



TENNESSEE
GARDEN CLUBS
ESTD 1926



TGC District IV

District IV Officers

Director—Wanda Taylor

Vice Director—Janie Bitner

Chaplain—Janet Oaks

Rec. Secretary—Winifred Silvers

Cor. Secretary—Connie Barker

Treasurer—Kathleen Boryla-Payne

Assistant Treasurer—Amelia Daniels

Advisors—Connie Barker, Connie Wallace, Cathy Donaldson, Carole Whited, Lisa Phipps

Parliamentarian—Charlotte Miller

Greetings District IV and Happy Spring!

Lots going on as garden clubs begin the season with flower shows, plant sales, and installations.

I look forward to hearing about your upcoming events and activities.

March 25 is our Spring District meeting at Fox Den Country Club; I hope to see you there. We will hear from Knox County Master Gardens on the Smart Yard Program. I recently took the course and have certified my yard, eagerly awaiting my new sign!

The schedule for the district flower show “We The People” will be available online soon. Members can start signing up for designs on March 30.

The annual Presidents’ and Treasurers’ meeting will be at Racheff on May 6, 10 a.m. – noon.

Remember the club dues deadline is June 1 and must be submitted online. Let me know if you need help.

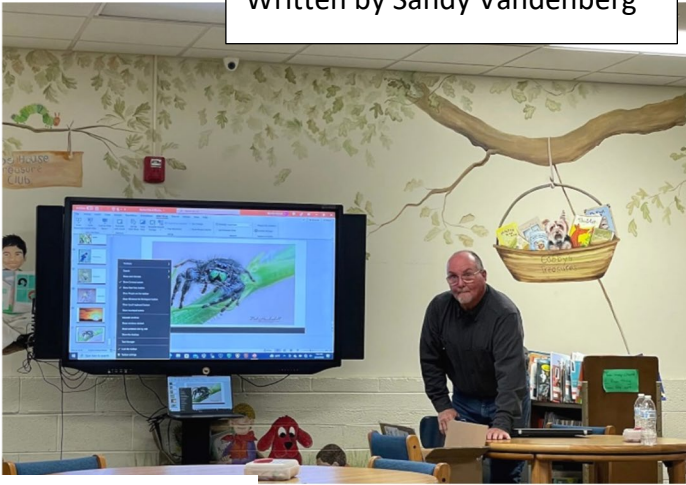
District IV Director Wanda Taylor

Theme: Let East Tennessee Shine with New Growth

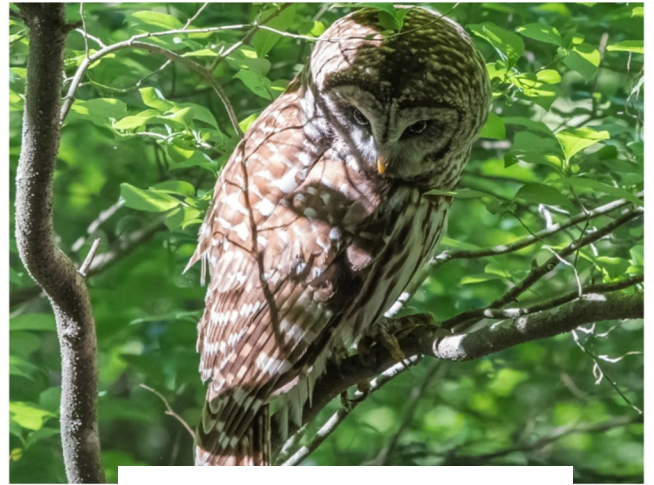
Projects: Grow in Membership and Support Our Historic State Headquarters, Ivan Racheff House and Gardens

District IV News

Written by Sandy Vandenberg



Bob Howdeshell



Sandy Vanderberg's Barred Owl

Mountain Laurel Garden Club members are happy to be getting back to normal after so many Zoom and outdoor meetings. Christmas was celebrated with a dinner meeting a Calhoun's in Maryville. January's meeting was canceled due to snow, but members started planning events for spring and snowless weather.

The February meeting was a very informative and educational program on birds by Bob Howdeshell, a Maryville birder and bird photographer. It was a real treat to see his photos, as he has had several published and used by Audubon and Cornell.

Members were given a handout to help with bird identification. Bob highly recommended the Merlin app for identifying birds by description, photos, or songs. Sibley's *Guide to Eastern Birds* and *Backyard Birds* by Zickafoose were two books he highly recommended to members. Varied types of feeders were better at attracting various species rather than different food types, although a mixture of sunflower seeds, peanuts, thistle seed, mixed birdseed and suet will attract a large variety. Blount County has many places to see a variety of birds, including Louisville Point Park, Alcoa Duck Pond, Great Smoky Mountains, and Kyker Bottoms Wildlife refuge.

You never know what might show up as Blount County has had several rare bird sightings. Last year a Pacific Slope Flycatcher was seen on the Greenbelt for a couple of weeks, a Peregrine Falcon spent several winters in downtown Maryville. Bob had a Painted Bunting in his yard for a week several years ago, and club member Sandy Vandenberg spotted a Snow Bunting this winter.

Members are preparing for the annual plant sale to be held April 30. It always feels like spring is really here when the digging, sowing, and dividing for the sale begins. This is also the year for our Flower Show to be held in June. Nancy Robinson will work out the schedule of classes for the show. It looks like this show will be horticulture only and no designs. With warm weather, members will again work on the Fairview School project. Besides cleaning up beds with students, there will be a memorial tree planted in memory of Pat Rimmer and a meadow dedicated to her memory. Members will also plan Earth Day activities for kindergarten with the fifth grade helping and will set up a booth at the fifth-grade market to raise money for the gardens.

The club is growing with the addition of two new members, Lainey Sexton and Sue Harris.

More pictures from **Mountain Laurel**

Snow Bunting



Pacific Slope Flycatcher



Ruby Throated Hummingbird

Historic Preservation Gardening: An Heirloom Kitchen Garden Is Born by Allison Pearson

The Tuckaleechee Garden Club recently committed to designing, planting, and maintaining an heirloom kitchen garden with vegetables and medicinal herbs for demonstration and teaching at the [Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center](#), Townsend. The heirloom garden will replicate the gardens planted by settlers in Tennessee and the Southern Appalachian Region in the 1800s, shortly after Tennessee become a state in 1796.

Before the European settlers arrived in this region, the Native American people were growing corn, squash, gourds, beans, and pumpkins, as well as harvesting medicinal plants. Kitchen and medicinal gardens were also common to the early European settlers of Tennessee and the Southern Appalachians. Women who helped settle this area faced challenges and hardships raising a family in the mountains, making clothing, cooking, cleaning, and tending the kitchen garden. They also treated illnesses with homemade herbal remedies in the absence of doctors.

In a nod to our resourceful and resilient ancestors, the TGC will plant the heirloom kitchen garden using heirloom seeds and historic gardening practices. Heirloom seeds have three characteristics: (1) seeds are open pollinated, (2) seeds are at least 50-60 years old, and (3) seeds are grown historically in a community with an associated story (McAnally, 2013, p. 2). Seeds chosen for the heirloom kitchen garden meet these criteria. For example, the garden will include the Cherokee Trail of Tears Pole Bean. The Cherokee carried this bean on the Trail of Tears, the forced relocation from their historic home. The heirloom garden will also include the Greasy Pole Bean, Lazy Wife. The bean is called *Lazy Wife* because the longer the women waited to harvest, the bigger the beans became and the larger the harvest. The garden will feature Cocke's Prolific Dent Corn, a variety grown by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. With a focus on our region of East Tennessee,

the medicinal herb garden will include herbs grown by the [Walker Sisters of Little Greenbrier](#) in what is now part of Great Smoky Mountain National Park, including horseradish, boneset, catnip, rue, tansy, and peppermint for healing teas. Additional herbs will be grown for salves and tinctures.

The heirloom kitchen garden will be planted and maintained in an historic fashion. Gardening techniques will be organic, using no commercial fertilizers, herbicides, or fungicides. Furthering the commitment to historic gardening preservation, the club members will work the garden in historic period dress.

The garden will be planted near the Isaac Anderson Cabin and the Davis Cabin at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. The Davis cabin, originally in Seymour, TN, was built in the early 1800s on land granted to the family by the state of Tennessee. The Anderson log cabin was home to the Reverend Isaac Anderson before he founded Maryville College. Built in 1802, the Anderson cabin is the oldest structure and only two-story cabin at the Heritage Center. The heirloom kitchen garden will be located just outside the back doors of these two structures, following the historical tradition of locating the garden close to the kitchen, which was convenient for the women responsible for gardening and cooking.

For the Tuckaleechee Garden Club, the heirloom kitchen garden is a significant commitment, but one our club unanimously supported because of the need for historic gardening preservation. We honor those who settled this area, especially the women who cared for the kitchen gardens to feed their families and provide herbal medicines to heal their loved ones. Are we up for the task? Can we work this garden in the late summer heat of East Tennessee with no performance-wicking fabrics, herbicides, insect repellent, or power tools? We hope so! Unless the weeds completely overpower us, we promise to provide an honest assessment of our successes and hardships we experience along the way later in the summer.



Planting time draws near for the members of the Tuckaleechee Garden Club at the Heirloom Kitchen Garden with vegetables and medicinal herbs at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center, Townsend, TN.

The Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association's Annual Plant Sale is Saturday, April 23 at the Fairgrounds. This is our club's largest fundraiser of the year. We need lots of quality flower and herb starts to sell. Unique plants are also great sellers. Consider how you can help us with our sale! We are having regular workdays at the hoop house at the Boys & Girls Club and always can use more hands there. We are currently meeting Tuesdays at 2 p.m., planting seeds now, and will soon be transplanting and watering frequently!

Community Service Busy in the Garden II

We had another productive Tuesday at the Boys and Girls Club Garden! Thanks to Tom Seaton and Conner Fad, the cinder block borders are in, and beds are being cleared for Spring planting. Most of the pathways have been cleared and soon will be ready for the pea gravel to go in. Melanie and Lance Hill spent a Saturday building a frame for our composter and it is already in use! We also had some great news from the Boys and Girls Club that a new fence would be going up and a gate will be put in place creating an entrance point for the garden. Soon we will start working the beds in preparation for planting. We hope to see you at one of our Tuesday garden workdays. All help is greatly appreciated.

Melanie Hill

West Hills Garden Club

New Dogwood Trail Coming This Spring!

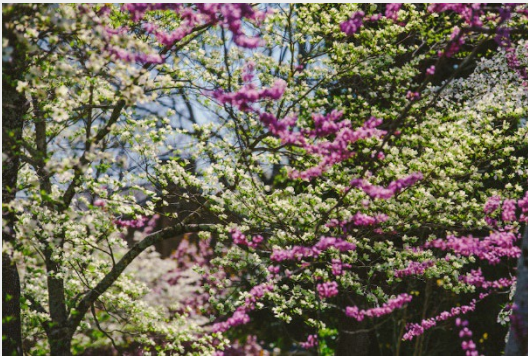


Dogwood Arts is excited to announce the addition of the first new Dogwood Trail to be added to the Historic [Dogwood Trails & Gardens](#) program in more than 20 years!

The West Hills Dogwood Trail will make its official debut this spring during Knoxville’s favorite springtime celebration! Experience over 8 miles of blooming landscapes in addition to the more than 85 miles along the 12 other Dogwood Trails—all open to the public April 1–30.

West Hills is one of the most established, best known, largest, and most cherished neighborhoods in Knoxville. Originally developed in the 1950s, West Hills was the city’s first major post-World War II subdivision, and the first subdivision to consist primarily of modern ranch-style houses.

While West Knoxville experienced a boom in commercial development in the 1970s and 1980s, West Hills has managed to retain its residential character, due in large part to “its aggressive neighborhood advocacy group, the [West Hills Community Association](#).”



While the West Hills Dogwood Trail was officially established in 2022, creating a Dogwood Trail requires years of preparation by homeowners and community organizers.

Dogwood Arts recognizes the early efforts of the West Hills Garden Club and Beautification Committee, along with the foresight of original homeowners who planted dogwoods, maintained gorgeous yards, and nurtured blooming gardens throughout the 60-plus years of West Hills' history.

The West Hills Community Association has worked tirelessly to be recognized as an official Dogwood Trail since 2016, following rigorous guidelines regarding community involvement and exceeding the expectations of the Dogwood Trails & Gardens Committee to make this dream a reality.

The West Hills Dogwood Trail is sponsored by Daniel Park, Realtor®, [Realty Executives](#).

The first Dogwood Trail was planted in 1955, and now you can “follow the pink lines” through 85-plus miles of architecturally diverse, blooming neighborhoods in all four quadrants of the city. Take a drive, a walk, or a bike ride and enjoy the scenic natural beauty of our region!

Chapman Highway Garden Club



March 17 Installation of new club officers at Woodlawn Christian Church—From right to left, Vice Director Janie Bitner, DIV Director Wanda Taylor, President Nancy Howell, Vice President Carol Linger, Fran Brown (in front of Carol) standing in for Corresponding Secretary Dianne Forry, Nancy Campbell standing in for Projects Chair Linda Braun, Recording Secretary Marcia Doyle standing in for Treasurer Jan Brown, and Parliamentarian Jane Vogt.

The members of **Shady Oaks Garden Club** in Johnson City had a productive and enjoyable winter and early spring. In January, club member and NGC Accredited Judge Sara Bowers led a wonderful design workshop. Each club member was able to create a fantastic Standard Cascade design and whilst honing our design skills. We all feel more confident heading into the district flower show. (Many of the finished designs can be viewed on our webpage: <http://www.shadyoaksgardenclub.org/january-design-workshop>.)

As part of our Flowers of Hope program, club members distributed 100 roses at the community senior center on the day of their Valentine's dance. We also delivered buckets of flowers to local nursing facility Ivy Hall. Also in February, Shady Oaks' own Pat Buck (and ETSU faculty member) gave a most informative presentation on the history of Victory Gardens in America, comparing them to the renewed and zealous interest in home gardening many experienced during the pandemic. Club members are looking forward to a busy new club year with our first garden tour since the pandemic and several plant sale fundraisers!



Dixie Highway Garden Club

Dixie Highway Garden Club's March meeting was held at Ivan Racheff House and Gardens. Members were entertained by Garden Co-Chairs Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner with a presentation of the recertification of the Level II Arboretum at IRH&G. Following the business meeting and refreshments, members enjoyed a guided tour of the arboretum and gardens.



Eastside Garden Club has resumed formal meetings currently and has increased our membership. They are Frankie Hogan, Doris Allen, Ellen Paul, Susan Monteleone, Bobbie Cyphers, and Imogene Bailey. We had a great meeting at Trinity Methodist Church in Greeneville. This will be our ongoing meeting site.

Joel Hausser, member, gave a slide program on pollinator gardening and also touched on bees and recycling. He has a wonderful garden and manages to defy the State Road department by preventing mowing of beneficial pollinator plants on his property. He also works with Rural Resources, and the children have a garden and are educated by professionals on many aspects of conservation. He has been a long-term club member.

Members received a discount card for use at the local nursery here, and the owner has a listing of members to facilitate any transactions. The card is also honored by the Evergreen Nursery in Kingsport. Both nurseries have a wide range of perennials, annuals, trees, and herbs, as well as beautiful gifts for the gardener. Horticulture featured at the March meeting was curly willow, several mixed flower arrangements, and herb sage.

We also had a returning member, Shirley Fenton, rejoin in the fall. She has many talents, and we are excited to have her return. Our new member, Ellen Paul was a member of two NCG clubs prior to her move to Tennessee. We are excited to have all of our new members, as well as our recent members, use their multiple talents and willingness to help with our expanding projects. Susan Monteleone, Professor at Tusculum, is initiating a pollinator garden with students at the college with our sponsorship, and this will be located behind the Doak Herb Garden that we tend to each year. Dr. Noll has also structured an outdoor classroom following a beautiful hike through woodlands, with a stream and many wildflowers. They are working on becoming a Bee Campus with the Xerces Society and with Eastside's help.

We also will be providing seeds and plants for Laughlin Health Care for the patients living there. This is always fun, and their courtyard showcases beautiful blooming plants for the patients, staff, and visitors. A new project entails landscaping at the cabin for the Greeneville Historic Museum. Another new project is to beautify a community women's center. This project was initiated by our Rosemarie Smith. As you can tell, even though we have had a rough time with many members ailing member with Covid, we still kept in contact with our projects and helped in any way possible. We have a wonderful membership with loads of talent and are looking forward to continuing our club's successes. Thanks for all of your help. It is great to have the support of District IV, TGC, and NCG.

Submitted by Jeanie Jackson, President of Eastside Garden Club

Tuckaleechee Garden Club Holds Meeting at Townsend River Walk

Submitted by Allison Pearson

The Tuckaleechee Garden Club held its March meeting on a beautiful spring morning at the Townsend River Walk & Arboretum to learn about and celebrate highlights from River Walk Chair Mark Seder:

- Completion of new stairs and handrail connecting the River Walk and the Townsend All Purpose Trail
- Installation of a historic bench to view the river
- Spring decorations in the Pollinator Garden
- Spring wildflowers beginning to bloom
- Walking tour with River Walk Chair Mark Seder, including future development plans

Tuckaleechee Garden Club welcomed 5 new members for the March meeting: Jerry and Wanda Faulkner, Colleen Girard, Brenda Gose, and Ann Gaultney. Lainey Sexton also recently joined the club.



Townsend River Walk & Arboretum Chair Mark Seder provides a report of the work completed last year and leads the club on a walking tour, including a presentation of bold ideas for future development.

