to tngardenclubs.org, click on resources, forms and publications and scroll down to ETF where you will find the current ETF Contribution Form. The ETF trustees thank you in advance for your financial support!

Submitted by Chris Kelyman

District I ETF Trustee and Chairman



Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc **September 18, 2026**

ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

Month	Beginning Balance	Deposits & Withdrawals	Market Gain/Loss	Income Returns	Personal Investment Returns	Cumulative Returns	Ending Balance
Sep-26	$223,379.41	$0.00	($1,841.79)	$0.00	($1,841.79)	$6,044.52	**$221,537.62**
Aug-26	$220,068.80	$0.00	$3,289.93	$20.68	$3,310.61	$7,886.31	**$223,379.41**
Jul-26	$221,896.68	$40.00	($1,888.21)	$20.33	($1,867.88)	$4,575.70	**$220,068.80**
Jun-26	$222,387.14	$0.00	($1,681.75)	$1,191.29	($490.46)	$6,443.58	**$221,896.68**
May-26	$215,248.10	$205.00	$6,915.26	$18.78	$6,934.04	$6,934.04	**$222,387.14**
Total		**$245.00**	**$4,793.44**	**$1,251.08**	**$6,044.52**		

* Value Change

** Dividends, interest, and capital gains

*** Combined total market gain/loss and income returns

**** Sum of personal investments over time (12/2015 - 5/2026)

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc **September 18, 2026**

ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

Symbol	Mutual Fund	Type	AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE	AVAILABLE TO WITHDRAW	TOTAL CREDITS AND DEBITS	CURRENT BALANCE
VMFXX	VANGUARD FEDERAL MONEY MARKET INVESTOR CL	SETTLEMENT SWEEP	$1402.34	$1402.34	$0.00	$1,402.34

Symbol	Mutual Fund	Price	$ Change	% Change	Quantity	Current Balance
VBIAX	VANGUARD BALANCED INDEX ADMIRAL CL	$54.71	$0.10	$0.18	2,393.42	$130,225.87
VWENX	VANGUARD WELLINGTON ADMIRAL CL	$80.72	$0.00	$0.00	1,047.61	$84,563.00
VMFXX	VANGUARD FEDERAL MONEY MARKET INVESTOR CL	$1.00	$0.00	0%	5,346.41	$5,346.41
Total						**$220,135.28**

Submitted by Evelyn Davis

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

RESTRICTED FUNDS **May 31, 2026 - September 18, 2026**

General Investment Vanguard Federal Money Fund
Account 226441625 VMFXX

Balance 5/31/2026		$34,025.12
Dividend 6/30/2026		$98.87
Dividend 7/31/2026		$103.84
Dividend 8/31/2026		$105.18
Balance 9/18/2026		**$34,334.01**
President's Fund	$17,000.00	
Benevolent Fund	$602.00	
Nondesignated Fund	$16,732.01	
	$34,334.01	

Life Membership Fund Vanguard Federal Money Market
Account 71652486 VMFXX

Balance 5/31/2026	$25,899.04
Dividend 6/30/2026	$76.01
Dividend 7/31/2026	$79.04
Dividend 8/31/2026	$80.05
Balance 9/18/2026	**$26,134.14**

Brainerd Scholarship Fund Vanguard Federal Money Market
Account 51333187 VMFXX

Balance 5/31/2026	$24,656.51
Dividend 6/30/2026	$72.37
Dividend 7/31/2026	$75.25
Dividend 8/31/2026	$76.22
Balance 9/18/2026	**$24,880.25**

TFGC Scholarship Fund Vanguard Federal Money Market
Account 27084831 VMFXX

Balance 5/31/2026	$8,934.68
Dividend 6/30/2026	$26.23
Dividend 7/31/2026	$27.27
Dividend 8/31/2026	$27.62
Balance 9/18/2026	**$9,015.80**

Total of All Funds

Balance 9/18/2026	**$120,498.34**

Evelyn Davis
TFGC Assistance Treasurer

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

CONTRIBUTIONS

May 28, 2026 - September 30, 2026

	Donor Name	District	Garden Club	Honoring	Remembering
1	Shady Oaks Garden Club	IV	Shady Oaks Garden Club		
2	Oak Hill Garden Club	II	Oak Hill Garden Club		Jerrelynn Davis

Submitted by Evelyn Davis

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Ways & Means Contributions
April 2025 - September 2026

District I - Club Name	Ck #	Paid Amount	
901 Garden Club			
Bartlett Garden Club			
Blossomway Garden Club			
Collierville Garden Club	Region 1048	$85.00	
Cordova Garden Club	1st TN 211	$60.00	
Dyersburg Garden Club		$25.00	
Garden Club of Rosemark	TrustMark 1445	$105.00	
Germantown Garden Club	1st Horizon 2271	$250.00	
Interpreters Study Club			
Kennedy View Garden Club	Paragon 129	$110.00	
Paris Garden Club	FB Bk 1146	$155.00	
Pearl Hooper Garden Club			
Poplar Estates Garden Club			
Scenic Hills Garden Club			
Shelby East Garden Club		$50.00	
Southwind Garden Club	1st Horizon 2602	$150.00	
Suburban Garden Club		$100.00	
The Little Garden Club of Memphis			
Tipton Fleur de Lis	Patriot 1035	$140.00	
Trenton Garden Club			
Total District I		**$1,230.00**	
District II			
Beachhaven Garden Club			
Ben Lomand Garden Club			
Camden Garden Club			
Clarksville Garden Club			
Country Homes Garden Club			
Evening Belle Garden Club			
First Saturday Garden Club			
Flower Growers Garden Club			
Flower Lovers Garden Club			
Franklin Cty Garden Club			
Garden Lovers Garden Club	FB 1561	$260.00	
Gateway Acres Garden Club	Reg 1609 &1613	$30.00	
Harpeth Bend Garden Club	Truist 4581	$20.00	
Hendersonville Garden Club			
Iris City Garden Club			
Lake Forest Acres Garden Club			
Lebanon Road Garden Club			
Leipers Fork Garden Club			
Les Candides Garden Club			
New Neighbors Garden Club	Suntrust 1368	$180.00	
Oak Hill Garden Club			
Optimistic Gardeners Garden Club	1st Horiz.234	$340.00	
Rachel Jackson Garden Club	Region 2335	$180.00	
Shady Grove Garden Club			
Shelbyville Garden Club			
TAGS & Dist. II Judges Council	2 cks	$430.00	
Town & Country Garden Club	1st Horiz 2580 &30	$120.00	
Tyne-Meade Garden Club			
Volunteer Garden Club	1st Community 187	$150.00	
Year Round Garden Club			
Warner Park Garden Club			
Total District II		**$1,710.00**	

District III			
Aldersgate Garden Club	Region 948	$200.00	
Crestwood Garden Club	FB 1052	$80.00	
Dayton Garden Club	FB Bk 1238	$220.00	
Four Seasons Garden Club	Simply Bk 1070	$370.00	
Hickory Valley Garden Club	2 cks	$130.00	
Lookout Mtn. Beautiful GC			
Magnolia Garden Club	Southn Heritage1080	$140.00	
Murray Hills Garden Club	Region 1148	$110.00	
Ocoee Garden Club	cash by Lelia ck	$140.00	
Garden Club of Signal Mtn.	5 cks	$195.00	
	5 cks	$265.00	
Total District III		**$1,850.00**	
District IV			
Arissa Garden Club & Guild			
Chapman Hwy Garden Club	Region 1136	$161.00	
Crestwood Hills Ladybugs GC	HomeFed 734	$30.00	
Dixie Highway Garden Club	Pinnacle 1019	$200.00	
Eastside Garden Club			
Flower Lovers Garden Club			
Garden Guild Garden Club			
Harrogate Garden Club			
Kanunsita Garden Club			
Knox Cty. Council GC			
Lakemoor Hills Garden Club			
Mountaiin Laurel Garden Club	Truist 1170	$170.00	
Norwood Garden Club	1 ck	$10.00	
Noweta Garden Club			
Sevierville Garden Club			
Shady Oaks Garden Club			
Sun-Up Garden Club			
Town & Country Garden Club			
Tuckaleechee Garden Club	Truist 1147	$150.00	
Valley Beautiful Garden Club			
West Hills 10 o'clock Gardeners	1 ck	$120.00	deposited with Norwood
Total District IV		**$841.00**	
Totals by District:	i	$1,230.00	
	II	$1,710.00	
	III	$1,850.00	
	IV	$841.00	
Total from clubs		$5,631.00	
Kroger:		$389.51	
Total for State		$6,020.51	

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

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

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



2027 Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc Convention Program Ad Form

Garden Club of Alabama is hosting the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Regional Convention in 2027 at the Embassy Suites in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on March 14 - 16.

Clubs, family members, and local businesses are encouraged to purchases ads for the convention program book. This is the perfect opportunity to honor club members and presidents, celebrate club anniversaries or promote community support.

PROGRAM AD OPTIONS

- Full Page $100
- Half Page $50
- One Quarter Page $25

AD DETAILS

- All ads will be in color
- May contain photos
- Please submit JPEG format

AD SUBMISSIONS

Email ad and completed form to Stephanie Butler sfbdgc2013@gmail.com.
Phone: 205-442-3195

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make checks payable to Deep South Convention 2027 and send to :
GCA Treasurer Karen Matthews, 152 Harkins Lake Road, Fayette, AL 35555
Phone: 205-270-6624, Email: karentmatthews@yahoo.com

Name_____

Garden Club_____State_____District_____

Name of Business _____

Ad Size (please circle)

Full Page Half Page One Quarter Page



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC

YOUTH POETRY CONTEST 2026

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH RED, WHITE, AND BLUE!

