



TENNESSEE
GARDEN CLUBS
ESTD 1926



TFGC District IV

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Greetings District IV,

Happy Fall You'all. It has been a busy end of summer and full speed ahead into Fall. I bet everyone has been busy preparing for the cooler temperatures coming soon. Putting your gardens to bed so they will come back beautifully next Spring is always a labor of love.

District club activities are becoming more active. Next week on the 29th, we have our first Fall District Membership meeting in two years. I am looking forward to gathering at Fox Den Country Club to meet new friends and reacquaint with members again. This will be a fun day beginning at 9:00 with coffee and shopping. At 9:30 our meeting will start. There is a lot on the agenda, so I hope to see you there. Bobby Fulcher from the Cumberland Trail will be our guest speaker along with some other surprises.

Help Knox County Council of Garden Clubs celebrate 75 years of membership. They will be at Ivan Racheff House and Gardens on November 4th at 10:00. Bring a dish and enjoy a pot-luck party!

Remember to bring your silent auction item and lots of \$\$\$ to Fox Den. Please send club information and pictures for the newsletter by the 15th of November. And, please invite me to your meetings!

See you soon .

In federation love,

Wanda Taylor

Theme: Let East Tennessee Shine with New Growth

Projects: Grow in Membership and Support our Historic State Headquarters, Ivan Racheff House and Gardens

<https://www.tngardenclubs.org/>

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DISTRICT IV NEWS

Arrisa Garden Club News:



Each year, Oak Ridge Library staff and patrons look forward to the arrival of the Arrisa Garden Club "Gardening Scarecrows." Planted in the Arrisa-tended flower garden at the Library entrance, the colorful scarecrows greet passers-by with flowery grins. These scarecrow ambassadors for Garden Club bring out the joy of gardening!



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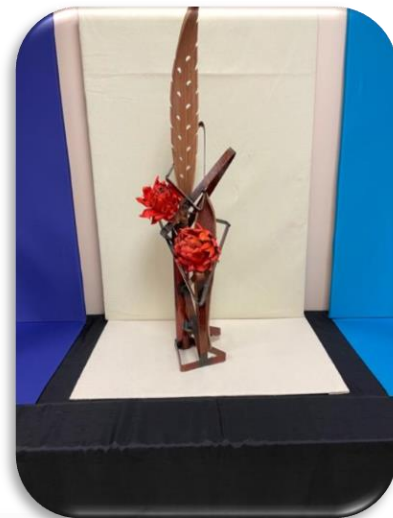
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August 22-23, District IV Judges Council hosted Tennessee's NGC Symposium. With help from Arissa Garden Club in Oak Ridge, over 40 attendees from across the state were joined by Flower Show Judges from California, Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky to hear Instructors Dot Yard and Lynn Fronk teach. COVID guidelines were followed, masks were encouraged, and a lovely shaded outdoor pavilion was a welcome location for eating outside. The Symposium has been officially accredited by NGC, giving continuing education credits to a dozen Master Flower Show Judges and to 15 Accredited Judges who took the point scoring exams.

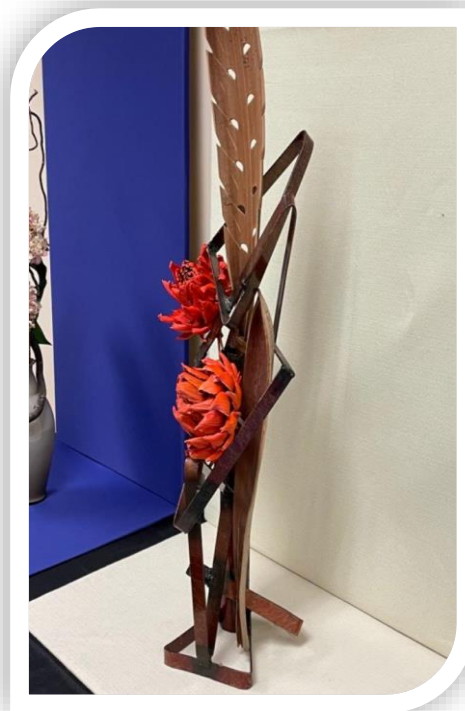


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District IV Newsletter Submission – Tuckaleechee Garden Club

September 27, 2021 - Written by Allison Pearson

Garden Insects: Friend or Foe?

Many gardeners are tested by annoying garden insects, chewing and damaging, or even killing, our treasured trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables. We bemoan those pesky vermin eliminating our well-deserved blue ribbon in horticulture and design exhibits with every bite they take, despite our toil in the garden all season long. Yet some garden insects are also important friends.

To help club members sort out insect friends or foes, Nicholas St. Sauveur, Arborist, Cortese Tree Specialists (http://www.cortesetree.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=gmb&utm_content=RC_Knoxville), provided a highly entertaining and interactive program entitled "Harmful and Helpful Insects" at the September meeting of the Tuckaleechee Garden Club (District IV).

