

THE VOLUNTEER GARDENER

**CONSERVATION CAMP
SPECIAL EDITION
FALL 2024**

www.tennesseeofgardenclubinc.com

**The Volunteer Gardener
Official Publication of the
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, INC.**

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Dear Members,

Conservation Camp's history has been included in this issue reprinted from a previous TFGC History Book. We hope you enjoy reading this article.

Tennessee is blessed to have so many State Parks in every district for our enjoyment. National Parks and National Forests are also on that list of destinations in Tennessee. Hiking, walking trails, scenic overlooks, camping and exploring are wonderful outdoor activities we all can utilize no matter what our age or skill level. Wildlife and native plants provide continued educational opportunities. Rangers and the amazing Nature and History museums are tools available anyone can utilize for continued education. Generational family reunions in our family also utilize the picnic areas and wonderful playgrounds maintained by our parks. Tennessee has rebuilt many lodges and restaurants for overnight and weekend getaways. Frisbee golf and golf courses are also popular sports available.

Can we talk about trees? How magnificent are the diverse old growth forests we have, especially in the fall when ablaze with color! Tree identification using bark and or leaves provides a wonderful outing. I am so inspired each fall just driving through state parks and even Tennessee's interstates provide inspiring fall foliage.

Conservation Camp is a time we all come together to remind our members of conservation practices and the natural resources we must protect.

2024 Fall Creek Falls Conservation Camp had fascinating speakers on the topics of Trees Sustainable Planting, Conservation Practices, Birds of Tennessee, Recycling Examples to name a few.

Please make it a point for your garden club to plan an outing to one of our parks in 2025. Walk and breath, we all deserve what nature offers freely.

Sincerely,

Denise Thorne

TFGC President





Conservation Comes of Age in Tennessee

By James L. Bailey



Supervisor, Educational Service
Dept. Of Conservation-
Commerce
State of Tennessee

Printed from the
History of Tennessee
Federation of Garden Clubs,
Inc. Book from
1947-1963

This article does not purport to be a full history of conservation in Tennessee since 1947. No attempt has been made to cover all the important activities, developments and events of the period.

It is meant, rather, to show that, in ways that count, the importance of conservation has come to be more generally recognized and that this recognition is evidenced in the thinking and behavior of the people of Tennessee; i.e., in laws that have been enacted, in the initiation of new programs, and in the strengthening of established programs, in the changing appearance of the landscape, in the quality of the life and living of our people.

Conservation has, during recent years, been accorded a greater prominence in the thinking of political leaders and the electorate, of civic leaders and the members of conservation minded organizations. In many instances this way of thinking has led to action, resulting in accomplishments of major consequence.

A realization of the need for teacher training in conservation education, for instance, prompted the Garden Clubs of Tennessee to take leadership in the establishment of the University of Tennessee Conservation Education Workshop-Camp for teachers in 1953, and as tangible evidence of their interest and concern they have, from the beginning, provided liberal scholarships to Tennessee teachers who attend. Each year, some thirty teachers avail themselves of this opportunity to become more competent to deal with this major area of instruction.

Discontent in the ranks of the sportsmen of Tennessee, and the assertion of their influence led, in 1949, to the establishment by law of a State Game and Fish Commission. With authority to conduct a long-range program without undesirable political interference and interruption, the Commission has developed and now has in operation one of the more efficient wildlife conservation agencies and one of the most effective programs of the Nation.

The advancement of conservation has long been one of the major program objectives of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs. Sensing the need for a greater enlightenment of local clubs and their membership, both as individuals and as participants in public affairs involving conservation, the Federation, in 1954, held

its first Conservation Camp for Garden Club members. It is now a well-established annual event. An outgrowth of the Camp is the publication, each year, with the State Department of Conservation and the Game and Fish Commission cooperating, of "Helpful Hints for Conservation Programs and Exhibits."

An event of importance in the history of growth and progress of conservation education in Tennessee took place in 1948 when the State Departments of Education and Conservation subscribed to a "Memorandum of Understanding with Reference to Resource-use or Conservation Education." Under the Memorandum, the Department of Education formally recognized the necessity for conservation education in the schools; its importance in the over-all planning and development of the instructional program, grades one through twelve; and its importance in the development of the teacher training program, both pre-service and in-service.

For several years, prior to 1951, more and more Tennessee schools and school systems, recognizing the inadequacy of the traditional text-book-assignment-and-recitation type of instructional program, were busily engaged in self-evaluation and in planned programs for self-improvement.

The State Department of Education, working in cooperation with the colleges and universities of the State, was, during the same period, giving vigorous leadership to the planning of a state-wide program for continuous curriculum and course of study development to which it could lend its endorsement.

The results of these years of tireless work and planning were translated into law when in 1951, by Act of the Legislature, the State Board of Education was charged with the responsibility of prescribing Rules and Regulations governing the curricula and courses of study. Under the Rules and Regulations, it is required that a course in general science and conservation be included in each grade, one through eight. Under "Social Studies" it is required that "at every grade level, attention shall be given to . . . wise use of human and natural resources . . ."

There is no way to prove this but it is probably safe to say that the progress being made today in conservation education is as great as that being made in any program of education, the effectiveness of which is measured by the influence it has on the attitude and behavior of our people.

* * * *

Seventeen years ago the State of Tennessee had no effective means of dealing with the uncontrolled pollution and befoulment of

our lakes and streams by municipal and industrial sewage. Pollution was a menace to health, a deterrent to industrial development, and a constant threat to fish and wildlife. It impaired the use of water for aquatic sports; boating, swimming and skiing. Livestock was endangered. Under the program of the Stream Pollution Control Board, created in 1945, progress has been almost phenomenal. This progress has been made possible through patient and persistent insistence on compliance with regulations where necessary, and with, in many cases, voluntary compliance by industries and municipalities. Tennesseans may take justifiable pride in the State's pollution control program.

* * * *

Twenty-five years ago there was no clearly defined soil and water conservation program in Tennessee. Concepts like land-capability, small watershed development, and multiple use, were new and little understood. Today, Soil Conservation Districts blanket the State. Since the Soil Conservation District law was enacted in 1939, over 55,000 Tennessee farmers, representing about one-third of the farms, have voluntarily used the help of these locally led, self-governed organizations to help them conserve their soil, water, woodlands and wildlife. On the cooperating farms these statistics tell their own story: 307,000 acres of eroded land planted with tree seedlings; over 20,000 miles of terraces built; 33,000 acres of sod waterways established; 58,500 farm ponds built; 24,500 acres of wildlife area improvement; and scientific soil surveys made of over 50 per cent of the State's area.

Another milestone was passed in the enactment of the Tennessee watershed District Act in 1955. Although relatively new, this program has had the impact of a major industry on Tennessee economy. Flood prevention structures already completed have involved the expenditure of \$1,173,000; others now under construction will involve \$1,500,000. As of October 1, 1962, applications for the formation of 73 Watershed Districts embracing 3,500,000 acres had been submitted; planned or being planned by the Soil Conservation Service and the U. S. Forest Service are 35 Watershed Districts, 20 of which are complete. Congress has, of this date, authorized 19, embracing 713,000 acres, for operation.

These programs, together with those of the Agricultural Extension Service and T.V.A. Test Demonstration Farms, the reforestation and fire control programs of the Forestry Division, account for the emerging "new look" of the Tennessee landscape.