GRADES K-12
WINNERS BY GRADE-LEVEL

COMPLETE GUIDELINES
GARDENCLUB.ORG/POETRY-CONTEST



YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

GUIDELINES 2026



CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH RED, WHITE, AND BLUE!

Guidelines

Include name, address, age, grade, school, sponsoring local garden club and state garden club of the poet on the back of entry. (Child privacy is important to NGC, and thus, published winning national poems will only identify the poet's first name, last name initial, local garden club and state.)

Poet's family does not have to be a member of the local sponsoring garden club.

Poems should be no more than 24 lines (including title) with a max of 42 letters/spaces per line in order to fit on single page of the booklet.

Poems do not have to rhyme. They may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or haiku.

When choosing a poem title, please be creative and incorporate the theme: "Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Red, White and Blue." However, the theme should not be used as the title to any poetry. When judging, the title is worth 10 points.

All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

National winners will be announced at the NGC 2027 National Convention!

Submissions and Deadlines

All poems are submitted to a local garden club affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. Local clubs send their winning poems (1 per grade-level) to their State by the published State deadline. State winning poems are sent to their Region Contest by 2/1/2027. Region winners are sent to the National Contest by 3/1/2027. National winning poems are announced in May 2027, and published online in a free digital poetry booklet.



* Submit Tennessee entries to: TFGC Youth Chairman Kay Cox by December 1, 2026. Email: tlake12384@gmail.com

Eligibility, Categories and Judging Criteria

Youth in grades K-12 compete by grade-level.
Scale of Points: Title 10%, Content 40%, Creativity 30%,
Style 20%. Total 100%

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2027 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

TIMELINE

Date	Activity	Responsibility of
August 2026	Information packages mailed to poster contest chairpersons and Forest Service conservation education and fire prevention coordinators	Forest Service
January 22, 2027	Local winning posters must be received by the State garden club or poster contest chairperson	Local garden club or poster contest chairperson
February 26, 2027	State winning posters must be received by the regional garden club or poster contest chairperson	State garden club or poster contest chairperson
March 19, 2027	Regional winning posters must be received by the National Garden Clubs poster contest chairperson	Regional garden club or poster contest chairperson
April 5, 2027	Judging to select the national winners for each grade level	National Garden Clubs poster contest chairperson and Forest Service staff
April 19-30, 2027	Selection of the national grand prize winner	Forest Service employees
May 2027	Announcement of national poster contest winners	National Garden Clubs (at their national convention)
Summer 2027	National grand prize winner recognition ceremony	Forest Service and National Garden Clubs, Inc.





USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

ANNOUNCING

2027 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Children from first through fifth grades are invited to participate in this annual drawing contest featuring conservation icons Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl!

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl.

View previous contest winners:

http s ://gardenclub.org/smoke y-b ear-wo o ds y- owl- you th-p o ster- c onte st .

Smokey Bear says: “Only you can prevent wildfires!”



Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey’s message, “Only you can prevent wildfires!” encourages personal responsibility for wildfire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, burning yard waste, and matches. For more about Smokey Bear visit https://smokeybear.com.

Woodsy Owl says: “Lend a hand—care for the land!”



Woodsy Owl is America’s icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment.

He challenges children to “Lend a hand, care for the land!” and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste; gardening, planting, and caring for trees; using resources wisely; and not littering. For more about Woodsy Owl visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids/woodsy-owl.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

2027 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest—ABOUT

2027 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Rules:

- •Competition may include students from first to fifth grade.
- •Posters are to be completed by individual student artists.
- •Posters must have correct spelling (posters with spelling errors will be disqualified).
- •All posters must feature Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and must not feature both together.
- •Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!
- •Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy's conservation message: Lend a Hand—Care for the Land!
- •All posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires or conserving natural resources.
- •Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl must be presented in their correct colors (they are official icons protected by law); check the colors on the website www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids or www.symbols.gov.
- Each poster entry should be 11 x 17 inches in size.
- •Materials that can be used include crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors, and the like.
- The choice of paper color and texture is up to the child.
- •No three-dimensional posters, computer-scanned, or electronically generated images will be accepted.
- •All poster entrees must be sponsored by a recognized local garden club.
- •The local garden club chairperson must submit the poster entries to his or her state chairperson no later than January 22, 2027. The state garden club chairperson must submit the five winning posters from his or her State to the regional garden club chairperson by February 26, 2027.
- •The following information should be written on the back of the poster in the lower-right corner (do not use a dark marker for this information as it may show through):
  - •The name, address, phone number, and email of the sponsoring local garden club.
  - •The artist's name, address, contact phone number, grade level, school, teacher's name, city, and State. (Should school policy preclude giving students' addresses and phone numbers, please include the school address and phone number).
- •Poster coordinators should take photos of their final, winning posters. The original winning posters will be the property of the Forest Service and not returned to the National Garden Clubs or the winners.

Poster Tips

- A good poster has a bold and simple design.
- The poster's message should be easily understood and delivered both in the picture and in text.
- An educator, parent, guardian, or other adult should provide 11" x 17" paper for a child to create their poster.
- Find inspiration for your poster with promotional and educational products from the National Symbols Cache, www.symbols.gov.
- Posters will be judged for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message.

Recognition Ceremonies

- It is recommended that local and/or State recognition ceremonies be coordinated in conjunction with local events during Earth Week in April or during National Public Lands Day (last Saturday in September). Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, or both should be present at these award ceremonies if possible. The Forest Service conservation education or fire prevention regional coordinators can help you identify local Forest Service offices that may assist you when planning for a Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl appearance at your event. A list of coordinators is available upon request via email at sm.fs.symbols@usda.gov.
- •Certificates of participation are free of charge. You can download them from www.symbols.gov or by requesting hard copies via email at sm.fs.symbols@usda.gov.
- •The National Garden Clubs will announce the first-place national winners for each grade level and the national grand prize winner at their 2027 annual meeting.
- •Certificates and prize money ($50) for the five national winners will be mailed following the National Garden Clubs' 2027 annual meeting. The national grand prize winner will get the certificate, a trophy, and a framed copy of the winning poster during a recognition ceremony coordinated by the Garden Club that sponsored the submission; the ceremony is typically held during the summer.
- •The Forest Service will support the recognition ceremony for the national grand prize winner by arranging for Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl to attend.

Tennessee Clubs should send their 5 (five) 1st place posters from Grades 1 - 5 by January 22, 2027 to TFGC Chair: Phyllis Allen 2975 Devonshire Cove Germantown, TN 38139. Questions: 901-355-7124.

National Garden Week
June 6 - 12, 2027

Start Planning Early!

Community & Educational Ideas

- **Host a workshop:** Partner with a local library to teach seed starting, composting or container gardening.

- **Organize a garden tour:** Showcase local green spaces or member backyards to share design and growing tips.

- **Beautify public spaces:** Place fresh floral arrangements or plant native perennials at local libraries, courthouses, or town halls.

- **Engage youth groups:** Teach children about plant life cycles or help them build a mini container garden.



Club News & District Events



Thanks to all who submitted photos, articles & events for the Fall edition of the *Volunteer Gardener* Magazine!





Please send your club's news, upcoming events and triumphs to the TFGC Website: tngardenclubs.org
If you have a question, text or email
Anna Marie Allen
annabanana7@comcast.net
text: 615-477-3030





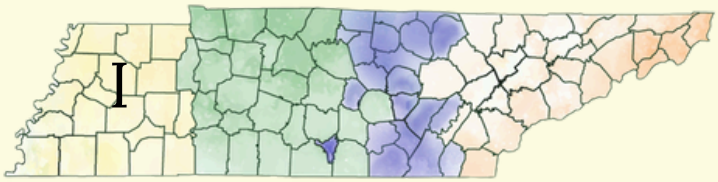
Deadline for submissions for the Winter *Volunteer Gardener* Magazine is January 1, 2027.







TFGC DISTRICT I



District I Officers

Director:
Jackie Walker
j.walker653@gmail.com

Vice Director:
Pam Reiners
affordablemedicalcredentialing@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:
Peggy Turnipseed
pjturnipseed@bellsouth.net

Corresponding Secretary:
Brenda Hise
mudville45@aol.com

Treasurer:
Lois Hobby-Clayton
llhclayton@gmail.com

Chaplain:
Barbara Dodge
dodgebj@aol.com

District I Garden Clubs

- **901 Garden Club**
- **Bartlett Garden Club**
- **Blossom Way Garden Club**
- **Collierville Garden Club**
- **Cordova Garden Club**
- **Dyersburg Garden Club**
- **Garden Club of Rosemark**
- **Germantown Garden Club**
- **Interpreters Study Group**
- **Kennedy View Garden Club**
- **Little Garden Club of Memohis**
- **Memphis Garden Club**
- **Paris Garden Club**
- **Pearl Hooper Garden Club**
- **Poplar Estates Garden Club**
- **Scenic Hills Garden Club**
- **Shelby East Garden Club**
- **Southwind Garden Club**
- **Suburban Garden Club**
- **Tipton Fleur de Lis Garden Club**
- **Trenton Garden Club**



Message from the District I Director Jackie Walker



As the summer warmth shifts into crisp autumn air, I am thrilled for a brand-new season of digging, growing, and sharing together. Cooler days and crisp nights make working outside a joy instead of a chore.