Nicholas tested our knowledge of common harmful insects. As gardeners, our "most despised insects list" often includes the southern pine bark beetle and aphids. The bark beetle can kill a tree in as little as two weeks. Aphids (plant lice) can cause damaged leaves, stunted growth, yellowing or browning, and reduce yields. Aphids are prolific: they give birth to live young, who are born pregnant, and can give birth up to 10 times per day. No wonder we fear them!

Nicholas educated club members on the insects that are helpful in our gardens, including lady bugs, assassin bugs, and lacewings. Many of these helpful insects eat the harmful ones. For example, one adult lady bug can eat 50 aphids per day, or about 5,000 aphids in a lifetime. Lacewings also eat aphids and spider mites.

One of our gardening challenges is to reduce the harmful insects and increase the number of helpful ones. Nicholas offered the following guidance to reduce harmful insects:

- Increase biodiversity in our gardens
- Plant trees with narrow families (e.g., ginkgo)
- Reduce stress on our plants
- Promote predatory insects in our gardens
- Use select chemical controls carefully, and generally avoid soil injections that kill everything.

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

Mountain Laurel GC held their September meeting outdoors in the Pavilion at Fairview school. New member and NGC Master Judge, Paula Fortson presented the program on creating a mass design using a pumpkin as a container. She demonstrated cleaning out the pumpkin and using oasis to hold all the materials together. Members learned to compare their design to a clock with the center being the tallest at 1 1/2 - 2 times the height of the container and shorter items added at 12, 3, 6 and 9. After getting the basic structure members filled in between these points and added to the bottom to make arrangement bottom heavy. Another tip Paula gave was to think of a color wheel when designing by using a color in the container and then using a color opposite on the color wheel. Nancy Robinson, NGC Master Judge and Marilyn Johnson, NGC Accredited Judge helped members complete their designs.

Members have been working in the gardens at the school, but without the students help due to widespread Covid cases. Club members will again be decorating Maryville College for Homecoming on October 22. The October meeting will be our spooky fundraising auction, one of the club's annual events.

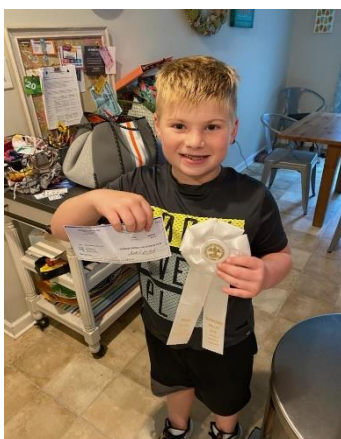
Written by Sandy Vandenburg,
Picture on next page



Pictured are a few of the arrangements. It got dark quickly and there are no lights in the pavilion.

The **Knox County Council of Garden Clubs'** September speaker was Marilyn Childress from the Veterans Heritage Site Foundation. She talked about plans for the new Veterans Memorial Park in South Knoxville near the John Sevier State Veteran's Cemetery.

Norwood Garden Club participated in the Tennessee Valley Fair on September 14, 2021. Our juniors did a spectacular job on their horticulture entries. We had 9 entries winning several ribbons. The children also won sweepstakes: 1st place winner was Brooklyn Graves, 2nd place winners were Millie Teaton and Maddie Williamson, 3rd place winners Evie Teaton and Levi Williamson and 4th place winner was Andrew Williamson. **Norwood** is so very proud of each and every one for their efforts. Congratulations on a job well done





Lakemoor Hills Garden Club members' October meeting was a Fall Fete with dinner catered by Bistro by the Tracks, French music, and fun fellowship.
Above – Wanda Taylor, Kim Overman and Kathy Proctor
Below Kim Overman with Hostess Tonya Copeland





Tuckaleechee Garden Club



Fall Fun displayed at the Townsend River Walk –

Decorations by Theresa Schehr and Allison Pearson

Tuckaleechee Garden Club maintains the:



<https://www.townsendriverwalk.com/>



Town and Country Garden Club members planted over 400 bulbs and weeded flower beds at TFGC State Headquarters Ivan Racheff House and Gardens.

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Sevierville Jr Gardeners at the Boys & Girls Club are growing mini-pumpkins! Their first harvest, soon to be seen at our sales booth decorated up. The pollinator garden and raised beds at the Boys and Girls Club are being used for: SGC youth gardening program Seeds & Sprouts which is now a Junior Master Gardener club.

SGC is taking action to sustain pollinator habitats. The 2021 Matching Grant Endowment Fund through the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., has allowed our club to create 3 pollinator garden beds: At the American Eagle Foundation; King Family Library garden, and Boys and Girls Club.

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Sevierville Garden Club - It's Fall, Y'all! Time for pumpkins! Club member Renee Thrap directed members at the October 13th meeting on how to make their own fall centerpieces that will last clear up 'til Christmas. The pumpkins make creative and organic decorations that are a great gift. Some of the items they made were sold in the club's booth at the Wears Valley Fall Fest. Members were asked to bring items to the meeting to place in the pumpkins: small succulents, nuts, cones, dried flowers, etc. Members made one to keep and gave one to donate for their sale! Below are President Sandy Smith and Renee Thrap.