Forty years have elapsed since the initiation of a forest fire control program in Tennessee. In 1922 an organization was set up to protect five million acres of forest land though it was so inadequately financed that one marvels at the courage of those responsible for the program. Down through the years as appropriations have been increased, Tennessee has developed a highly effective forest conservation program. In 1962, statistics show that the forest products industry in Tennessee contributes about 500 million dollars annually to the State's economy, giving employment to some 50,000 people.

During the five year period 1922-'26, when fire control was undertaken first in Tennessee, the average acreage burned per fire was 205 acres; in the five year period 1941-'45, the size of the average fire had been reduced to 58 acres. During the last five years, with more than 10 million acres under protection, the average acreage burned, per fire, was only 9 acres. Tennessee's record in fire suppression has been at, or near the top, among all the Southern States; that is, the per cent of protected area which burned was lower in Tennessee than in the other states. In 1961 the percentage of the total protected area burned was less than one-fourth of one per cent, only .17 per cent.

In 1931, when, we are told, John Dial planted the first pine seedlings in Wayne County, his neighbors were skeptical. They said that anyone who would plant pine sprouts on his farm "ought to be bored for a simpleton." Came the C.C.C. and the tremendous impetus given conservation by the emergency recovery program in the Roosevelt era, and an awakening to the need and potential of reforestation. Trees planted in the 1930's are now supplying wood for the pulp and paper mills of Tennessee. Reforestation continues at a commendable rate. During the past four years a total of 114½ million trees were grown in the State's nursery in West Tennessee and distributed at cost to tree planters all over the State.

Six hundred and fifty thousand despoiled acres have been reforested. A million, five hundred thousand acres in need of reforestation remain to be planted in Tennessee. A compact, entered into by the Governors of the seven Tennessee River Valley States in 1962, has for its purpose a vastly accelerated program for the planting of forest trees in the next seven years.

Growing trees mean more jobs for our people and more taxable wealth. They stabilize and enrich eroded soil, conserve water, provide for recreational needs, provide wildlife habitat, and enhance

the beauty of the landscape. They improve the quality of living of our people.

About six million of the State's thirteen million acres of forest land are in small ownerships—180 thousand ownerships, and they are classified as "farm woodlands." They could, under good management, contribute greatly, both to the production of forest products and to the multiple purposes of conservation, but, under present management practices, fall far short of their potential.

The State has a program to remedy this situation. At the present time there are twenty service foresters available to assist farm woodland owners in establishing sound and profitable management plans and practices.

Through the enactment of a strangely named "no-fence" law in 1949 for the entire State, the "open range" practice of running cattle and other livestock at large (and burning the woods in spring and fall, supposedly to improve pasturage,) was outlawed. With the elimination of fire and livestock, the large forests have benefited because of the "no-fence" law, but many farmers continue, ill-advisedly, to "run stock" in their own woods. This is still a problem of concern in Tennessee.

The near one million acres of forest lands in the Cherokee National Forest and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, under Federal ownership, are well protected and are serving their intended purposes.

The statement has been made so many times that it is almost trite: with the elimination of uncontrolled fire, grazing, and with the employment of sound harvesting practices, the woodlands of Tennessee could very well, within a few years, yield three times their present annual harvest. Herein lies one of the State's finest opportunities to invest in its future; i.e., through the appropriation of funds needed for the expansion and support of a more adequate, state-wide forest conservation program.

* * * *

Water was mentioned a while ago in connection with the State's pollution control and abatement program. That is all to the good. And, moreover, Tennessee has in its Division of Water Resources the basis for the development of an adequate water resources program. During the prolonged drought of the early 1950's, when people were praying for rain, a Water Study Commission was created. It recommended the establishment of the Water Resources Division. A "Water Policy Report" was published, as was later, "Tennessee's

Water Resources." This report constitutes one of the most comprehensive analyses of any of the State's natural resources in over a generation, and six other significant reports concerning water have been published by the Division.

A recent report, however, stated, "Though the Division of Water Resources is doing a highly commendable job, within its means, because of inadequate appropriations, a large percentage of the stream gauging stations of the State are idle, and little of the work needed for research and the collection of data on ground and surface water is going on (even though the Federal Government is willing to pay a major share of the costs)."

Tennessee is one of the few States that does not have a legally adopted State Water Policy. Until such a policy is adopted, and certain needed water laws are enacted, confusion and uncertainty will prevail. This matter will be presented to the 1963 General Assembly for its consideration.

* * * *

"State Park operation in Tennessee has, in a few years' time, grown from a small activity into a big business. The popularity of the park program during the year 1945-'46, in which our country has changed from war to peace, has illustrated the need and acceptance of the state park program and for the type of recreation provided. Over one-half million people visited the state parks and more than \$90,000 revenue was received for the largest attendance and revenue in park history," so stated the late Wm. M. Hay, then director of the Division of State Parks, (report of the Department of Conservation for fiscal year, 1945-'46).

The year 1962 marked the 25th anniversary of Tennessee's state parks program, the Division of State Parks having been created in 1937. During the fiscal year 1961-'62 (July 1, 1961-June 30, 1962), 4,623,463 visitations were made to the State parks, and revenues amounted to \$822,000. What a growth (900 per cent) in 15 years!

State park statistics for 1961, published by the National Park Service, revealed Tennessee State Parks to be seventh in the Nation in revenue from operations, eighteenth in expenditures, eighteenth in total attendance, eighth in organized camping use and eleventh in cabin use.

The 900 per cent growth in state parks revenue and attendance since 1947 reflects the general trend in outdoor recreation. With only forty-six developed camp and picnic areas on the Cherokee National Forest, there are already more than 2,000,000 visits a year.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most popular in the Nation and, in 1961, to the rather newly created U. S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoirs in Tennessee came 6,781,600 seekers of recreation.

Statistical analysts remind us that by 1975 the demand for recreational areas, facilities and opportunities will nearly double, and only 38 years hence, in the year 2000, it will be three times what it is today!

In an address to the Tennessee Conservation League in April, 1962, J. Brents McBride, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Commerce, summed up the problem: "The job of the Division of State Parks is the management of 20 state parks located quite evenly from the Mississippi to the Smokies, in keeping with the State Planning Commission report in 1952, calling for a state park within 50 miles of each citizen. Of these 20, however, 16 resulted from federal gifts to the State, either through T.V.A. or through various depression prompted federal land buying programs of the 1930's, and the largest portion of the seventeenth came from T.V.A. One, Pickett, came by gift. The State has purchased only three of them and one, Reelfoot, represents only a very small portion of total State ownership.

"Of the State wildlife and wetland management areas, most of them are located on land whose purchase was originally federal and some others were made possible through federal aid. The splendid reservoir access program was made possible through the transfer of some 300 access areas to the Game and Fish Commission by T.V.A. So our record in outdoor land purchases is rather meager.

"How many other states east of the 100th meridian can lay claim to a National Park, a National Forest, three Federal Wildlife Management areas, six National Military Parks and National Monuments, and three major river systems under development by federal agencies?

"We have been able to make a fairly good showing up to now in the outdoor recreation field through use of these landgifts and by emphasizing a number of self-supporting facilities within the state parks. But time is catching up with us. We ask ourselves: Are we doing enough at the state and local level to supplement these federal programs and to develop features which lie outside this federal province?

"It is time we in this State began to think in terms of state and local action programs for scenic highways and parkways, float stream preservations, stream access acquisition, archeological areas, wilderness type areas, historical area preservation, geological areas

(caves) and state recreation areas near the major metropolitan centers.

"We need to acquire areas and sites with recreation potential while they are still available,—before they are pre-empted for other purposes or appropriated to other less worthy uses,—and while the cost factor is favorable. We ought to do this not only because it is good business; we have a moral responsibility, also. It is my considered judgment that future generations, if given the choice, would rather have the areas, even encumbered by debt, than not to have them, for when many of them are gone they are either gone forever or their reconversion to recreational use will be financially impractical."

* * * *

The wisdom of conservation in resource use and management is demonstrated in each new accomplishment. Each accomplishment makes further and more significant accomplishments possible. We have come a long way in conservation in Tennessee. Our progress serves but to remind us that we have ever so much further to go. Even mistakes can be profitable. In conservation, the greatest mistakes we can make are those of complacency and inertia.

If history has worth, it is to teach us these lessons.

Jim Bailey

Nashville
January 1963

When God made the earth, He could have finished it, But He didn't. Instead, He left it as a raw material—to tease us, to tantalize us, to set us to thinking and experimenting, risking and adventuring, and therein we find our supreme interest in living.

—Dr. Allen A. Stockdale

**THE TFGC TREASURER, KAREN
DAWSON AND THE TFGC PRESIDENT
SPENT A FULL DAY TOURING,
MAPPING OUT SITE, AND FINALIZING
FOR THE UPCOMING 2024
CONSERVATION CAMP**



District 1 Directors Report

The fourth quarter for District I has been another busy time, beginning with four of its members representing the District at the 2024 Conservation Camp at Fall Creek Falls State Park about a five hour drive from Memphis, Tennessee. Molly Hampton District I Endowment Trust Fund Trustee, Jackie Walker District I Vice Director, Jan Burks Trenton Club President and District I Director were all on hand at Conservation Camp to renew friendships and to learn much from outstanding speakers.

Returning home on Tuesday, October 1st, provided six days to tie up loose ends for the District Fall Membership Meeting at the Memphis Botanic Garden on October 7th. There were 86 registered guests all anxious to hear our guest speaker, Dr. Chris Cooper, who is a UT Extension County Director and Coordinator for the Extension Master Gardener Program in Shelby County. Chris is also the host of the series The Family Plot: Gardening in the Mid-South which can be seen on WKNO/Channel 10 (PBS) on Saturdays at 3:00pm and Sundays at 12:30pm. Chris' topic was "Sustainable Landscaping Principles for Future Generations" with lots of practical advice.

Molly Hampton, District I Endowment Trust Fund Trustee had the honor of awarding three ETF grants. Cooper-Young Garden Club, Germantown Garden Club and Blossom Way Garden Club were this year's recipients.

Kennedy Garden Club came through again with pretty fall table arrangements which were purchased by attending clubs and then taken to public places to decorate them as part of our District's ongoing Deep South Unified project.

The meeting concluded with another exceptional lunch catered by Simply Done. During lunch volunteers were recruited to help with the Holiday Design Program Denise Thorne, our TFGC President, would be presenting to our members on November 4th at the Memphis Botanic Garden.

Durning the next four weeks all the details were finalized preparing for the arrival of Denise, her husband, Gary, and Kennedy Pope, Denise's granddaughter, and Volunteer Gardener Editor. For the November 4th Event, ten clubs volunteered to help with set-up, check-in, manning the holidayshop, serve the delicious holiday buffet prepared by Denise and provide clean-up. Denise inspired many with her elegant designs using fresh greenery, pinecones, colored balls, fresh fruit such as oranges studded with cloves, pomegranates, pineapples, fresh cranberries, and cinnamon sticks. Ninety-six registered for the event with 19 of our 23 clubs represented raising \$1920.00 in registrations with \$651.00 in sales at the Holiday Shop. The event was enjoyed by all providing an opportunity to get an early start of getting into the Holiday Spirit.

With the year rapidly coming to a close, clubs are busy preparing their Books of Evidence for awards. An email was sent to all clubs with attachments of the copy of the Awards Application Form, Deb Shaver's sheets she put together for Books of Evidence and President's Reports, a copy of the President's Report to fill out, a copy of the Endowment Trust Fund Contribution Form with a suggestion for all clubs to consider a donation to both the Endowment Trust Fund and Penny Pines now called Plant-A-Tree. A list of deadlines, where, when and to whom, to send BOE's and reports was to be included to help make the process less daunting. The District looks forward to another busy year in 2025 beginning with a Board of Directors meeting sometime in early February TBA with the Spring District I Membership Meeting at the Memphis Botanic Garden on Monday, March 3rd, 2025 with the Dixon Horticulture Director, Dale Skagg, giving a program on Native Azaleas.

Beginning in January 2025, the Nominating Committee of five district I members will begin their search to find candidates to fill the Executive Committee positions to serve under Jackie Walker, the incoming District Director.

It has been a very gratifying 2024 year working with so many talented District I Club Members.

Many Thanks for allowing me to serve as your District I director. It has been a memorable journey!

Best Wishes to All for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Chris Kelyman







DISTRICT II

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 8, 2024 Madison, TN



District II Officers:

Bette Ann Fields—District II Director, Becky Fox Matthews—Vice-Director,
Linda Peterson—Recording Secretary, Kay Wells—Corresponding Secretary,
Judy Robertson—Treasurer, Patty Compton—Endowment Trust





Designers & Designs: Jean Richardson, Becky Fox Matthews, Kay Flynn, Connie Baird & Janet Switzer



Pam Braun, Linda Peterson & Kathy Rychen also created beautiful floral designs.



Day of Gardening

Saturday, February 22, 2025 Time: 9:30 am until 2 pm

**Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 822 Belvoir Avenue
East Ridge Tennessee, 37412**

"It's All About The Soil and What We Can Do With It"



The annual "Day of Gardening" is an exciting opportunity to discover how to create the best conditions for your garden spaces, leading to healthier plants that thrive in your soil.

Speakers, Dennis Bishop, Lu Ann Gilliland Carey, Kristina Shaneyfelt, and Kym Martin.

Information or to Volunteer your help-Contact Diane Ryder - DIANERYDER@epbfi.com

Presented by District III, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. - National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Cost: \$40 in advance \$45 at the door

Includes morning snacks and box lunch.

Checks Made Payable to: TFGC, District III

Mail to: Marilyn Smith 279 Pine Hollow Road Dayton, TN 37321

DAY OF GARDENING REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

Garden Club: _____

Address: _____

District: _____

Email: _____

Circle selection: HAM TURKEY VEGE

- Tear off the registration tab - complete and return with payment to the address above. -

DISTRICT IV NEWS

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Design Program: Topiaries
Designer Denise Thorne
Oct. 14, 2024, 11:00AM-1:00PM
Racheff House & Gardens

DIV Fall Membership Meeting
Oct. 18, 2024, 8:45AM – 1:00PM
Fox Den County Club, Knoxville, TN

Racheff House & Gardens Fall
Festival
Oct. 26, 2024

Greens Tea
Racheff House & Gardens
Dec. 6, 2024, 12:00-3:00PM
1943 Tennessee Ave.
Knoxville, TN

<http://tennesseefederationofgardenclubsinc.com>

A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT IV DIRECTOR, JANIE BITNER



Theme: Bee Kind to Pollinators
Projects: Grow
Community Partnerships
& Support Educational Outreach



*District IV Clubs and Members,
I look forward to seeing each of you at the District IV Membership meeting on October 18th. We have a great meeting planned. Details inside the newsletter.
Happy Gardening,
Janie*

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. District IV Fall Membership Meeting Friday, October 18, 2024 Fox Den Country Club 12284 North Fox Den Drive Knoxville, Tennessee 37934 Registration opens: 8:45 AM Meeting begins promptly: 9:30 AM Official Call Letter: The 2024 District IV Fall Membership meeting will be held at Fox Den Country Club. Morning registration and coffee/tea begin at 8:45 a.m. and are included in the fee. The District IV Executive Board is looking forward to seeing all the Garden Club Members. Your President's Reports demonstrate the amount of work that we do in the communities, to beautify, enrich, and care for our world. Our Clubs are engaged in a wide variety of meaningful projects, outreaches, and missions. Thank-you does not seem enough. We want to show each one of you our appreciation. This year, we will ask each club to bring one Fall/holiday table design with a suggested value of \$25 - \$30. These will be judged for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The designs will be available for purchase by members. Sign your name on the envelope on the table to purchase. We do have a Square and are capable of processing debit and credit cards; however, checks and cash are welcome also. The proceeds from the sale of the centerpieces go back to each club. NEWS FLASH!!!! Kim Overman, District IV Ways and Means Chairman, will have our lovely, embroidered District IV logo polo shirts for sale. Stay tuned for more shopping opportunities! The featured program of the day will be given by University of Tennessee at Knoxville Managing Director James Newburn. Also, Sue Hamilton, Professor of Horticulture and UT Gardens Director Emerita, will join us with an inspirational message about the importance of gardening and horticulture for our mental, spiritual, and physical wellbeing. We will have our yearly business meeting as well. We are fortunate to have this meeting space available to us at no charge. A wonderful lunch will be served. Door prizes will be awarded. We have plenty of room and hope that you will attend and bring a friend! Let's introduce them to Garden Clubs! I look forward to seeing you soon. Happy gardening,

Arissa Garden Club

Submitted by Carol Lorenc

Photos by Kristin Stone



ARISSA GARDEN CLUB GOES TO THE FAIR!

For our September meeting, we decided to go to the opening Flower Show at the TN Valley Fair in Knoxville. Arissa member Cathy Waitinas is the Fair Honorary Flower Show Chairperson and members Regina Haire, Terry Pinck, & Linda Biggar assisted with judging & other show activities. These ladies also helped to explain flower show judging to other club members by going through the different entries. Great fun and an opportunity to learn!



PreConvention
Tailgating Party by
Ocoee Garden
Club President
Crystal Rymer and
TFGC President
Denise Thorne,
dessert by TFGC
Treasurer Karen
Dawson





TFGC 2025 CONVENTION PROGRAM AD FORM

The fees for ads in the Convention Program are:

Full page \$100.00
½ page \$ 50.00
Business Card size..... \$ 25.00

Ads must be camera ready, black and white, and may contain photos. Email ads to MaggiTFGC@epbfi.com (Maggi Burns) or send to Maggi Burns, 8258 Chula Creek Rd, Chattanooga TN 37421-3283 before March 1, 2025. Phone: 423-499-9751. Checks are made payable to TFGC 2025 Convention.

Please make sure to include contact information in case Maggi needs to get back to you. If sending your ad by email, put "TFGC 2025 Convention Ad" in the subject line and include the following information in the body of the email. By regular mail, please copy this form and include it with your ad payment.

Name: _____

Garden Club: _____ District: _____

Business: _____

Contact Information (Phone/Email): _____

Ad size (circle one): full page ½ page business card

Ad sizes (includes borders):

Full page = 8 inches tall by 5 inches wide

½ page = 3-3/4 inches tall by 5 inches wide

Business card size = 2 inches tall by 3.5 inches wide for horizontal or
3.5 inches tall by 2 inches wide for vertical

These are the only acceptable sizes for ads. If your ad does not conform to any of these sizes, Maggi will try to adjust it to fit, but it may be sent back to you to be redone. Also, the quality you send will be the quality that is printed. Please submit high resolution artwork – 300 dpi works best (use this resolution to scan business cards and photos). If you have questions regarding sizing, please contact Maggi. Your cooperation is appreciated and will make this job easier!

Send this completed form with your check to the above address. Contact Maggi Burns if you have questions.

This form is also available online at TennesseeFederationOfGardenClubsInc.com



Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
2024 Fall Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 30, 2024, 2536 Lakeside Drive, Spencer, TN 38585 9:00 am CST



The Membership of Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. will come to order at 9:00 am CST., to conduct the business at hand for the reporting of the TFGC, Inc.

Registration is required for your attendance.

Registrar is Karen Dawson. fdkd70bellsouth.net

2499 Sugar Flat Road, Lebanon, TN 37087 615-594-2455

9:00 Call to Order – TFGC President Denise Thorne

Invocation – Chaplain Annette Shrader – TFGC President 20

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America – Parliamentarian Dr. Jan Brown

Welcome and Introductions – Denise Thorne, TFGC President TFGC 2023-2025

Declaration of a Quorum

Recognition of dignitaries and guests.

Minutes from the Previous Board meeting- Recording Secretary, Janet Switzer have been approved and circulated

Committee to Approve the September 30, 2024, Minutes –1. Blossom Merryman 2. Charlotte Timberlake 3. Becky Fox Mathews

Timekeeper – Laquita Misner

Reports from Executive Board – President Denise Thorne

Treasurer's Report- TFGC Treasurer, Karen Dawson

TFGC Assistant Treasurer, Patty Compton

TFGC Restricted Funds and Benevolent Fund

Report Endowment Trust Fund Janie Bitner

Racheff Treasurer, Linda Daniels

Racheff Assistant Treasurer, Theresa Schehr

Reports of Officers -TFGC President elect -Lelia Johnson

TFGC First Vice President- Tove Rawlings

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
2024 Fall Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 30, 2024, 2536 Lakeside Drive, Spencer, TN 38585 9:00 am CST
TFGC Second Vice President – Kay Flynn

Corresponding Secretary- Lola Eslick – Acting Recording Secretary

Report from the Ivan Racheff and Gardens Director of Board of Governors

Chairman of the Board of Governors - Cathy Waitinas in her absence – Wanda Taylor, 2021-2023

District IV Director

Any other Racheff Board of Governors Member Report

District Directors- District I Chris Kelyman

District II Bette Ann Fields

District III Ginger Cloud

District IV Janie Bitner

Reports from Standing Committees

Vision of Beauty Calendar Sales- Chairman, Marilyn Smith

Reports from Special Committees

Conservation Camp “Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees of Tennessee”

Fall Creek Falls State Park, Monday, September 30 and Tuesday, October 1st, 2024 – Karen Dawson Registrar

TFGC Convention 2025, Chattanooga, TN 2025 Read House April 21-24, 2025

Chairman Diana Ryder and Co Chairman Anne Leonard report

Debbie Shaver – Awards Chairman/ Cumberland Trail

Any Other Chairman to Report?

Unfinished Business

TNCNAFSJ Question to the president – will be sent to committee for review

Penny Pines – Now to be “Plant a Tree” \$50.00

Standing Committee Rules/Bylaws Changes to be discussed

TFGC Standing Rules – pg. 54-55

Section XIII – Conventions, Conservation Camps and Other Meetings

Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

2024 Fall Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 30, 2024, 2536 Lakeside Drive, Spencer, TN 38585 9:00 am CST

5. "A Convention will be held in the year of installation of the new Board of Directors, along with the Annual Meeting. In the second year of the new Board of Directors, an Annual Meeting will be called for one day of business and awards."

Change:

An Annual TFGC Two-Day Convention, Business Meeting and Awards Banquet will be held.

Rational: The district that held the two-day convention next rotates to the district for a one-day meeting. The same two districts always host the two-day convention.

Change – Too numerous to write reference to "she" should be changed to "he / she"

I will have them listed by page at the BOD Meeting in January for a vote.

Committee for the Deep South Director 2025 – Chairmen If you would like to actively be a Deep South GC Chairman and attend the Convention in Valdosta, GA March 11-13, 2025

Contact me by Dec 1. 2024

Announcements- Invitation to the 10:00 am EST Monday, January 13. 2025 Winter TFGC BOD Meeting and Convention Committee Meeting Chattanooga, TN Place TBA

The 2026 TFGC Conservation Camp will be held in District III TBA

Any Other Business to come before this Meeting?

Meeting Adjourned

Denise Thorne-President 2023-2025

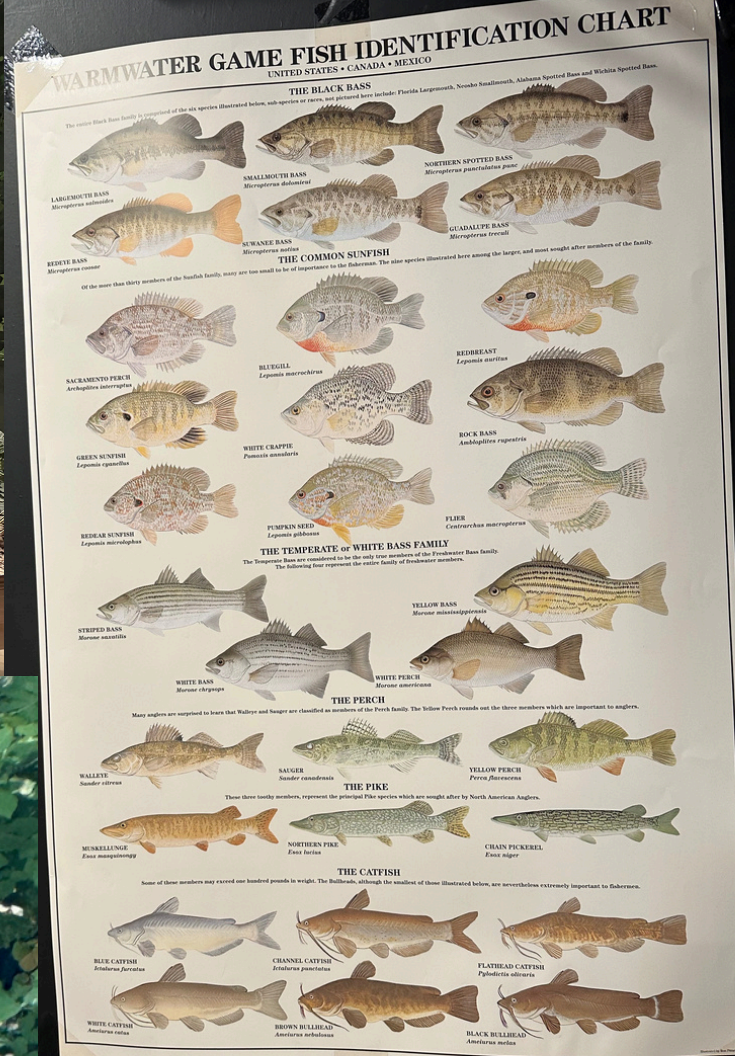
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

615-289-2138, denise@tec63.com









Fall Creek Falls Conservation Camp 2024

All Meals and Meeting in the Lobby located to the back right of Lobby Hall. Signage will be up.

Sunday, September 29 beginning 4:00 pm

Early Registration and appetizers

4:00 pm Moved from Pavilion to Lobby-Hall to the right

5:00 PM dinner served

Lucas Holman will be there setting up a plant sale with Rare Plant Offerings and Mums he grows.

Visit Plant talk with Lucas!

Monday, September 30, 8:00 am Endowment Trust Committee meets in Meeting room Hall to the right of Lobby

9:00 am TFGC BOD Meets- Sign in Registration - Members must register. Fee for nonregistered members does not include lunch.

Break at 10:30 am

11:00 am TFGC Awards Chairman Debbie Shaver begins intro to "Applying for Awards"

12:00 lunch served buffet in hall outside dining room

1:00 - 5 GC Presidents in attendance share about their club during dessert

1:15 Invitation to the 2025 TFGC 100th Anniversary Celebration

1:25 Lucas Holman presentation "Tennessee Sustainable Planting"

3:00 pm "The Secret Life of Trees" Dr. Jerry Falkner, Botany and Ecology, UT

4:00 pm Debbie Shaver continues TFGC Awards Workshop

6:00 Dinner Buffett Hall

7:00 Garden Bingo -Lillian Hibbitt President Optimistic GC Hints for Garden Club Meetings

Presidents in attendance share about their club during dessert

Talent/Recycling Sharing

Tuesday, October 1

8:00 am Trillium Council meet in Meeting area

9:00 am TNAFSJ Members meet in Meeting Area

10:00 Annette Shrader, former TFGC President and Volunteer Gardener Host, to present a "Pumpkin Fun!" Mod Podge, painting, decorating

11:00 Tennessee Birds Fall Creek Fall Interpreter/Naturalist Brady Haston

12:00 Lunch

1:00 GC Presidents Share

2:00 PM Gayle Jagers, District II Awards Chairman gives tips and helpful advice for applying for Awards - Meeting Room

OR

1:30 Drive to the Fall Creek Falls Museum and Gift Shop

Drive to the Falls Pool or top of the Falls

Self Guided Tours

5:00 Tennessee Tree Identification Ranger Matthew Brown /Tommy Solomon

6:00 pm Dinner

Presidents in attendance share about their club during dessert

Visit with TFGC Members and Friends in the Lobby Bring your cards, Dominoes or your game!







U.S. is home to
more than 865 tree
species. U.S. Forest Service
200 native tree
species in TN
100 native tree
species in GRSM
TN is 53% forested

Tn Dept of Forestry and NPS

Chemical Production

- ▶ Turpentine
- ▶ Latex rubber
- ▶ Tanin
- ▶ Taxol
- ▶ Aspirin
- ▶ Quinine
- ▶ Cellulose
 - ▶ Rayon
- ▶ Lignin
- ▶ Gum Arabic
- ▶ Chicle
- ▶ Carnuba



Roots

- ▶ Biomass of roots 10% - 65% of
above ground biomass
- ▶ Averages 25%
- ▶ Highest in tropical forests
Lowest in boreal forests

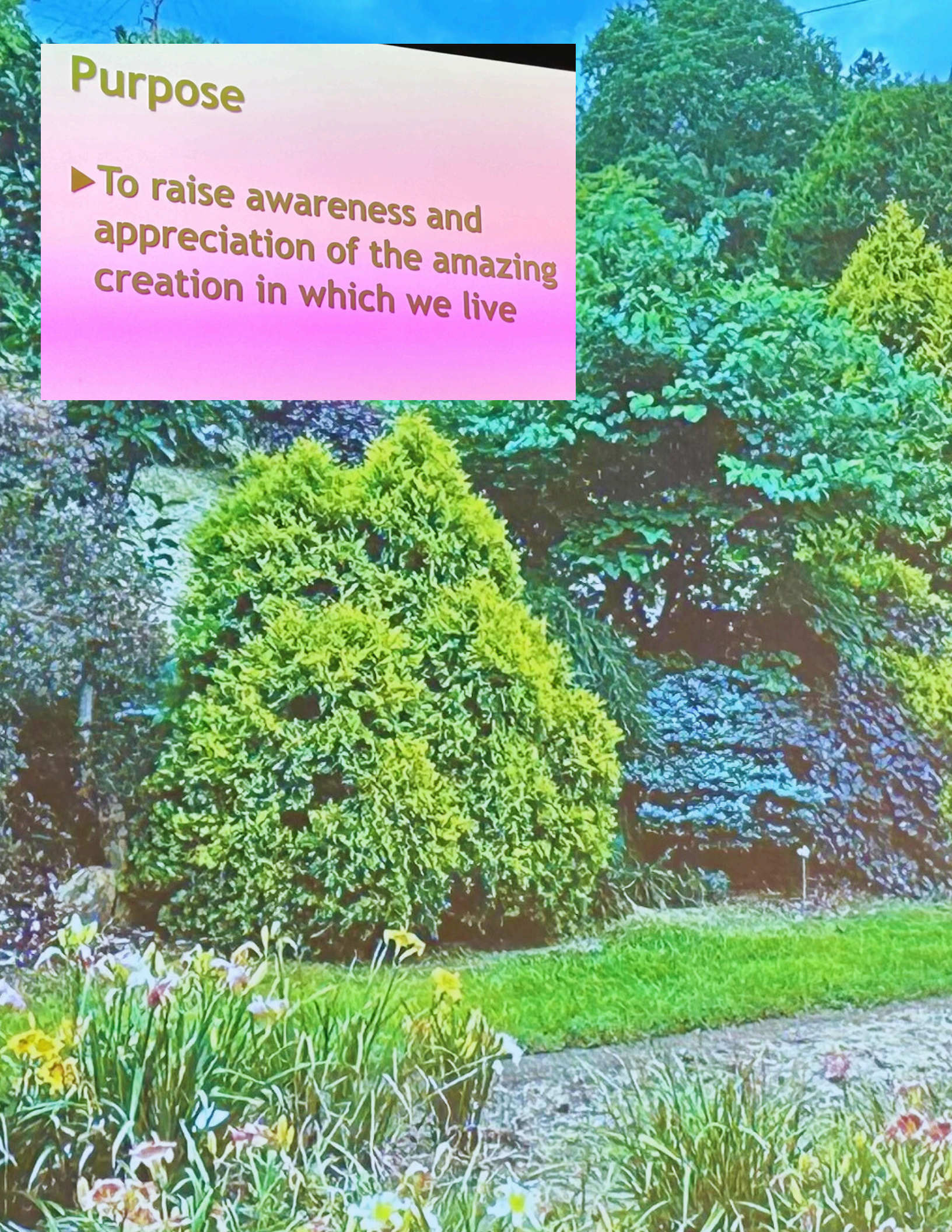


Trees never die
of old age.



Purpose

- To raise awareness and appreciation of the amazing creation in which we live





I had a blast speaking today to the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Conservation Camp at Fall Creek Falls. Those two blurry dots are my two eldest children. Their favorite part was when I was done speaking. It was a fun crowd with lots of engagement.



Sustainable Planting

Lucas Holman
UT Extension, Wilson County

First you have to Choose an Award Number

The Awards Rules are online at
tennesseefederationofgardenclubsinc.com
Click on Awards
Then click on
2023-2025 TFGC Awards Rules

NGC came out with a
General Scoring Rubric
This is what we use to judge your BOE's

Lets look at it, since these are the things
That they are looking for in your BOE

You can go to the NGC website and get
The score rubrics for all the awards
There are some that have different values

The Application is only the
cover sheet

The main part of your BOE
is the next three pages

If you can tell your story in one page OK

VERY IMPORTANT

Do Not Leave this Blank
"Is this a new project - yes or no
Is it continuing project - yes or no
When did you start this project (date)
Expected date of completion
Or is it ongoing"

First you have to Choose an Award Number

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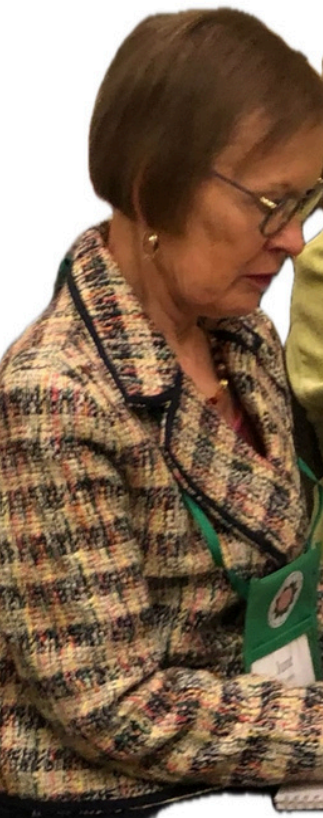
Optimistic Gardeners members

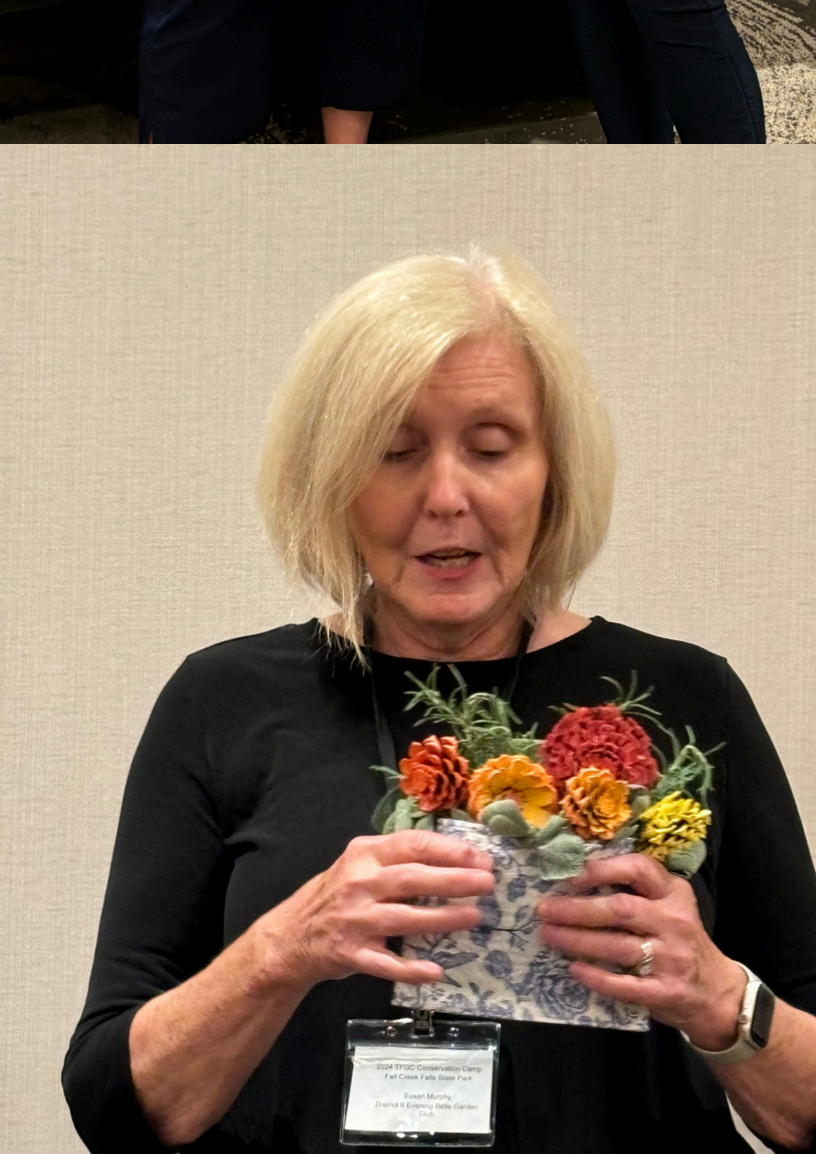
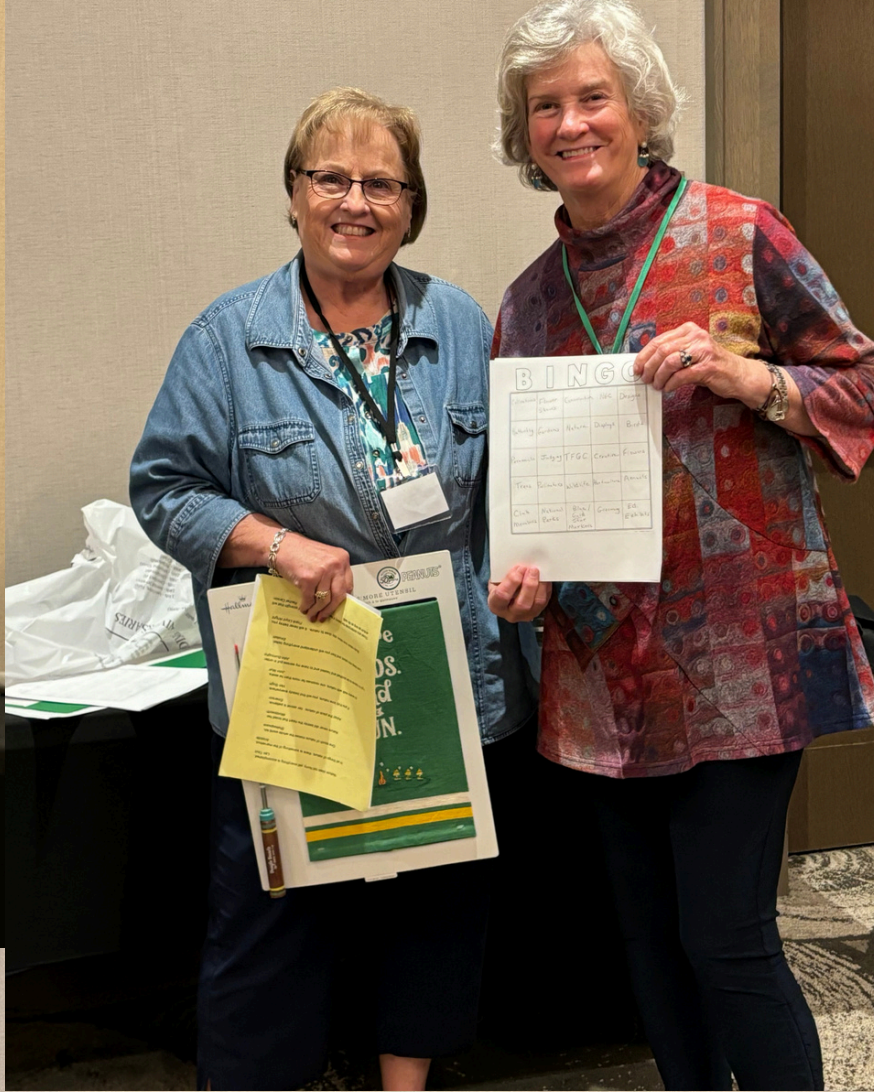
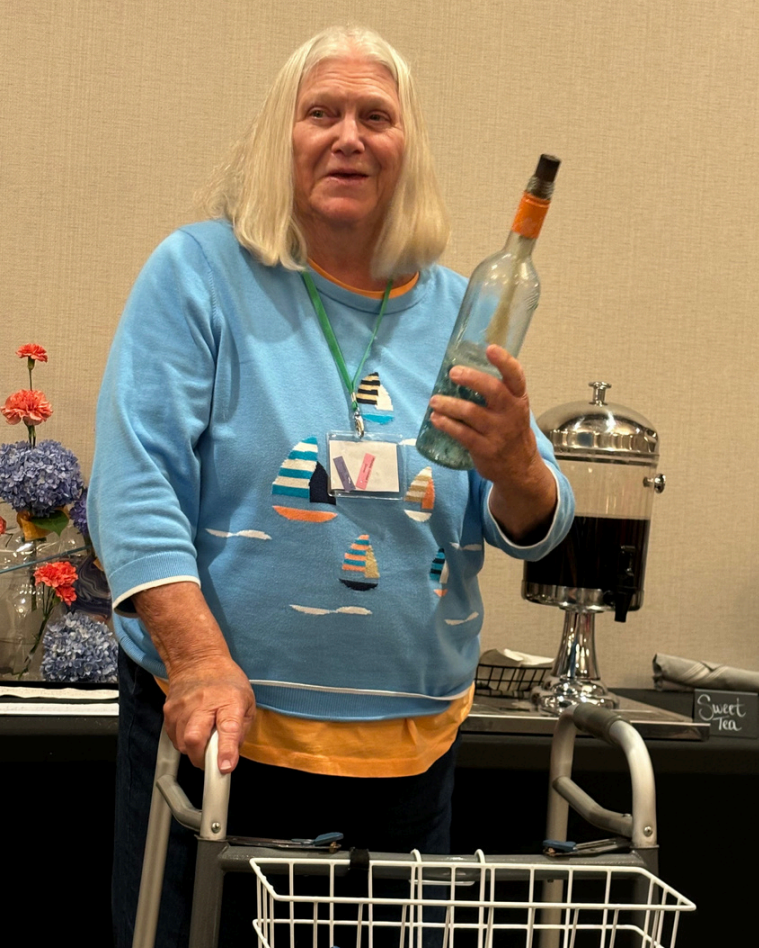


Recycling Ideas and Fun



All participants will
receive a donation to
their garden club!
To be presented at
the 2025
Convention.
Bingo Winner with
Lillian Hibbett





National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number

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Racheff, Ivan, House
Knox County, Tennessee

Also located on the property is a two- car garage with a shed roof, built of concrete blocks and plank garage doors with cross bracing built in 1951. (C)

The Ivan Racheff House remains a significant landmark in the Lonsdale neighborhood. The primary form and materials of the house remain unchanged since its completion in 1904. The landscaped gardens surrounding the house still contain the original paths with iron collars, fencing, fish ponds, and plant material in the form of bulbs, shade and ornamental trees, foundation plantings and shrubbery installed by Racheff. Racheff placed a bell, located in the garden, there. Meneely and Kimberly in Troy, N. Y. in 1873 cast the bell. The bell and fishponds are in the larger garden but the iron collars, fencing, shade and ornamental trees and some of the foundation plantings are ones that were planted by Racheff. One of the dogwood trees that he planted is extremely rare and the University of Tennessee comes and takes specimens of it for tissue cultures. This tree is quite close to the east side of the house.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ivan Racheff House is being nominated under criterion B for its association with Ivan Racheff. Racheff was an important local industrialist who also instituted social outreach programs for the Lonsdale community where his mill was located. Prior to living in Knoxville at this house, Racheff was well known in the metallurgy field; his papers are now at the University of Illinois. From 1947-1948 until his death, Racheff used the house as his primary residence when he was in Knoxville. Originally used as an office building, Racheff converted the upstairs into a modern apartment for himself. Ivan Racheff also advocated the union of conservation and industry. He changed the slag heaps and rubble piles adjacent to the house into attractive gardens that the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs now maintain. The building retains its overall integrity from the time Ivan Racheff lived there.