The heat of summer shortened the outside activities of District I garden clubs. Many clubs did not have scheduled meetings for the summer but were busy with club projects.

District I club members always look forward to Rosemark Garden Club's annual flower show that is the first flower show in the third quarter of the year. Rosemark Garden Club met through the summer to complete plans for their Flower Show held September 24th in conjunction with "The Country Fair of Rosemark." "Celebrating 250 Years of Gardening, Red! White! Bloom!" Flower Show had 100% participation of Rosemark Garden Club members along with surrounding garden clubs. This was a horticulture specialty flower show—207 horticulture exhibits and a total of 150 photo entries. Youth submitted 42 photos and 108 adult photos. It was enjoyed by the participants and crowd attending the Country Fair.

Germantown Garden Club volunteered their time and hands to create centerpieces used by the Germantown Educational Foundation for their Summer Soiree Fundraiser to support teacher and students in the Germantown Municipal School District.

Three Endowment Trust Fund (ETF) Grants were awarded to clubs in District I. Lucie Calvin applied for an Endowment Trust Grant to expand the partnership with Germantown Community Library and the City of Germantown by establishing a Bluebird Trail around Municipal Park. Germantown GC will also present programs for children at the library to educate on protecting their official city bird (bluebirds).

Paula Campbell's garden club, The Garden Club of Rosemark, was awarded an ETF to resurface the Blue Star Memorial marker their club bought and dedicated April 4, 1998.

Phyllis Allen applied for an ETF to refurbish the faces of the Blue Star Memorial Marker located at the Memphis Botanic Garden that was installed in 2001 by District I, who will also provide the matching funds.

Shelby East Garden Club gathered in the summer at the Morton Museum in Collierville to use the picked and pressed flowers from their yards to create unique pictures with glass-on-glass frames.

Germantown Garden Club also had the National Winner for the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl award. An award ceremony was held at Paul Lanier Park in Germantown to honor the national winner along with all others in the state. Suburban Garden Club helped with the ceremony.

Tipton Fleur de Lis Garden Club worked throughout the summer to keep clean and mulched the Pollinator Flower beds in Atoka's Greenway Trail and the Native Flower bed in Atkinson Park in Atoka for which they received TFGC awards.

There are many more activities of Garden Clubs in District I that were not reported but just as viable and important to their communities. All garden clubs are appreciated for their contributions to their communities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jackie Walker 9/2026

Jackie Walker

DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club





July 11, 2026–Member Erin Daniels hosted the Shelby East Club for discussion of the June horticulture show which the club hosted at The Morton Museum. It was reported that the show presented 213 specimens to increase community awareness of plants that thrive in Shelby County. Ideas for adding a revenue-producing aspect of the show included a bake sale or plant sale.

Summer horticulture presented in July included mountain mint, althea, hardy hibiscus, roses, dahlias, jewel of opar, milkweed, daylilies, drift rose and baptiste.

A fun discussion of butterflies was the focus of July's program. Erin Daniels noted that butterflies feed through a straw-like probiscus, are threatened primarily by predator birds and need shallow water sources. Favored food sources include milkweed, passion flower, coneflower and zinnias. Each member presented a photo and background on various butterflies, including zebra, pipeline swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail, monarch, buckeye, gulf fritillary (jewel box), summer azure and silver spotted skipper. Following the program, members had lunch at El Mezcal.

DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club



Devotional by Jennifer Beyer



Barbara Gassaway
presenting horticulture



Liz McGuire sharing info on her chosen butterfly



DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club





August 12, 2026–Member June Douglas hosted the Shelby East Club in her home, with the promise of a delicious homemade lunch following the meeting. A few members accepted gifts offered by emeritus member, Barbara Smith, who sent gardening items via her daughter Erin Daniels.

Master Gardener Angela Jones presented a slide show *"Herbally Ever After"*, sharing information on herbs that thrive in Shelby County, which is now rated as *Zone 8B* for gardeners. Favorites included Thyme, Basil, Rosemary, Oregano, Lavender and Mint. Tidbits from her presentation:

—heavy rainfall can dilute the flavor of herbs
—herbs need good airflow
—many herbs do well in containers

Lunch followed the meeting, with a menu that included a delicious cucumber, onion and lemon gelatin salad and finger sandwiches.



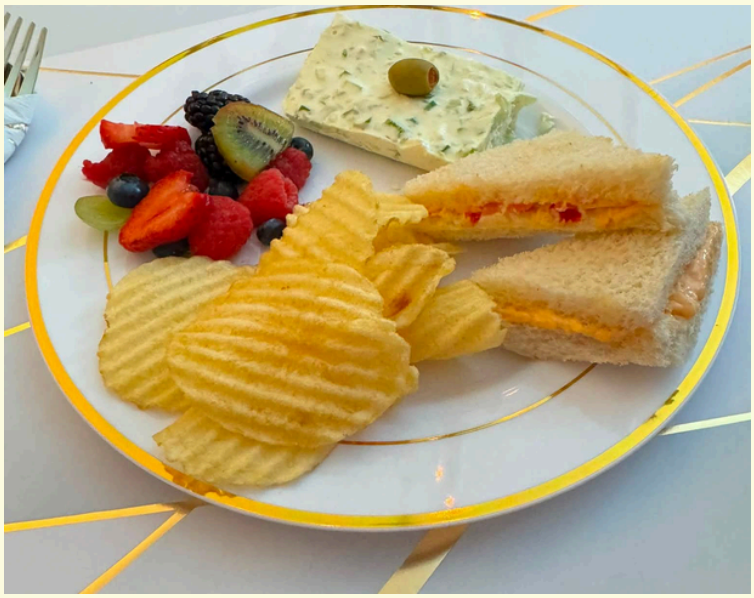
DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club











Guest Herbalist & Master Gardener Angela Jones

DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club

SEPTEMBER



September 9, 2026–Phyllis Agnew called to order the Shelby East Club at the Morton Museum of Collierville. Following committee reports, club members shared a variety of fresh horticulture from their gardens, including cannas, beauty berry, zinnias, rosemary, chives, roses and plumbago.

Returning member Leah Mires was welcomed back, as was member Barbara Gassaway who was returning after successful hip replacement surgery.

Prior to this meeting, club members were asked to cut and press flowers for a special project. With a broad assortment of pressed and dried flowers and leaves, members began assembling creative arrangements that were put into floating glass frames. Each member created one or two framed works of floral art to take home.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed lunch at the Cafe Piazza.



DISTRICT I

Shelby East Garden Club



Project Flowers



Devotional
by Liz McGuire







Members showcasing their floral works of art!



Submitted by Barbara McAdams



Wonderful results

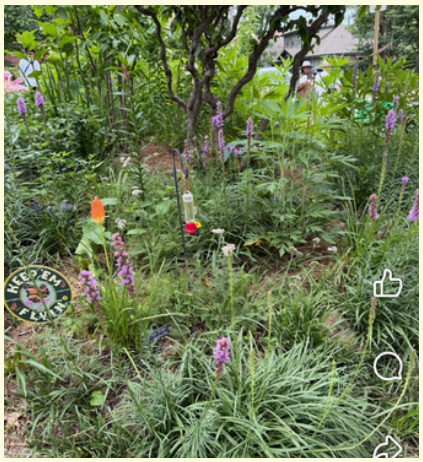
DISTRICT I

Southwind Garden Club

Beautiful gardens have a way of bringing people together. Members of the Southwind Garden Club recently explored the ***Experience Memphis*** Garden Walk, touring stunning gardens!















Excerpts from Facebook

District I

Executive Board Meeting

Monday, February 8, 2027
10:00 am

Memphis Botanic Garden



District I

SPRING

Membership Meeting

Monday, March 8, 2027

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Memphis Botanic Garden

TFGC District II



District II Officers:

Director:
Becky Fox Matthews
becky@lostfrogs.com

Vice-Director:
Karen Dawson
fdkd70@bellsouth.net

Recording Secretary:
Jennifer Kidd
jkkmd@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary:
Kay Wells
wellsonhill@comcast.net

Treasurer:
Theresa Bray
tlbray1@bellsouth.net

District II Garden Clubs

- Beachaven Garden Club
- Ben Lomand Garden Club
- Camden Garden Club
- Clarksville Garden Club
- Country Homes Garden Club
- Evening Belle Garden Club
- First Saturday Garden Club
- Flower Growers Garden Club
- Flower Lovers Circle
- Franklin County Garden Club
- Garden Lovers Club
- Gateway Acres Garden Club
- Harpeth Bend Garden Club
- Hendersonville Garden Club
- Iris City Garden Club
- Lake Forest Acres Garden Club
- Lebanon Road Garden Club
- Leipers Fork Garden Club
- Les Candides Garden Club
- New Neighbors Garden Club
- Oak Hill Garden Club
- Optimistic Gardeners Club
- Rachel Jackson Garden Club
- Shady Grove Garden Club
- Shelbyville Garden Club
- T.A.G.S.
- Town & Country Garden Club
- Tyne Meade Garden Club
- Volunteer Garden Club
- Year Round Garden Club



Message from the District II Director
Becky Fox Matthews



Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs
District II Director's Message, September 30, 2026

District II garden club members have braved the summer's heat to garden and to carry on with meetings, flower shows, and other activities!