The Knox County Council of Garden Clubs Celebrates 75 years.

The Knox County Council of Garden Clubs was organized in 1946. For 75 years we have served our communities and grown lots of LOVE!
 In 1946 the KCCGC was organized under the capable leadership of Mrs. Alice Ijams who served as first President. The purpose of the council was - To bring together the garden clubs of the City of Knoxville and Knox County as a Council where knowledge, ideas, projects and activities would work together for the betterment of the community. And the purpose continues today.

Please join us for this celebration!

November 4 at
 Racheff House and Gardens
 1943 Tennessee Avenue, Knoxville TN



1946-2021

Join us for a celebratory lunch.

**Thursday November 4
 10:00 a.m.**

After a brief business meeting, we will celebrate past Presidents and history of the Council.

Pot-luck lunch to follow.

Congratulations to Knox County Council of Garden Clubs and their Volunteer Service for 75 years!

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Congratulations to West Hills Garden Club for being chosen for the 2022 Dogwood Trail!!

Several District IV members went with UT Gardens on a bus trip to Nashville. Pictured on right is at Hewitt's Garden Center: Janie Bittner, Tuckaleechee GC, Bill Hewitt, Frances Hoffman and Wanda Taylor, Smoky Mountains GC and UT Interim Director James Newburn. Second picture is at Moore and Moore Garden Center: Wanda Taylor District IV

Mountain Laurel Garden Club's October Meeting was held at the home of Sandy Vandenburg. This was their annual "Funraising" auction to raise money for their community projects and operating funds. A delicious dinner of chili, soup and barbecue was served along with an assortment of desserts. A fun evening outside with chilly fall weather.



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Some of the scarecrows created by members to decorate at Maryville College as their Fall project.



Master gardener and volunteer Janie Bitner examines fragile plant specimens in the natural history Collections at Twin Creeks Science and Education Center in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Photo courtesy of NPS

Janie Bitner's Roots Run Deep in the Great Smoky Mountains

For *The National Gardener* and *Tennessee Volunteer Gardener*

The National Gardener <https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener>

Please contact editor, Gerianne Holzman, with any questions: gholzman@gardenclub.org

Tennessee Volunteer Gardener

<https://www.tngardenclubs.org/forms/>

Janie Bitner loves plants and gardening, spanning from the local level leading her garden club to the global stage cataloguing plants in the most biologically diverse national park in the United States. Her dedication and commitment are unquestionable considering her deep roots in gardening and gardening organizations. She is a member of the East Tennessee Hosta Society, the Smoky Mountain Orchid Society, the East Tennessee Daffodil Society, and the East Tennessee Rose Society. She is a volunteer for the University of Tennessee Gardens. Her leadership roles include Tuckaleechee Garden Club President and a plethora of roles at the state level with the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs: District IV Vice Director; Chairman of Wildflowers, Native Plants and Trees; and board member, District IV Endowment Trust Chairman. She also served in various financial roles for the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs. In 2016 she served as the Ivan Rachel House and Gardens Garden Chairman.

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But it may be Janie's commitment to plant identification and preservation in the Great Smoky Mountains that will have the most enduring impact and lasting legacy. Janie is a long-time volunteer in the Natural History Collections at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, working in the herbarium at the Twin Creeks Science and Education Center, cataloguing the incredibly diverse plants of the Smokies. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most biodiverse park in the National Park System, where 20,000 unique species have been documented, including over 1,600 species of flowering plants. Due partly to the incredible plant diversity, Great Smoky Mountains National Park is an International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site. Janie Bitner has updated, re-cataloged or cataloged an astounding 8,135 plant specimens, representing over half of the herbarium at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Janie's work cataloguing the incredible volume and variety of plants in the Smokies was recently recognized by Great Smoky Mountains Association (GSMA). GSMA operates as a nonprofit partner to the National Park Service, with the primary purpose of supporting "*the scientific, historical, and interpretive activities of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*" (<https://www.smokiesinformation.org/about-gsma>). GSMA's Aaron Searcy, Publications Associate, penned an excellent article detailing Janie's efforts to preserve the diverse plant life of the Smokies: <https://www.smokiesinformation.org/news/volunteer-preserves-smokies-plant-diversity.html>.

Janie was the featured presenter in October 2021 for Discover Life in America (<https://dlia.org>) sharing her extensive knowledge and experience in cataloging and protecting over 8,000 plant species ranging from the most common to the rarest, as well as the most endangered and threatened species in the Smokies.

When asked about her commitment to preserving plants in the Smokies, Janie offered the following thoughts:

I volunteer in the Park because I want to give back to a beautiful place I have been visiting since I was a child. My daddy brought us to the Smoky Mountains for picnics, hikes, and swimming holes! I also love the fact that with the support of our Park partners we are discovering new species to science. Preserving these specimens is paramount.

Janie Bitner exemplifies the mission and goals of the NGC through her deeply rooted work in her local club and her leadership roles at the state level in Tennessee. Her long-term efforts cataloguing the multitude of plant species in the Smokies further demonstrates her commitment to the NGC Conservation Pledge: "..... to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife."