Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

October

2026

District II Newsletter



tngardenclubs.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 **MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT II DIRECTOR**
Becky Fox Matthews

4 **DISTRICT II LEADERS CONTACT INFORMATION**

5 **FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS NOVEMBER 2ND**

6 **2027 WATERWISE GARDEN GRANT**
Lola Eslick

7 **2026 "BOOK OF EVIDENCE" INFORMATION**
Gayle Jaggers

13 **NOTE FROM STATE AWARDS CHAIRMAN**
Debbie Shaver

14 **A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER NATURE**
Anne Leonard

16 **DISTRICT II CLUB NEWS**

36 **CRITTER REPORT: "MAX & MOLLY MANTIS"**
Kathy Rychen

39 **DID YOU KNOW?**
Jolly Sinha

40 **LATE SUMMER HUMMINGBIRDS**
Ann Porter

41 **HARVEST TODAY, ENJOY TOMORROW**
Herb Society of Nashville

42 **UPCOMING EVENTS**

65 **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**
Anna Marie Allen



Message

From the District II Director

Becky Fox Matthews



Want to know one way we are all connected in this country?

Through our waterways! Check out this cool map! According to Andrea Ludwig from the University of Tennessee Extension in 2022, "Just as we all have a physical mailing address, we all live in a watershed and have a "watershed address." A watershed by definition is the land area that drains to a waterbody.

The flow of water through the landscape is directed by relief and topography. Like puzzle pieces, small watersheds fit together along ridges and make up larger river basins."

If you can, click to visit Watersheds of Tennessee and Surrounding Region at this website: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6e69a6ec40354c28ab944e96e3e63adf and follow the instructions to "Search for or zoom to your physical address in the map below and click to find your watershed..."

You can explore detailed maps of where water flows across our land. It shows that the decisions we make in the land surrounding our homes does make a difference!

I hope you are saving the date for the District II Membership Meeting on Monday, November 2, at 10:00 at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, TN. I am working on the rest of the details and will send a call letter as soon as I can!

Becky



2025-2027 District II Executive Board

Director
Becky Fox Matthews
Gateway Acres Garden Club,
Judges Council
1006 Waller Road
Brentwood, TN 37027-8349
becky@lostfrogs.com
615-838-1359

Vice Director
Karen Dawson
Town & Country Garden Club
fdkd70@bellsouth.net
615-594-2455

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

Corresponding Secretary
Kay Wells
Rachel Jackson Garden Club
wellsonhill@comcast.net
615-419-3718

Treasurer
Theresa Bray
Beachaven Garden Club
tlbray1@bellsouth.net
931-542-7362



2025-2027 District II Committee Chairmen



Awards
Gayle Jaggers
Oak Hill Garden Club
bgaylejaggers@comcast.net
615-352-0762 (home)

Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Markers
Pam Dowd
Optimistic Gardeners Club
pamldowd@aol.com
615-896-8663

Chaplain
Annette Shrader
Clarksville Garden Club
annette.shrader@yahoo.com
931-801-8832

Door Prizes
Anna Marie Allen
Gateway Acres Garden Club
annabanana7@comcast.net
615-477-3030

Endowment Trust
Becky Fox Matthews
District II Director
becky@lostfrogs.com
615-838-1359

Grants
Lola Eslick
Franklin County Garden Club
eslickla@aol.com
931-808-5754

Hospitality—Co-Chairs
Tove Rawlings
Country Homes Garden Club
info@therawlings.net
615-876-2169

Jan Vester
Country Homes Garden Club
janvestertn@gmail.com
615-870-2788

Newsletter Editor
Anna Marie Allen
Gateway Acres Garden Club
annabanana7@comcast.net
615-477-3030

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

Vision of Beauty Calendar
Kandee Walker
Harpeth Bend Garden Club
twalker10@aol.com
615-403-5053

Ways & Means
Town & Country
Garden Club

Save the Date

TFGC District II
Fall Membership Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2026
10:00 am

Cumberland Presbyterian Church
522 Castle Heights Avenue
Lebanon, TN 37087

Stay Tuned for More Information to Come!

2027 Waterwise Garden Grant

Now in its third year, the Waterwise Garden Grant—a collaboration between Hunter Industries and *KidsGardening*—will support public and charter schools that want to use gardens to teach about water conservation, water stewardship, and responsible water management.

In 2027, fifty schools will be awarded $1,000 - $2,250 in funding and an irrigation supply kit valued at $500. Any public or charter elementary, middle, or high school (K - 12th grades) located in the United States or U.S. territories that works with at least 15 youth is eligible to apply!

Apply by Friday, October 2, 2026, at 11:59 pm PT.







IMPORTANT



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

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

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

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

tngardenclubs.org

Book of Evidence (BOE) 2026

1. **There is a 3-page limit, (using the front side only, the application plus three more pages.) The 2025-2027 TFGC Application form will be used this year. Access the TFGC Inc. website and click on About Us and then click on Awards and scroll to the application form. There will not be a new District II Award Application form this year. The first page of the three pages will be used to write the summary about your project. You may use the next two pages for photos. Address all the topics listed in the NGC Rubric in the summary or you will lose points in the scoring. Rubric topics can also be stated in the photo captions but highlight them so they won't be overlooked. If your project qualifies for several awards, write a different summary and use different photos for each BOE application. The TFGC photo permission form must be signed by non-members. Members may all sign on one permission form.**

2. **The BOEs will not be returned**, so make a copy for your records in case the BOE gets lost in the mail.

3. Binders and vinyl sheets are not allowed.

4. **Make one hard copy of your BOE and mail it to Tove Rawlings at PO Box 97, Joelton, TN, 37080-0097 by December 1, 2026. Also send one copy of your yearbook to the same address.**

5. **BOEs are due December 1. 2026. Please include your telephone number and email address. You will be notified when the BOE is received. Contact Gayle Jaggers at bgaylejaggers@comcast.net or call 615-659-9898 for questions.**

6. The TFGC Awards Application is not used for your Flower Show BOE. The NGC Flower Show Form is furnished by the TFGC Awards Chairman, Debbie Shaver.

7. For Flower Show Awards see "Flower Show" section of awards on the TFGC website

8. **The State Awards Chairman will submit BOE's to the Deep South and NGC awards chairman, when possible. The TFGC state awards chairman is Debbie Shaver. Contact her at H# 423-775-0102, C# 423-322-8565 or buffiescorner@bellsouth.net. Her address is 349 Sharpe Lane, Dayton, TN 37321-7728. Send BOE's that do not match District II awards directly to the state awards chairman by January 1, 2027 or sooner if possible. Do not send a project for an award directly to Debbie Shaver unless it is a project that does not fit the description of our District II award list. Once district awards are judged, they will be sent to Debbie Shaver.**

2026 District Awards

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

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

#3 Horticulture

#5 Public Relations

#6 Conservation

#7 Special Achievement Award

#8 Promotion of Gardening Among Youth Award

#13 Historic Preservation Award

#16A Yearbook-Club Award

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

#19 Garden Therapy Award

#25 National Garden Week Award

#28 Church and Synagogue Gardens Award

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

#35 The Juanita Allinder Pollinator Award

#45 Litter Control Award

#49 Landscape Design Award

#50 School Grounds Award

#54 Environmental Education Award

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gayle Jaggers
bgaylejaggers@comcast.net
615-659-9898

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

2025-2027 AWARDS APPLICATION

Are your release forms on file?

Yes

No

TFGC Award Number _____TFGC Award Name_____

Date_____ District_____

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

_____

If a Club, Number of Members_____

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

Contact Name_____

Address_____

City _____ ZIP _____

Email Address_____

Phone_____

Is this project NEW_____ OR Continuing_____ When did you start this project? _____

Expected Date of Completion _____ OR is it Ongoing? _____

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

Your current State Awards Chair is:
Debbie Shaver
349 Sharpe Lane
Dayton, TN 37321
423-775-0102
Buffiescorner@bellsouth.net

NGC Awards Program
General Scoring Rubric

	Maximum Points	
Presentation	**5 Total**	**_____**
Cover sheet included with all sections completed	2	
Application adheres to 3 single-page limit unless other size specified in award description	2	
Application neat and concise	1	
Achievement	**65 Total**	**_____**
Meets NGC Mission & Goals	6	
Scope of project defined	4	
Need identified	7	
Benefit to target (members/recipients/community/etc.)	10	
Accomplishment of goals	8	
Comprehensiveness of work	6	
Activities to attain goals explained	8	
Evaluation of goals reached	4	
Educational	3	
Prior Planning	4	
Very brief history if continuing project (give full credit if not a continuing project)	3	
Other	2	
Participation	**15 Total**	**_____**
% of member participation (may include any type of support given)	12	
Involvement of others (community, government agencies, professionals, youth, facility residents, others)	3	
Documentation	**15 Total**	**_____**
Clear photos when applicable, labeled as needed	5	
Landscape plan when applicable (give full credit if not applicable)	5	
Financial details	5	
	100 Total	**_____**



Note from TFGC State Awards Chairman

June 17, 2026

Debbie Shaver, Awards Chairman

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

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

I have spent several days looking back in my computer and finally found an old 2016 report form, and at the bottom it states this. In the process of revamping the form, I have 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



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!**

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

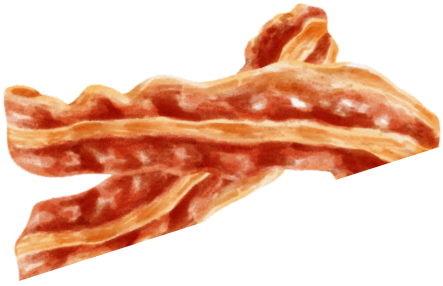
Sample Dinners

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

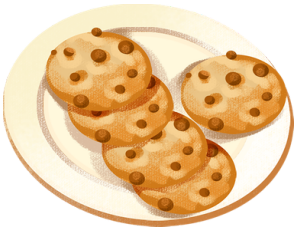
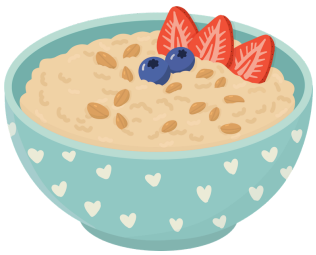
RoastedTurkey
Country Fried Steak
Dressing with Gravy
Green Beans
Sweet Potato Soufflé
Roll
Salad Bar
Cherry Cobbler









WELCOME TO OUR DISTRICT II

CLUB NEWS



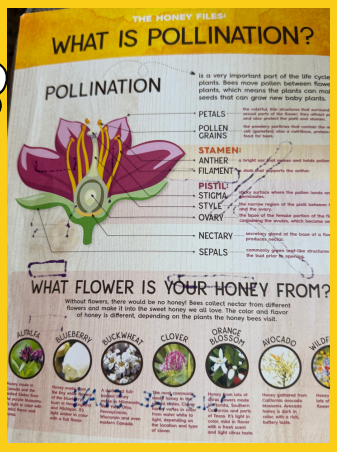
Send your club's photos, meeting news & events to:
annabanana7@comcast.net
text: 615-477-3030
Submission Deadline for the November Newsletter is October 15th.

Anna Marie Allen
District II Newsletter Editor



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.

Harpeth Bend Garden Club
September 9, 2026 Meeting

The Club went to *Classy Cactus* in Murfreesboro and created succulent arrangements.









Jennie Daugherty & Marsha Hunt



Kandee Walker





Claudette Ryan & Betty Chapman





















Submitted by Marsha Hunt

Lake Forest Acres Garden Club

Unfortunately, the Lake Forest Acres Garden Club's August 24th meeting presentation was cancelled due to the scheduled speaker's last-minute illness. We send her our well wishes and hopefully, we can reschedule it in the future.

All things considered, we decided to take a trip up to the Chocolate Covered Strawberry in Gallatin for a luncheon meeting. If you haven't been there, you must try! It is a unique cottage-style venue and has a cozy vibe with warm lighting and a relaxed environment. They offer a variety of lunch plates that include vibrant sandwiches, cold plates, soups, mouth-watering desserts and, of course, a complimentary chocolate covered strawberry. It's the perfect ladies lunch spot and is definitely worth your while!!

















Submitted by Anice Rouse

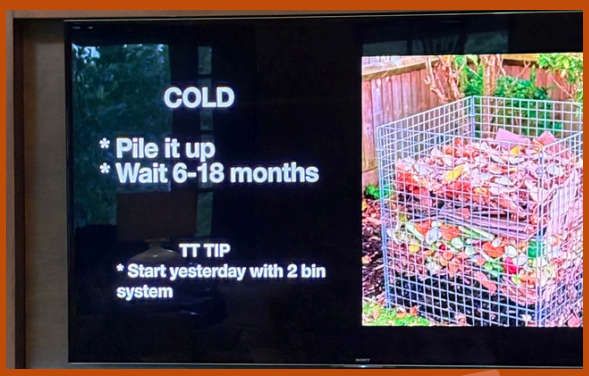
Leipers Fork Garden Club

August Meeting

We had the most delightful evening at the lovely home of Theresa Tillinger. Our program was on *Composting*, and we learned three ways to compost: trench, hot or cold composting. We toured Theresa's gardens and saw the massive variety of things she grows. The delight of the evening was seeing her goats and her dog, Willow. Theresa calls the dog and the goats follow.



















Theresa has a nice three-section area set up for creating the “gardeners gold”. It is divided by cement block.





Submitted by Faye Sturm

Optimistic Gardeners Club
September 2, 2026 Meeting

The Club met at *Stones River Manor Senior Living* in Murfreesboro to create *"Mugs of Sunshine"* with residents.



Hostesses: Mary, Ann & Beth



Carol Anne, Anita, Wanda, Rachel, Carole & Mary



Members brought beautiful flowers for the mugs.





Mugs with *oasis* are ready!



Beth helps residents fill the mugs.



Ruth helps with the finishing touches—Beautiful!







Marion's **Plant Spotlight** on *Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks'.*



Lynn's Educational Exhibit on Fruit Crate Labels



Anita & Wanda were the lucky winners of the Orchid Raffle.




Lillian Hibbett, Carol Anne Beasley and Sandy Estes


Lynn and Joe Rouse with Jenny Reed


Jan Crossett, Mary Richardson and Lisa Chappell


Kaye Clark, Carol Hargett and Karen Dawson

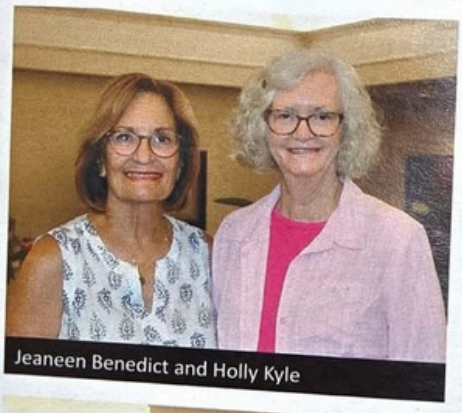
Optimistic Gardeners Club MEETING

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOYCE TAYLOR

The Optimistic Gardeners have stayed busy providing flowers for special events at Oaklands and Stones River Manor, touring three private gardens and sharing educational displays with Linebaugh Library, the Technology Engagement Center and the Boys and Girls Club. President Lillian Hibbett welcomed the group before Sandy Estes offered a prayer through an original poem, followed by the Pledge and a delicious lunch prepared by hostesses Jan Crossett, Mary Richardson and Lisa Chappell.

Lynn and Joe Rouse presented "Design Types"; Carol Hargett displayed a "Collection of Summer Bloomers"; members exhibited home-canned and dried foods and Sheila Byberg explained how to propagate hydrangeas. Youth member Lucy Mizener also displayed her winning Smokey Bear Youth Contest poster, sponsored by the National Forest Service and National Garden Clubs. She won first place in Tennessee among fifth-grade entries.

For more information, contact Lillian Hibbett at lhibbett511@yahoo.com.


Jeaneen Benedict and Holly Kyle


Julia Wilson, Mary Lou Gudelis and Beth Binkley


Sharon Hofer, Dot Taylor and Kim Sadler


Kim Orrand and Patty Compton


Carole Reynolds, Wanda Copley, Ann Porter and Sheila Byberg

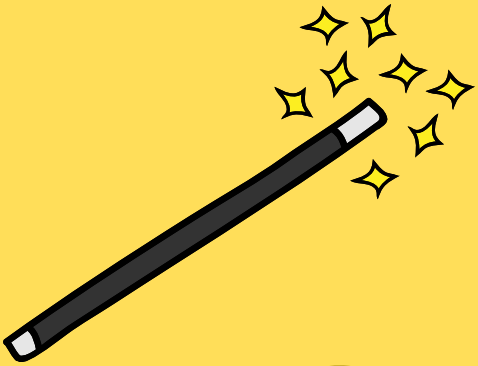




Sheila Byberg & Lillian Hibbett

September Display at Linebaugh Library









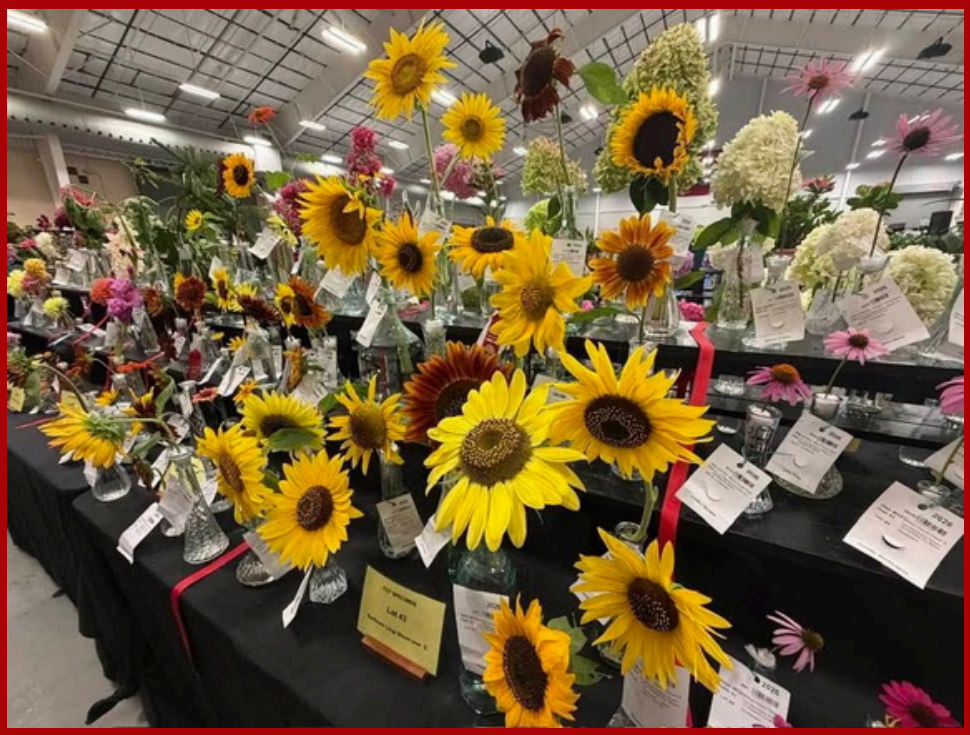
Submitted by Lillian Hibbett

Tennessee State Fair Flower Show Highlights





Judges





Beth Binkley, member of Optimistic Gardeners Club, was one of the Tennessee State Fair Horticulture Chairmen.











Kay Clark—Optimistic Gardeners Club



Julia Wilson & her table design, "Julia's Vintage Afternoon Tea"



Optimistic Gardeners Club member Julia Wilson's arrangement under 5" won 1st Place & a Best of Show!



Tyne Meade Garden Club

Summer Days

To acknowledge summer's winding down and shortening sunny days, the club held its September meeting at Bells Bend Metro Park in northwest Davidson County. Bells Bend is a rural preserve with a deep agricultural history, bountiful wildlife, and a landscape shaped by the river. Many members were unaware of the park, so the location served the dual purpose of introducing the members to a local nature/recreation area and providing a new location for our gathering. In honor of the untouched rural landscape, the theme of our luncheon was a "1950s–1960s Picnic" with dishes reminiscent of that time—fried chicken, potato salad, strawberry salad, stuffed celery, and chess pie!



Members enjoy the novel meeting location —clockwise, Marlene Key, Terri Kureshi, Doris Weakley, Mindy Brodbeck and Jan Shockey.



Checked tablecloths and sunflowers in mason jars support our picnic theme.

Safety First!







Our guest speaker was Chris Henley who spoke about everyday **"Gardening Safety".** As gardeners, we frequently become so mesmerized in our work that we often take shortcuts and ignore basic safety rules. Chris, who has a landscaping company and extensive experience with large projects and employees, reminded us of the importance of keeping safety at the top of our minds.

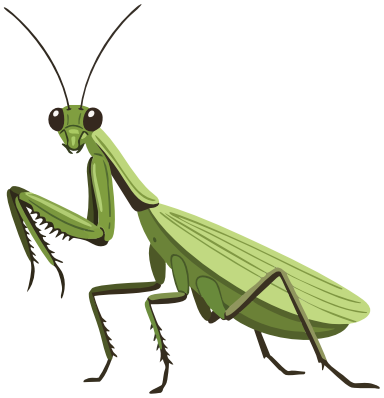
Examples of tool safety include planning a gardening project with potential tools needed nearby, thereby saving trips to gather more tools, careful placement of tools while in use to avoid incurring an injury or a fall, and the safe use of ladders—even if only 4 feet off the ground, serious injuries can occur. The talk was a great refresher on not losing focus when it comes to safety.

Bye, bye summer!

Submitted by Kathy Brown
First Vice President of Tyne Meade

October

Critter Report
by Kathy Rychen



"Max & Molly Mantis"

I will start off by letting you know that a praying mantis bite is not poisonous and does not have any stingers. Instead it uses the spikes on its forelegs to protect itself.

The term "mantis" comes from the Greek word "mantikos," meaning soothsayer or prophet, reflecting their spiritual appearance when their forelegs are clasped together. When judged solely on its name, the mantis can easily give the wrong impression. It should have been named "preying" mantis due to its predatory nature.

Praying mantises are skilled predators, using their highly adapted front legs to catch prey with lightning-fast reflexes.

There are over 2,400 species of mantises worldwide, with the European mantis (Mantis religiosa) being one of the most recognized.

Many mantises can blend into their surroundings, using their appearance to ambush prey effectively. Some mantises can fly, depending whether it has wings or not, as most adult mantises do. Usually females can't fly but the males can.

A Praying Mantis has five (5) eyes which include two (2) large compound eyes located on either side of its head, which help detailed vision, and three (3) smaller simple eyes called ocelli, situated between the compound eyes. The ocelli detect light and motion, which help the mantis's ability to sense its environment, but only has one (1) ear, which is located on the underside of its belly just forward of its hind legs.

The mantis is the only insect that has stero-vision, which means a mantis can look at the same spot with both eyes that helps them determine distances more accurately. They have flexible necks allowing them to turn their head 180 degrees to spot predators. Try to sneak upon a mantis and you may be startled when it looks over its shoulder at you. No other insect can do this.

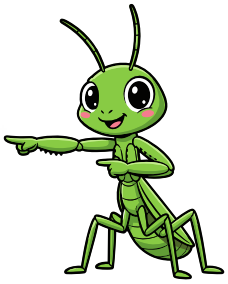
One well known fact is that female mantises are known for sexual cannibalism, where they may eat the male while or after mating. As it turns out, a male mantid is an even better lover when his brain, which controls inhibition,is detached from his abdominal ganglion, which controls the actual act of copulation.

The abdominal ganglion in a mantis is a cluster of nerve cells located in the abdomen which plays a crucial role in the insect's nervous system by processing sensory information and coordinating movements of the abdomen and associated organs.The abdomen is essential for functions like reproduction and digestion.

The mantis life cycle has three (3) stages: Egg, Nymph and Adult.

After mating the females typically lay their eggs in late summer or fall, and the young develop within the ootheca over the winter months. The foamy case insulates the offspring from the cold and provides them with some protection from predators.The tiny mantis nymphs hatch from their egg while still inside the egg case

Depending on the environmental variables and the species, the nymphs may take three to six months to emerge from the protective foam case. Once they make their way out of the egg case they are hungry and ready to hunt and immediately begin to disperse in search of food. When they emerge, the babies look like tiny versions of the adult mantis.



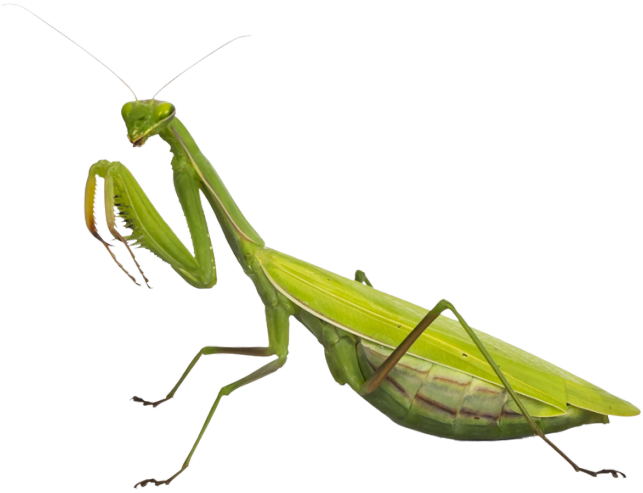
The different looks of praying mantises serve as camouflage for protection. Some species have distinct body shapes that make the insects look like branches, flowers or leaves. The most common praying mantis color is green, but it can range from brownish colors and tones to camouflage its body among its environment.



The Egg Case



The babies are ready to hunt for food.



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

...why cranberries are harvested in water?

Most cranberries are grown in large bogs or marshes. No, they do not grow underwater. Farmers flood the cranberry fields so that the water level is higher than the bushes. The berries are knocked off the vines by mechanical harvesters, then, when they float to the surface they are corralled onto a truck for transport to a processing plant.

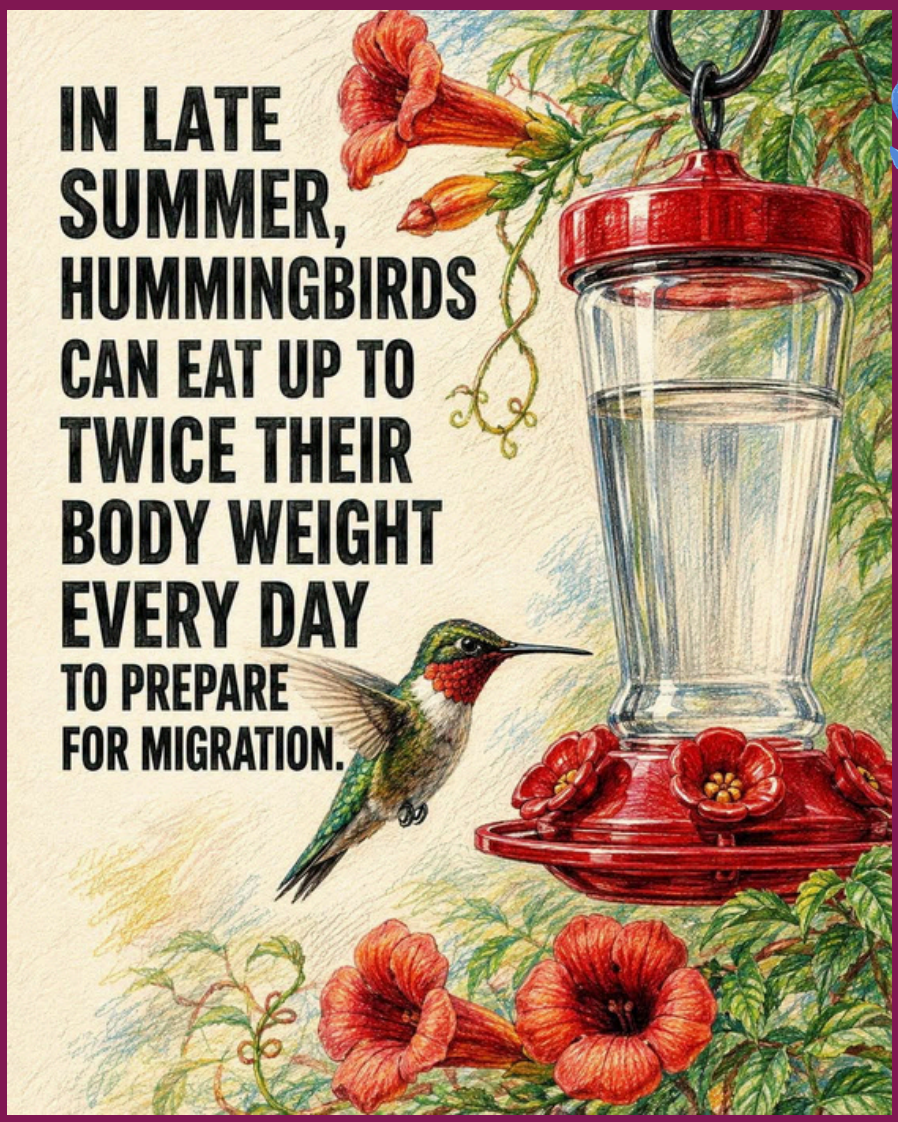




Small pockets of air inside cranberries cause them to bounce & float in water.



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







Photos by Ann Porter—Optimistic Gardeners Club

Herb Society of Nashville

Harvest Today, *Enjoy Tomorrow*

SAVING SEEDS FROM HERBS & FLOWERS



As summer winds down, our gardens are full of abundance—and opportunity. Saving seeds from herbs and flowers is an easy, rewarding way to enjoy free plants next season, support pollinators now, and connect more deeply with the rhythm of the garden.

A little effort today brings beauty and bounty tomorrow!

WHY SAVE SEEDS?

- **It's economical** – Free plants for next year!
- **It preserves your favorites** – Save the varieties that grow best in your garden.
- **It supports pollinators** – Many herb and flower seeds provide food for birds and beneficial insects.
- **It's satisfying** – Few things feel better than growing something from seed you saved yourself.

EASY STEPS TO SAVE HERB SEEDS

1. **Allow flowers to mature** – Let some blooms remain on the plant until they dry and turn brown.
2. **Harvest on a dry day** – Cut seed heads or stalks in the morning after the dew has dried.
3. **Dry completely** – Place seed heads in a paper bag or on a tray in a warm, dry spot for 1–2 weeks.
4. **Remove seeds** – Rub, shake, or thresh the seed heads to release the seeds.
5. **Store properly** – Keep seeds in labeled paper envelopes or glass jars in a cool, dry place.
6. **Enjoy next season** – Plant at the right time and watch your garden grow!

A Note for Middle Tennessee Gardeners

Let some herbs flower and go to seed now to feed our late-season pollinators. Your garden will be buzzing—and beautiful—well into fall!

HERBS THAT ARE EASY TO SAVE

DILL	Let the seed heads turn brown and dry. Great for cooking, pickling—and beneficial insects love it too!
CORIANDER	Allow the flower heads to dry on the plant. Seeds (coriander) and leaves are both useful.
FENNEL	Seeds are aromatic and delicious. Leave the umbels to dry completely.
BASIL	Let the flower spike turn brown. Seeds are tiny—shake over a paper plate.
CHIVES	Lovely purple flowers make edible seeds. Leave a few for pollinators and next year's crop.
LEMON BALM	Seeds form in small clusters—easy to save! Gently rub to release.
BORAGE	Let flowers fade and seeds develop. Shake seeds from dry stems.

FLOWERS WORTH SAVING

Many annual and perennial flowers are wonderful to grow from seed. Try saving seeds from zinnias, black-eyed Susans, cosmos, coneflowers, and native wildflowers. They'll add joy to your garden—and to the birds!



Grow, Learn, Share the Joy of Herbs!

The Herb Society of Nashville invites you to explore the many ways herbs enrich our gardens, our kitchens, and our lives. Visit us at an upcoming program!

HERB SOCIETY of NASHVILLE



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Flower Shows
- Flower Power Fundraiser
- Meetings
- Presentations
- Plant Show
- Plant & Seed Swap
- President's Project
- Fashion Show & Tea
- Sparkling Settings
- Conventions

~Presented by Flower Growers Garden Club~

Whimsical Gardens

An NGC Standard Flower Show
for the Community

Saturday, September 26, 2026
12 pm ~ 3 pm

Located Outdoors:
1922 Saddlebrook Drive, Murfreesboro TN



Free ~ Open to the public

Handicapped Accessible

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


"Celebrating Our Heritage with Fall in the Country"
An NGC Standard Flower Show
Tuesday, September 29, 2026
12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.
402 Bass Road
Watertown, TN 37184
615.289.2138
Sponsored by:
Beachaven Garden Club
Country Homes Garden Club
Oak Hill Garden Club
Town and Country Garden Club
Members of:
National Garden Club, Inc.
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. District II
Open and free to the public - handicap accessible


Medley of
Roses
2026
AMERICAN
ROSE
SOCIETY
National Convention & Rose Show
OCTOBER 2–5 | Nashville, TN
Sheraton Music City Nashville Airport Hotel

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

Branching Out
Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Fashion Show & Tea Party

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

PRESENTED BY

Dillard's
The Style of Your Life.

AT

THE MALL AT GreenHills

FASHION SHOW
12:00 P.M.

TEA PARTY
2:00 UNTIL 4:00
AT DILLARD'S

PARKING
THE EMERALD PARKING GARAGE

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 14TH

SEATING IS LIMITED

FREE TREES WILL BE AVAILABLE

PATRONS' PARTY WILL BE OCTOBER 21ST
INVITATION TO FOLLOW



HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE 1931

NORTH NASHVILLE

NATIVE PLANT & SEED SWAP

Pleasant Green Park
Shelter 7
Goodlettsville

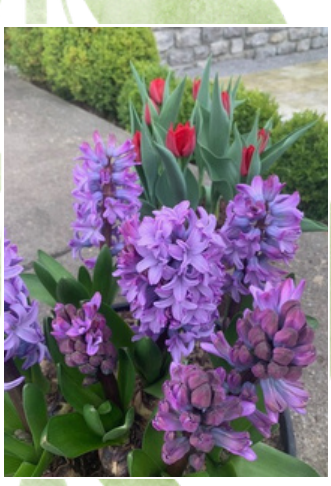
Saturday
October 10, 2026
10:00 AM

Bring native plants, native seeds, books, pots, and/or other garden items to swap or give away.

Not sure where to start? No problem! Native plant educators will be on site to answer questions or offer planting suggestions!

FlowerPower Online Fundraiser










Last chance for bulbs for the DSGC scholarship! We are excited to offer several New Items to our Fall 2026 Program! New items will be marked with a red, New Item banner on the top left of the picture. The deadline is October 15. Items will ship in early October.

http://DSGC.fpfundraising.com

Contact Ways and Means Chairmen, Kathy Sudduth, with questions.
kathymsudduth@gmail.com 251.978.0661



MIDDLE TENNESSEE HOSTA SOCIETY



OCTOBER MEETING DETAILS

For our October meeting the speaker will be **Steve Cunningham**, and he will share with us a photo survey of **American Hosta Society Convention** called ***Buckeye Hosta Fever*** in Dublin, OH, which took place June 10-13, 2026. The meeting be **Saturday, October 24th** at the **Donelson Branch of the Metro Public Library** system at **11:00 AM**. This is a relatively new branch, located at **2714 Old Lebanon Rd, Nashville, TN 37214** and will be our first time to meet there. (We had scheduled a meeting at this location that was canceled because of the ice storm in late January of 2026.) We will gather at 11:00 with light snacks available, have a short business meeting at 11:15, and then Steve will begin his presentation. We will have a drawing for door prizes at the end of the meeting.

SHOP THE MOST DIVERSE PLANT SELECTION IN THE REGION

ANNUALS | CACTI | CARNIVOROUS | FLORALS | NATIVES | PERENNIALS | TROPICALS

TENNESSEE PLANT SHOW

FALL 2026



Nashville!

TENNESSEE PLANT SHOW

NASHVILLE'S FIRST TWO-DAY PLANT SHOW









OCTOBER 24 & 25

THE FAIRGROUNDS NASHVILLE

401 WINGROVE STREET — EXPO 3

WWW.TENNESSEEPLANTSHOW.ORG

Saturday 10AM – 4PM

Sunday 10AM – 3PM

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Fall

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10:00 a.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

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

Botanic Hall
Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville

CITY FARMHOUSE

POPUP FAIR

FRANKLIN, TN



Friday, November 13

VIP Shopping 9am – 12pm | $25
General Admission 12pm – 4pm | $15

Saturday, November 14

9am – 4pm | $15

Bicentennial Park Pavilion
Franklin, TN
400 5th Ave., Corner of 3rd Ave. & N Margin St.

GET TICKETS & INFO

cityfarmhousefranklin.com

615-268-0216

Save the Date

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2026

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE





PRESENTS

Sparkling Settings

BOTANIC HALL CHEEKWOOD



Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Winter Membership Meeting

Monday, January 25, 2027
10:00 am
Botanic Hall
Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

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

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

Emailadandcompeted form to Stephanie Butler sfbdgc2013@gmail.com.
Phone: 205-442-3195

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make checkspayable toDeep 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


Save the Date
April 19 – 21, 2027
Tennessee Federation of
Garden Clubs, Inc.
2027 Convention
“Entwined with Nature for Over 100 Years”
Embassy Suites
West Knoxville

Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Spring Membership Meeting & Coffee

Monday, April 26, 2027
10:00 am
Botanic Hall
Cheekwood Estate & Gardens



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2027 Convention

May 13 – 17, 2027

Madison, Wisconsin



The Rachel Jackson Garden Club presents



An NGC Petite Small-Standard Flower Show

Thursday, October 21, 2027

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

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

Show closes at 2:30 pm

OPEN AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

FALL Community FLOWER SHOW



Coming in Late Fall 2027

Details to Follow





Note from the Editor



If you've made it this far,

Thank You

for reading the October 2026

District II Newsletter

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

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



Anna Marie Allen
annabanana7@comcast.net