Congratulations to Flower Growers Garden Club for approval of their continuing project "The Free Indigenous Seed Heirloom Planting Project" through their TFGC, Inc. Endowment Trust Fund (EFT) Matching Grant. They've planted indigenous and pollinator seeds at Middle TN Christian School and with this year's grant will add the Murfreesboro Airport and The Domestic Violence Center to their plantings. They also place free seed packets in public places for the community.

Year Round Garden Club in Lebanon hosted a very successful Flower Show "The Mitchell House Through Time" at the historic Mitchell House in Lebanon on June 4th. Some of the history celebrated in their Design Division: the house was once Cracker Barrel's office location and once was Sigma Pi Fraternity's headquarters.

On July 14, 2026, 59 attendees of the District II Presidents Meeting learned how to "Leap into Leadership" from Bonnie Vaughters, former Mississippi President and Deep South Director and current NGC Board of Directors member.

On Sept. 11 "Little Things Mean a Lot," an NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show was hosted at Through the Grapevine in Murfreesboro by Garden Lovers Club.

Flower Growers Garden Club hosted "Whimsical Gardens," an outdoors NGC Small Standard Flower Show on Sept. 26. Flower Lovers Circle's show was the same day at the Middle-Tennessee Fair in Lawrenceburg.

On September 29, four garden clubs, Beachaven, Country Homes, Oak Hill, and Town and Country Garden, sponsored "Celebrating Our Heritage with Fall in the Country," an NGC Standard Flower Show at Deep South Director Denise Thorne's home in Watertown that was preceded by an elegant luncheon to benefit Deep South.

Thank goodness the temperatures have now moderated a bit so we can spend more time in our gardens!

Becky Fox Matthews

District II

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 Bougainvilla 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.

District II

Country Homes Garden Club

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.







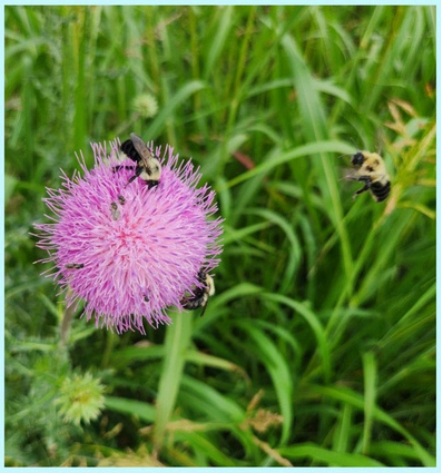


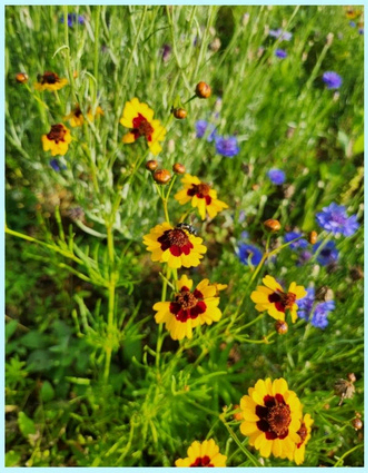




It was a glorious summer day, and after the program, lunch & business meeting, we were invited to tour the meadow behind the house, where we were treated to a wealth of beautiful blooming wildflowers like Bachelor Buttons, Bee Balm & Coneflowers.

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





District II

Country Homes Garden Club

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.







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

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.

Submitted by Tove Rawlings; Photos by Joy, Sandra, Theresa & Tove

District II

Flower Lovers Circle

The Flower Lovers Circle met in May at the Hope Botanical Gardens in Leoma, Tennessee. Jerry 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.



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.



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



Submitted by Nita Slater

District II

Lake Forest Acres Garden Club

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



District II

Lake Forest Acres Garden Club





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

District II

Optimistic Gardeners Club

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

District II

Optimistic Gardeners Club







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



Mary, Wanda & Libby

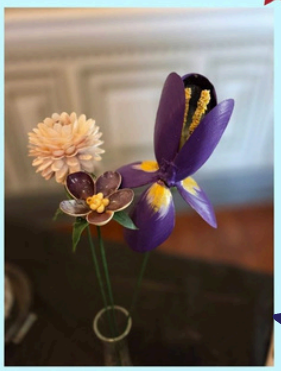


Kim & Barbara









District II

Optimistic Gardeners Club







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

District II

Optimistic Gardeners Club

Members enjoyed a September lunch at **Miss Polly's Tea Room** at the **Sam Davis Home** in Smyrna.



Left to right: Marion Butler, Shelby Moore, Lillian Hibbett, Wanda Copley, Beth Binkley, Mary Lou Gudelis, Carol Anne Beasley, Debbie Fisher, & Jeanne Teeter

Submitted by Lillian Hibbett

TFGC District II
Fall Membership Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2026
10:00 am

Cumberland Presbyterian Church
522 Castle Heights Avenue
Lebanon, TN 37087

Here's What's on the Agenda:
Informative Fall Meeting
Program—Hideko Shimizu *Ikebana Demonstration*
Hot Buffett Lunch from *Sammy B's*
Ways & Means Sales Table
Club Sales Fundraising Opportunities
Ten Fabulous Door Prizes!

$35

Registration Deadline: October 23rd

TFGC District III



District III Officers:

Director:
Jackie Westfield
tndistrict3director@gmail.com

Vice-Director:
Lu Ann Carey
lucarey3@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:
Geneva Andrews
geneva.andrews@icloud.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Starr Alexander
starralexander3@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Diane Ryder
dianeryder@epbfi.com

District III Garden Clubs

- **Aldersgate Garden Club**
- **Crestwood Garden Club**
- **Dayton Garden Club "Busy Bees"**
- **Four Seasons Garden Club**
- **Garden Club of Signal Mountain**
- **Hickory Valley Garden Club**
- **Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club**
- **Magnolia Garden Club**
- **Murray Hills Garden Club**
- **Ocoee Garden Club**



Message from the District III Director
Jackie Westfield



Dear Fellow Gardeners,

After 50 days of 90+ degrees of Summer weather, I guess we can finally say Fall is in the air.

Time for Conservation Camp, award submissions, ending of the year activities And making plans for next year's activities.

Cold, rainy and snowy days are ahead. So now is time to plan to put our Gardens to rest. Here are some fall gardening tips.

1. Take care if your Lawn tools. It is important to do routine maintenance on your gardening tools before you pack them away for the winter.
2. You May want to refresh your garden with fall blooming flowers. This extends the life of your landscape before winter sets in.
3. Time to prune shrubs and hedges
4. As Summer has progressed you may have notice things you wanted to rearrange in your garden. Now is the time to do that. Try a landscape map and make a new plan for spring. Make that a project before the first frost sets in.
5. Perhaps you do fall vegetables. Suggestion include: Lettuce, carrots, radishes, turnip greens, collards and kale.
6. Plant bulbs for the Spring.
7. Put your falling leaves to good use. Shredding the leaves make a good compost for your garden.

So as I plan to close. I hope to see you all at our Fall Membership meeting on October 30, 2026 in Dayton, TN at the Welcome Center It will be a German Octoberfest with authentic German Food.

Jackie Westfield

District III

Garden Club of Signal Mountain

The Garden Club of Signal Mountain reconvened on September 16th at St. Augustine Catholic Church for its annual fundraiser auction and a member and guests luncheon. A variety of desirable garden, hospitality and decorating auction items were on display for silent bidding and a large assortment of live plants and greenery were sold to the highest bidder during the live auction. GCSM Past-President Judy Nowlin, Auctioneer Extraordinaire, kept the event lively and pulled in a generous amount of money to fund the Club's biennial flower show and beautification projects. A covered dish luncheon was enjoyed by attendees who caught up with each other after a summer break from meetings.



Hostesses for the luncheon left to right:
Melinda Thompson, Jane Bricard, Dedra Robison, Snoda Hendricks, Cheryl Johnson, Margha Davis, Marty Roberts & Michelle McNeill

Submitted by Claire Smith and Anne Hayes Pearce

District III

Garden Club of Signal Mountain



Our entertaining Auctioneer Extraordinaire Judy Nowlin



Plants & greenery in the live auction sold quickly.



A variety of garden and decorating silent auction items were claimed.



Live auction winner Samantha Ward is delighted with her win.





FALL District III

Membership Meeting

Friday, October 30, 2026

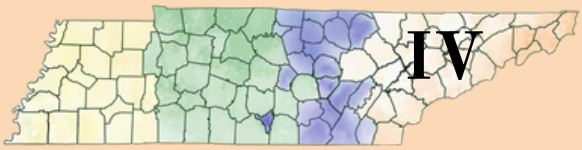
10:30 am

Rhea County Welcome Center

107 Main Street

Dayton, TN 37321

TFGC District IV



District IV Officers

Director:
Janet Brown
drjanw@comcast.net

Vice-Director:
Gina Clark
gclarkx4@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:
LaQuita Misner
lqmisner@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Gina Barnett
ggbarnett@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:
Sandy Barnes
barnessandy834@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer:
Grace Clark
graceaclark24@gmail.com

District IV Garden Clubs

- **Arissa Garden Club**
- **Chapman Highway Garden Club**
- **Crestwood Hills Ladybugs**
- **Dixie Highway Garden Club**
- **Eastside Garden Club**
- **Flower Lovers Garden Club**
- **Garden Guild Garden Club**
- **Harrogate Garden Club**
- **Kanunsita Garden Club**
- **Knox County Council of Garden Clubs**
- **Lakemoor Hills Garden Club**
- **Lenoir City Garden Club**
- **Mountain Laurel Garden Club**
- **Norwood Garden Club**
- **Noweta Garden Club**
- **Sevierville Garden Club**
- **Sun-up Garden Club**
- **Shady Oaks Garden Club**
- **Tuckaleechee Garden Club**
- **Town & Country Garden Club**
- **West Hills Garden Club**
- **Valley Beautiful Garden Club**



Message from the District IV Director
Dr. Janet Brown

Fall is coming!! Please let this heat that we are experiencing know that it is time to move on. As you clean up your flower beds and gardens and perhaps plant fall vegetables, remember to share your harvest if possible.

The Fall District IV membership meeting will be October 16th at 9:30 a.m. at Fox Den Country Club with registration open at 9:00 a.m. I will be sending the call for the fall meeting out to all club presidents soon, along with the registration forms. It would be wonderful if every club sent at least their officers to that meeting.

I have been working with the Endowment Trust Fund grant committee reviewing the grant applications. Great projects have been submitted by enterprising clubs. It is a shame that more applications have not been received. I know that many clubs are working on projects that could use help with funding.

Stay tuned for the Winter *Volunteer Gardener* which will be full of information regarding the TFGC 2027 Convention here in Knoxville. Committee chairs are working hard on making this convention a memorable one.

On a personal note, many thanks to all who sent cards, letters, prayers, and even food to me on the occasion of the unexpected and sudden death of my husband, Mike Brown. The love and care that I have felt from garden club members was greatly appreciated.

Jan Brown

District IV

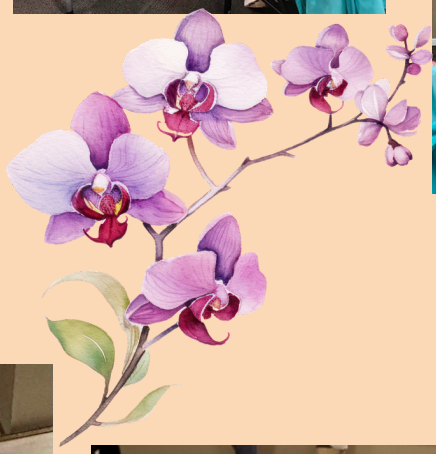
Chapman Highway Garden Club

The Chapman Highway Garden Club held its August 20th meeting at the Woodlawn Christian Church in Knoxville. The speaker was Rich Gettings on "My Orchid Bloomed! Now What?" Orchids comprise one of the largest flowering families of plants in the world. About 25,000 species of orchids have been identified.















Excerpts from Facebook

District IV

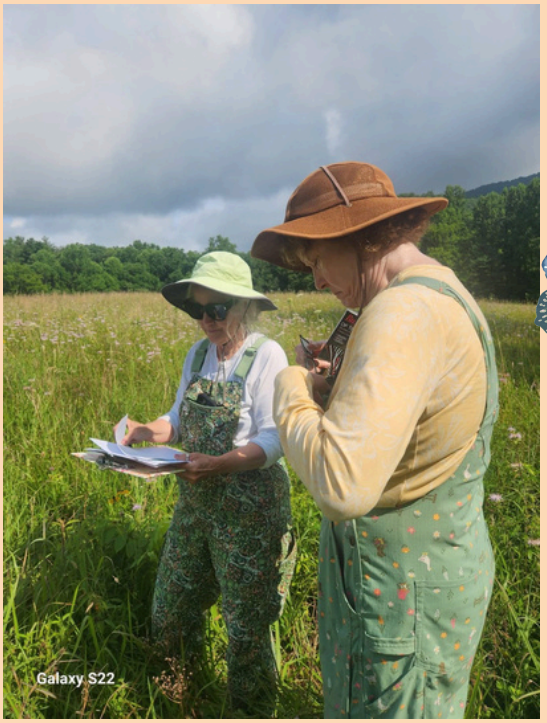
Mountain Laurel Garden Club

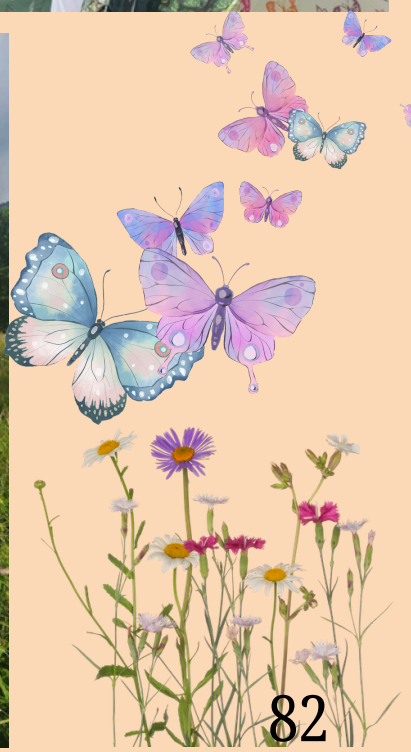
The Cove was alive with wildflowers today, but not as many butterflies as usual. Members Carol Morton, Angie Caldwell & Sandy Vandenberg spent about four hours identifying and counting butterflies for the North American Butterfly Association in Cades Cove on 7-7-26.











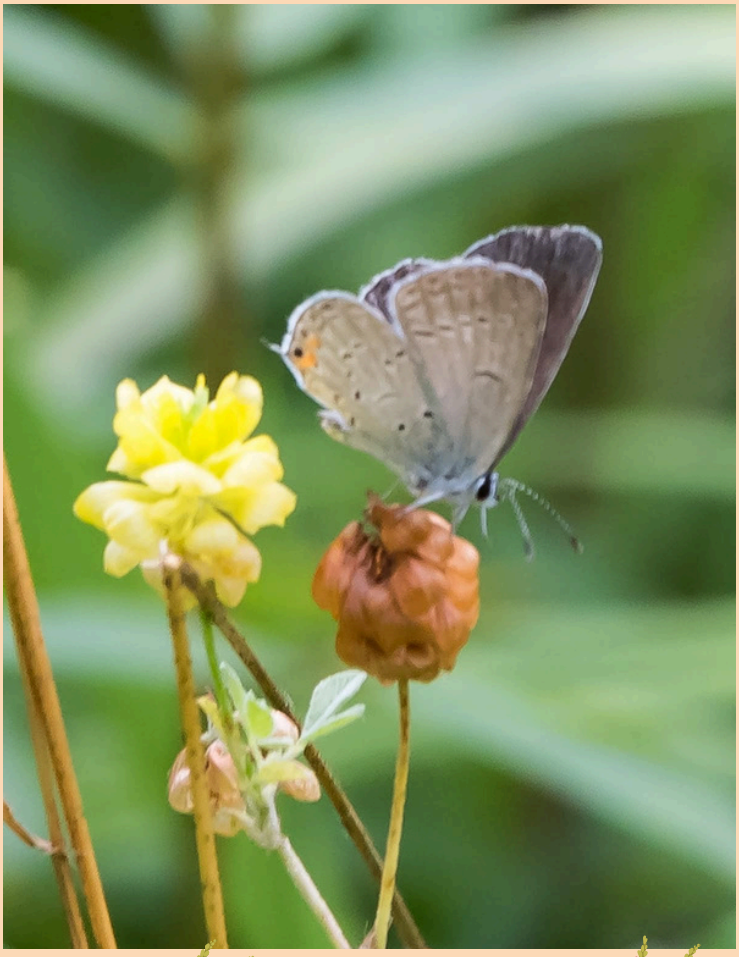
District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club











District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club



July meeting had lots of horticulture and a great program on woodpeckers presented by Clare Datillo, a ranger at Seven Islands Bird Park in Kodak, TN.

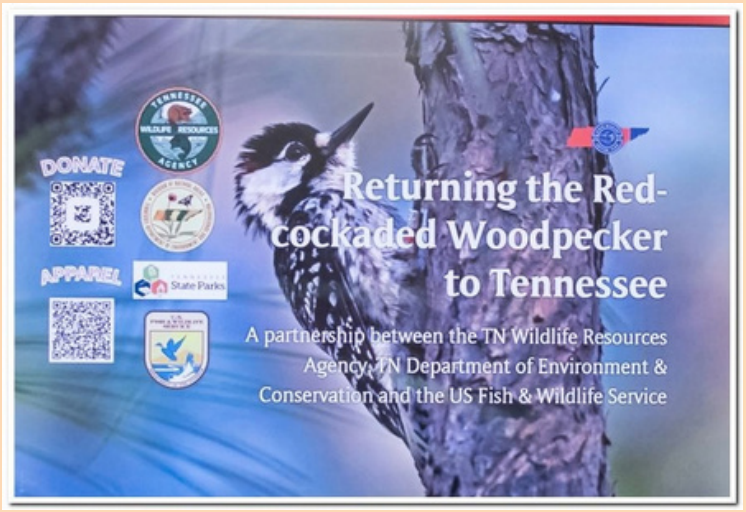












District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club



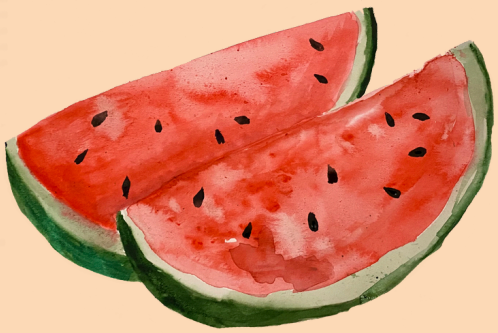
August meeting was scheduled to be a garden tour, pool party & cookout at member Sandy Vandenberg's home. A thunderstorm cancelled all but the cookout, but members spent the evening planning September & October projects.













District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

September Activities—
The club decorates Maryville College Campus for Homecoming every year, and the scarecrows were getting rather shabby. Members rented the Sandy Springs Park Pavilion in early September to design & make all new scarecrows for the celebration, with several scarecrows attired in Maryville College clothing. Members grilled hotdogs for dinner.



Valerie Hendrix







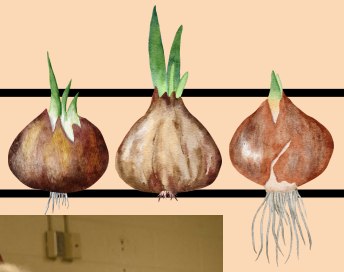




Submitted by Sandy Vandenberg

District IV

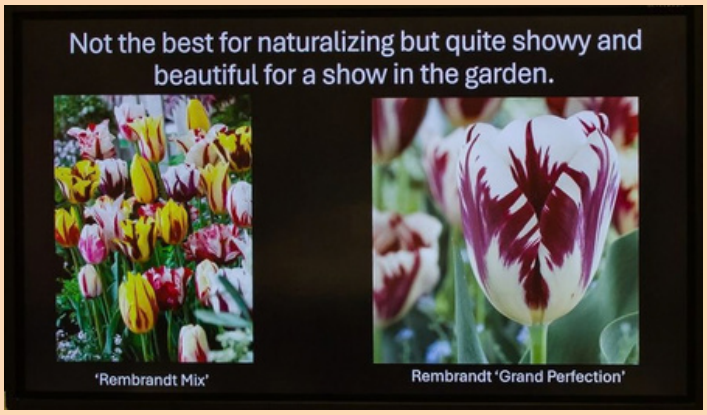
Mountain Laurel Garden Club

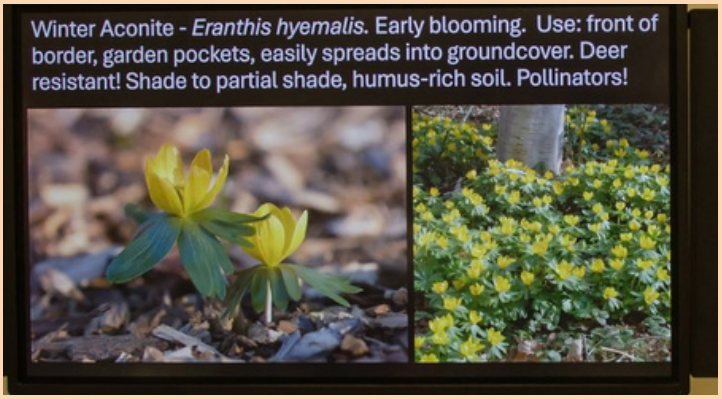




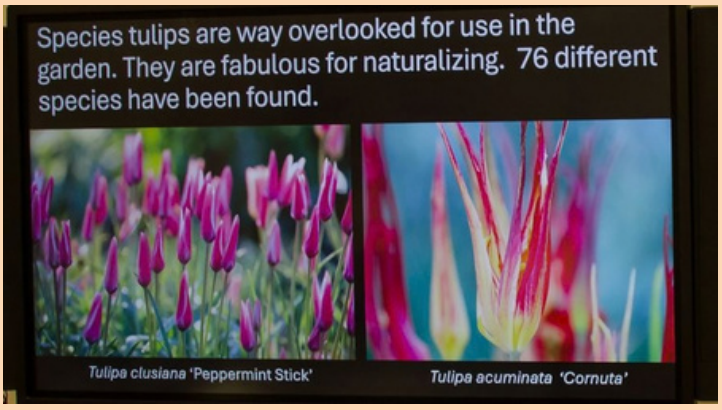
September Meeting—Dr. Sue Hamilton, retired UT Gardens Director presented a program on *"Bulbs—They're Not Just for Spring"*.

Members learned how to have beautiful bulbs blooming from winter through fall. Now everyone is excited to start ordering bulbs for fall planting!

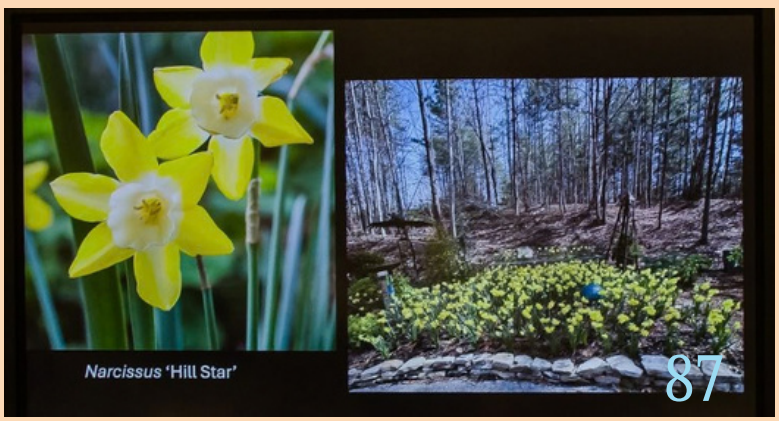












District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

September Fairview Garden Cleanup & Fairview Festival

Members spent the evening of Thursday, September 24th readying the Fairview Gardens for the School Fall Festival. Angie Caldwell took photographs of the gardens.











District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club



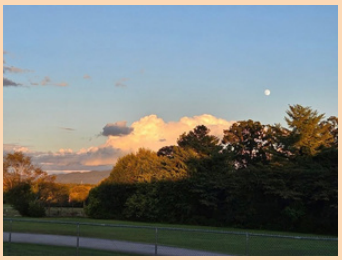
Friday the 25th was the Festival for Grades K -5. Members assisted over 80 students in making pinecone bird feeders. Parents and children enjoyed taking some relaxing breaks in the pond garden.



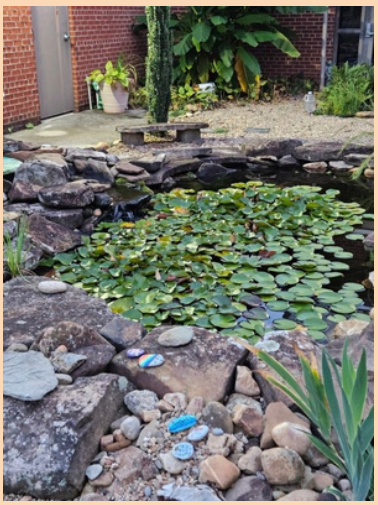






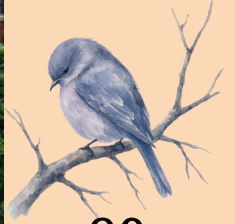












District IV

Sevierville Garden Club

Thanks to everyone who entered the 2026 Tennessee Valley Fair Flower Show. Everyone's arrangements were beautiful. Congratulations to everyone—our club received one grand prize, three 1st place, three 2nd place and one 4th place.









District IV

Sevierville Garden Club



District IV

Shady Oaks Garden Club

Those attending our July meeting posed with our recognition for having the best flower show of 2025 in the state of TN. Congratulations!



The *Johnson City Public Library* reports "Our Children's Library Amphitheater is in full bloom thanks to the amazing *Shady Oaks Garden Club*. Families can grab a book and stop by to enjoy the sunshine! 🌞









Excerpts from Facebook

District IV

Shady Oaks Garden Club

Johnson City, TN

Shady Oaks Garden Club

September 2026

Shady Oaks Awarded $500 Grant From Operation Wildflower

National Garden Clubs Inc. has awarded our club $500 as part of their Operation Wildflower grant program. Shady Oaks will be sponsoring an educational program about wildflower planting at Hands On Discovery Center in Gray, TN on Wed. Nov. 4 at 10:30 am. The speaker will be Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Farms, a local native plant nursery. Christy will discuss landscaping with native plants to optimize biodiversity. On Fri. Nov. 6 there will be a workshop to install native plants provided by Shy Valley Farms in front of the HandsOn Discovery Center according to a design created by Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners.



Exploring the Senses

Shady Oaks has a **floral design challenge** for each monthly meeting. We have been highlighting the senses with monthly challenges exploring the various senses including taste, touch, smell, sound, and sight. Our September challenge involved the sense of sight with floral interpretations of paintings. Nine members were inspired to create 11 exhibits, which may be a record for our group. The next few pages will showcase the creativity of our members.

District IV

Shady Oaks Garden Club



Susan Chase interpreted her grandmother's painting, "Fall River Birch".

Jan Taylor, "Seascape"



Janet Brown, "Starry Night" by Vincent Van Gogh



Debbie Jennings, "Landscape with Trees"

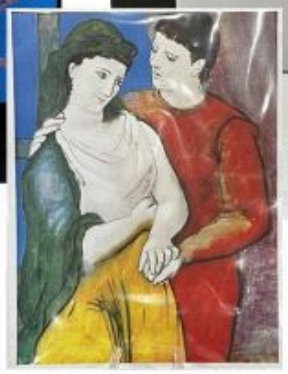


District IV

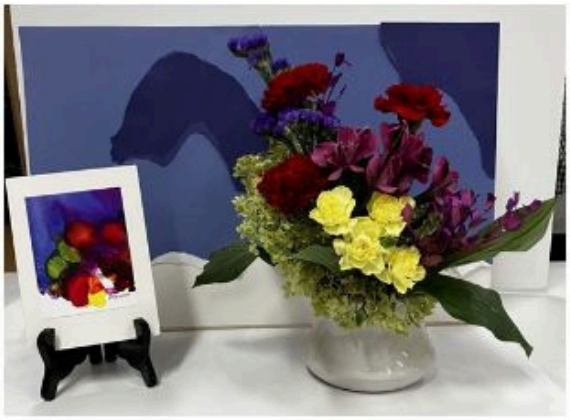
Shady Oaks Garden Club







Rod Houghton created two designs inspired by his beloved painting, "The Lovers" by Pablo Picasso.



Sara Bowers interpreted "Abstract Alcohol Print" and "Speckled Trout".

Cindy Hintz, "Abstract"





District IV

Shady Oaks Garden Club

Barb Sims,
"Floral Design"





Anne Reid interpreted the painting "Bee" which she created herself years ago.

Submitted by Janet Brown

District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club

On July 21st, the Tuckaleechee Garden Club met for their membership meeting at Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church. They were delighted to have guest speaker Donna Stinnett, who presented a captivating program titled "Birthing a Nation." Donna shared fascinating insights into the historical uses of herbal medicinal and "sympathetic magic" practices in childbirth, warfare, and everyday life within Appalachian households. She emphasizes the importance of herbal remedies during the 1800's, a time before modern medicine became widely accessible.

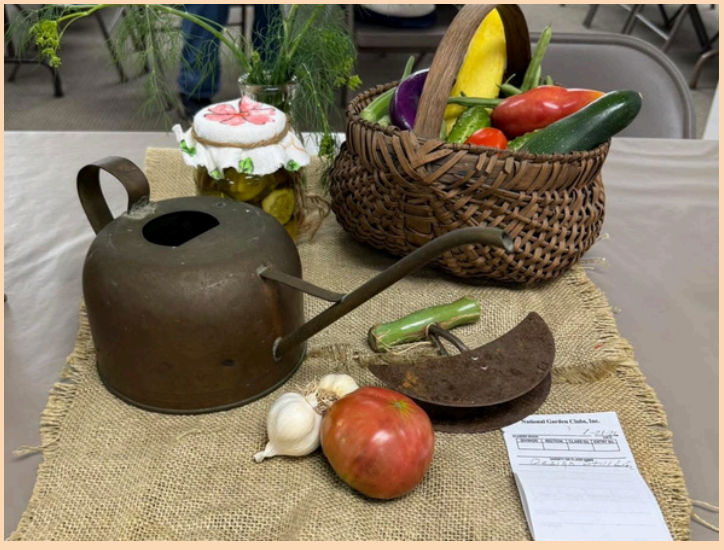


Donna Stinnett explains her family ancestry and their reliance on herbal medicinal uses.



Donna, with Tuckaleechee member Kris Jedlicki, demonstrate herbal medicinal practices in the 1800's.





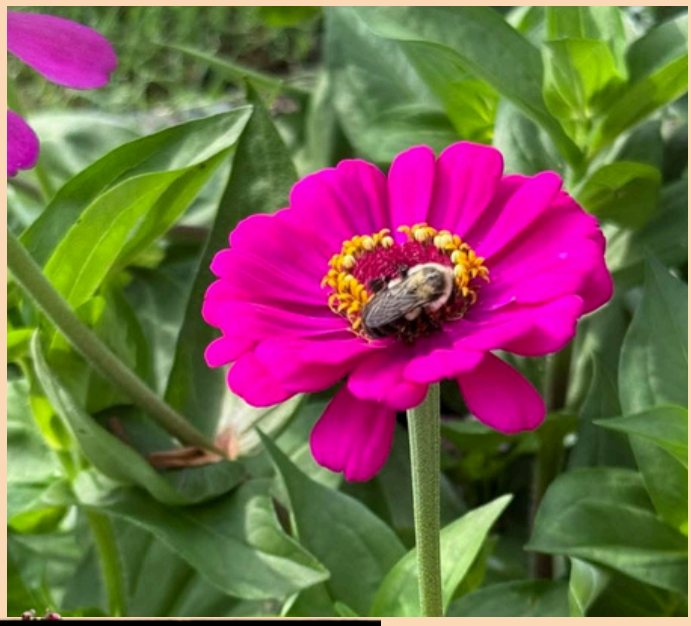
Still Life Designs themed "Life at the Cabin"

District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club

In addition to Donna Stinnett's enlightening program, the club's maintained landscape surrounding TUMC was admired by the attending members and enjoyed by pollinators.





Tuckaleechee Garden Club



Members' horticulture entries

District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club

On July 22nd, the Tuckaleechee Garden Club volunteered at the **Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center** Davis Cabin Kitchen Garden to tend to the crops and keep the weeds in check. The summer rains and humidity can really make weeds grow quickly! This community service project is just one of the many places you'll find us volunteering.







District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club

On July 30th, Tuckaleechee Garden Club members had a delightful and creative morning putting together and arranging floral designs for the Townsend High School Reunion that will be held on August 1st. We're so grateful to be helping out with the flower table arrangements for this yearly celebration. Most of the flowers in the arrangements came straight from the gardens of club members.









District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club









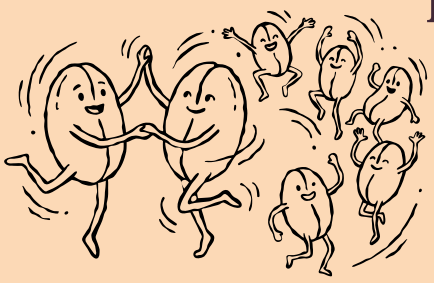


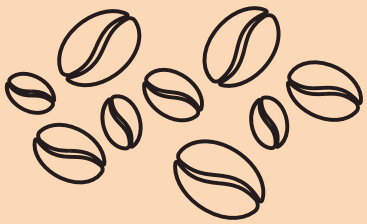
District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club



On August 4th, the club welcomed and chatted with visitors at the Dancing Bean Coffee Shop in Townsend for the Prop-n-Swap—our monthly event where club members share propagation cuttings of plants they've grown. We love giving our cuttings and plant knowledge to everyone who comes by. Plus, the coffee and breakfast treats are always a hit!







District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club



On August 19th, club members volunteered at the Smoky Mountain Heritage Center's Heirloom Kitchen Garden. They spent the morning weeding and harvesting Walker Sisters' Beans and Cushaw Squash. The corn and sorghum have grown amazingly over 10 feet tall! The crops in the Heirloom Garden were grown in the 1800's—crops that were a staple in households.









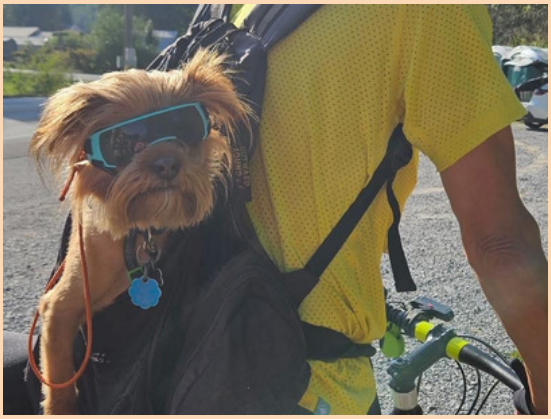


District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club



On September 19th, Club members volunteered at the Dancing Bear's 12th Annual Bike Bash, the best recreational cycling event in the Smokies! This event provided the club with an opportunity to support their local community and promote their club. At the rest stops, Bethlehem Church and Old Walland Hwy., club members kept cyclists fueled and encouraged. They prepared and handed out energy-replenishing snacks and water to the cyclists.











District IV

Tuckaleechee Garden Club



On Saturday, September 26th, the Tuckaleechee Garden Club welcomed guests to the Living History demonstrations at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center as part of the Blue Ribbon Country Fair. The club members donned attire reminiscent of early 1800s settlers from East Tennessee. They demonstrated making corn husk dolls and Cherokee Leaf Pounding onto cotton fabric using colorful wildflowers. Guests were delighted to create their own dolls and imprinted fabric. The activities were a hit with both children and adults.





Excerpts from Facebook

District IV
Fall Membership Meeting

Friday, October 16, 2026

Registration at 9:00 am

Meeting Starts at 9:30 am

Fox Den Country Club
12284 North Fox Den Drive
Knoxville 37934



District IV
Executive Committee
Meeting

Friday, February 26, 2027
10:00 am EST

Fox Den Country Club
12284 North Fox Den Drive
Knoxville 37934



District IV

Spring Membership Meeting

Friday, March 26, 2027

9:00 am -2:00 pm

Fox Den Country Club

12284 North Fox Den Drive

Knoxville 37934



Is there a garden club member in your District who has special interests, inspires others, or has contributed greatly to your club, District, TFGC &/or community?

Nominate that person for the
"Member Spotlight"!
Each Volunteer Gardener edition will feature one garden club member per District.
For this issue, only District I submitted a nominee.

Email photos & a brief article about your nominee to:
annabanana7@comcast.net



Penny Saucier Glover
Garden Club of Rosemark
District I

Penny Saucier Glover is a remarkable and talented lady and a dedicated, effective, and diligent leader and volunteer for the Garden Club of Rosemark and her community.

Penny was the 2013-2015 Editor of *The Volunteer Gardener,* a major TFGC responsibility which she filled with distinction.

She has served as President of the Garden Club of Rosemark, as program chair, and in other leadership positions, particularly in association with our annual flower shows.

The Garden Club of Rosemark has had a flower show or horticulture exhibit every year since 2013 (except for two years during the COVID pandemic), and Penny has been vital and instrumental in making every show a success. A highlight over the years was the 2019 NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show that received the "Kitty Anderson Flower Show Award" as the best flower show in the state. The title of the show was "Everything Old is New Again—Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Repurpose, Rethink, Renew."

At the 2023 District I NGC Flower Show in Memphis, Penny earned the "Award of Design Excellence" for her Underwater Design.

She has attended TFGC Conservation Camp for many years as well as TFGC Conventions, NGC Flower Show Schools, and Symposiums.

Penny was a founding member of the board of directors of Historic Archives of Rosemark and Environs, Inc. (H.A.R.E), a highly active organization that sponsors and promotes local events throughout every year in the community of Rosemark, most notably the Country Fair of Rosemark every September. She was Co-Editor of *An Illustrated History of the People and Towns of Northeast Shelby County and South Central Tipton County*, a 588-page book of historical records, stories, interviews, and photographs that was published by H.A.R.E.

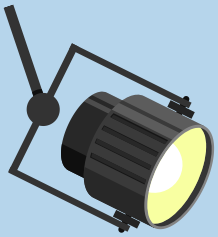
For decades Penny has managed the Bethuel Cemetery, a large community cemetery which was founded over 150 years ago.

In addition, Penny is a fabulous cook, baker, and an outstanding quilter.

Penny is always helpful, resourceful, enthusiastic, creative, encouraging, and willing to do whatever is needed. She thoroughly completes every responsibility for which she volunteers. She is also kind, thoughtful, and caring, and is a cherished and dependable friend.

You can tell WE LOVE PENNY!

Submitted by Molly Hampton





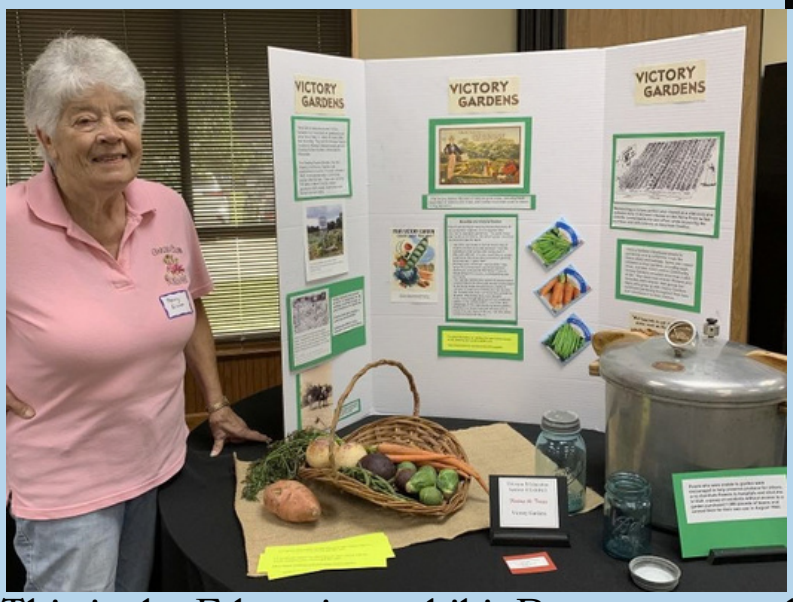




Penny is holding the NGC Horticulture Specialty Show rosette awarded to the 2019 flower show titled, “Everything Old is New Again—Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Repurpose, Rethink, Renew.”



Penny with her Education exhibit, “Garden for Pollinators,” at the 2026 horticulture specialty flower show in Rosemark.



This is the Education exhibit Penny prepared on “Victory Gardens” for the September 26, 2026, horticulture specialty flower show in Rosemark.





The Perfect Garden

Featured Poetry

by Sandy Estes
Optimistic Gardeners Club
District II

In my mind I can imagine the most perfect garden scene

Where the flowers are always blooming and the grass is always green.

Every plant is picture perfect, every tree superbly shaped,

Every path and every border is so perfectly land scaped.

And in this perfect garden world there is never work to do

But real gardens take some effort and they take some tending to.

So I'll wear my muddy garden shoes and grass-stained garden gloves,

And go out to tend the little plot that I'm so thankful of.

Oh I can see it's not idyllic and perfect it is not,

But so much that nature promises is in this little spot.

So I'll probably find a weed or two and a pile of leaf debris.

My garden isn't perfect and that's perfectly fine with me.



Youth Gardening



Evening Belle Garden Club

The club began the 2026 -2027 *Citizen Scientist* Project with Christ the King Elementary in Nashville. We talked about Pollinators and Honey Bees making honey!















Submitted by Asha Joyce. Youth photo releases on file.









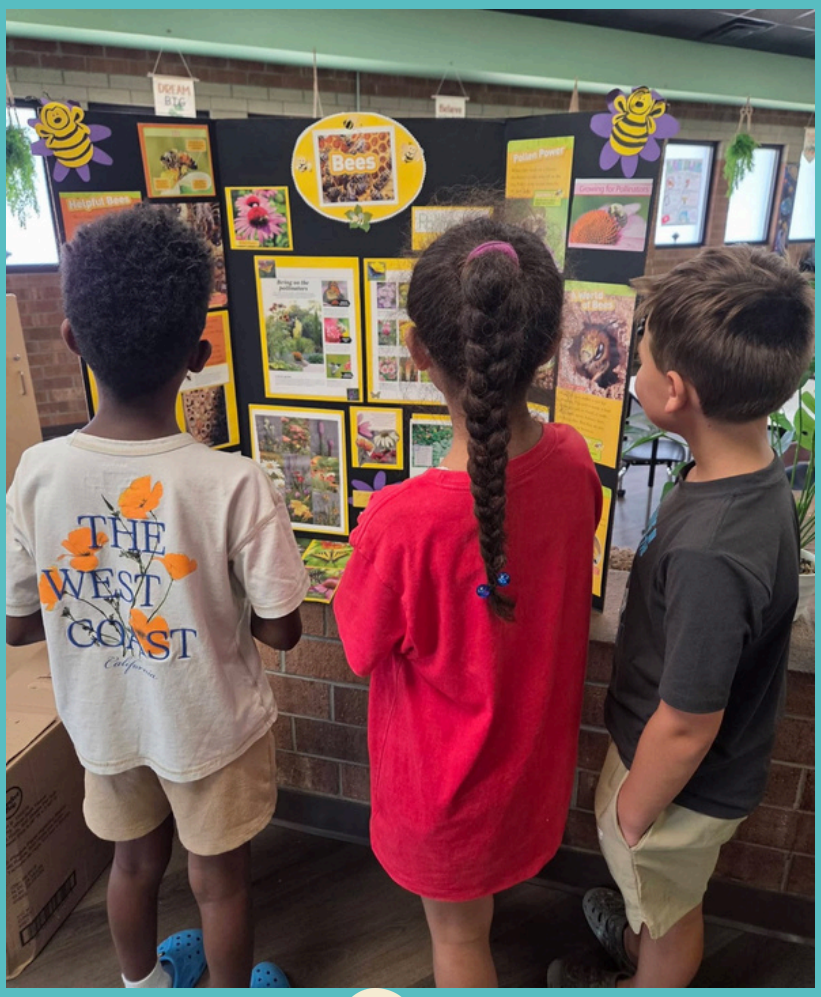
Volunteers: Jeanette, Asha, Ann, Eba, Ro, Megan, Meaghan, & Susie

Optimistic Gardeners Club

District II

The Club shared an Educational Exhibit on “Pollinators” at the Boys and Girls Club. The kids had great questions and shared about pollinators in their yards.







Excerpts from Facebook



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.





















Submitted by Karen Dawson. Youth photo releases on file.

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.

Submitted by Kathy Brown

Does your garden club involve Youth in programs & projects?

Share your Youth Gardening Project
in the Volunteer Gardener!

Email details & photos to:
annabanana7@comcast.net



Unless there are signed release forms from parents,
the youths' faces will be obscured in the photos.


The mountains are a little quieter today.
Thank you, Dolly, for leaving the world kinder, brighter, and covered in a little more sparkle.

Note from the Editor



If you've made it this far,

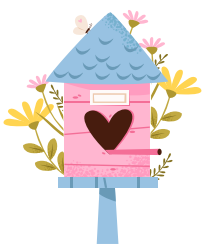
Thank You

for reading the Fall 2026

Volunteer Gardener

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 obviously don't have email addresses for every TFGC member, so I rely on club presidents to forward the email containing the Volunteer Gardener (VG) to their club members. If you would like to receive the VG directly to your inbox from TFGC, just email me, and I will add you to the email list. 😊





Anna Marie Allen
annabanana7@comcast.net