Ivan Racheff arrived at Ellis Island on 4 April 1905 from Bulgaria as a teen-ager.⁴ He was born in Lovich, Bulgaria on 17 September 1892 of a well-respected family who had hoped that he would go to the University of Rome to study diplomacy. Against his parents' wishes, Racheff sailed from Le Havre, France to New York. He quickly found a job near the wharves peeling potatoes and washing dishes. Ridiculed because he didn't understand English he vowed to learn English as fast as possible because he wanted to become a citizen. Racheff already spoke Bulgarian, some Russian, Italian and French. Eventually, he became a naturalized citizen.

When Racheff had saved enough to buy a ticket to Chicago he left New York and eventually found his way to the University of Illinois where he majored in chemistry and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1917. His first job was at Gary, Indiana with Illinois Steel Company, now a part of US Steel. He was drafted the same year for military service and served at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland, solving metallurgical problems, among which was a serious problem with the lining of smoke stacks on naval vessels. After the war he returned to Illinois Steel Company, but in 1919 left the company to work for Ford Motor Company in Detroit, where he investigated quality control defects in steel. After a few months in this job he moved to New Jersey where he could get experience in a foundry of a steel mill. Later he went to United Alloy in Canton, Ohio (now Republic Steel) where he learned to manufacture alloy steel. In 1920, he joined Douglas Aircraft in Los Angeles but soon left to broaden his experience in rolling mill operations at the Lewellan Iron Works in Los Angeles.

Ivan Racheff's varied work experience would prepare him for the next stage of his career when he set up the Racheff Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago. He was among the first metallurgists to use optical metallography to solve materials problems. Much of his original laboratory equipment still exists and is housed in the Racheff Metallurgical Laboratories at the University of Illinois.

⁴ Racheff (Racheof) arrived in the US on the Aquitania. His residence was Kesstanbole, Bulgaria and the Ellis Island records give his age as sixteen. www.ellislandrecords.org.

Racheff's work is well documented in extensive reports and personal papers dating from 1923 to 1941. The reports are bound in ninety volumes and are housed at the University of Illinois. Included in these volumes are the new plans for the Knoxville Iron Works that Racheff intended to create after he bought the company.

Early in his career, Racheff made contributions to understanding the causes of fracture of highly stressed components and to the relationship between the performance of a part and the section of the ingot from which the steel came. Racheff's understanding of the effect of microstructure was remarkable for his time. One of his studies, which led to an innovation still used today, was the development of automobile springs that would last the life of a car. His research was widespread and led to varied innovations spanning from improved automobile radiators to more durable playing cards.

In 1938 at a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio where Racheff was honored for his work with making electric furnace steel, he met representatives from Knoxville Iron Company, as Knoxville Iron Works was then called. They asked him to come to Knoxville to evaluate their company, which he did. He later remembered,

Maybe it was 60 days after the Cleveland meeting that I got to Knoxville. I stood on the west side of the office looking toward the railroad track, and at all the piled up rubbish and garbage. I picked up an envelope post marked at the turn of the century. I went through the mill. It wasn't very safe. The dust must have been three to four inches thick. I said "You'll have to clean it up."⁵

Three weeks later when Racheff returned, the rubbish had been raked into piles. He intended to tell them they should go out of business, but he stayed and bought what was considered "worthless stock".⁶ Eventually, Racheff turned the complex into a working electric steel plant.

The Knoxville Iron Works was founded in 1868 as a rolling mill for iron products. By the late 1800s the discovery of high-grade ore led to iron ore manufacturing being centered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Gary, Indiana; and Birmingham, Alabama. The Knoxville Iron Works remained a local company, financed with local capital. Its raw material was imported and its primary function was to refine pig iron into wrought iron, which was then rolled. In 1902 the company moved to the present location and constructed the mills and office. From 1909 to 1948, it primarily melted scrap iron and steel, then altering the metal to bars and usable shapes.

Racheff maintained a steel consulting business in Chicago during the time he was transforming Knoxville Iron Works into a successful business. Racheff started to buy shares of the company

⁵ "The Better World Begins With You", *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 20 December 1970 p E-10

⁶ "The Better World Begins With You", *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 20 December 1970 p E-10

until he had a controlling interest in the late 1940s, eventually acquiring 80% of the stock. He was a consultant and implementing improvements to Knoxville Iron Works the entire time he was acquiring stock. In 1946, Racheff purchased the company and was president of the company from 1947-1968. While acting as a consultant to the company, Racheff lived at the Andrew Johnson Hotel (NR 7/9/80) in Knoxville and moved into the nominated building after he purchased the iron works. By 1970, Racheff had been made a fellow off the American Society for Metals. His achievements were

...thorough metallurgical investigations leading to an effective consulting laboratory, industrial developments, and a successful electric steel plant which beautified rather than polluted the environment.⁷

Circa 1947 the mill was in good running order. It was time to start the garden from the steel mill junk pile. Records show that Mr. Racheff spent \$76.00 that year for grass seed, trees and shrubs. Through the years that followed he added more plantings, a teahouse, a couple of gold fishponds, a small orchard, a vegetable garden and some beehives. In the fall he had a couple workers from the mill plant the thousands of tulip bulbs he ordered each year from Holland. He believed that nature and industry could live side by side. In an interview with *Knoxville News-Sentinel* reporter Carson Brewer Racheff said, "There is no reason to take every square inch and squeeze profit out of it. We of this world are at a point of decision. We can use or misuse technology. And we can use or abuse our earth".⁸ On 17 May 1961 in Philadelphia, PA, The National Council of State Garden Clubs gave him one of their highest awards – The Silver Seal, for his work in conservation and pollution control.

In addition to the gardens, he devoted a great deal of time to helping the people in the immediate community. He employed handicapped-people, helped employees with personal problems, built a baseball park behind the steel mill for the Lonsdale community and his workmen and had educational funds for scholarships for children in the area. He provided gardening and cooking lessons for the people in the area. He held an annual Christmas party for his workers as well as the neighborhood people where food, gifts and clothing were distributed and one- dollar bills were handed out to the children.⁹

Racheff sold his interest in the Knoxville Iron Works to what is now known as Ameristeel in 1968. He retained ownership of the house and gardens until his death, leasing the office to the steel company. He stayed in the upstairs apartment when he visited Knoxville otherwise he lived in

⁷ "Ivan Racheff Presents Park to State Garden Federation." *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 20 December 1970.

⁸ "The Better World Begins With You", *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 20 December 1970 p. 1.

⁹ Trimble, H. Blair, Personal interview by Lois Van Wie, 10 December 2001. Mr. Trimble was one of the officers of Steel Services that bought Knoxville Iron Works from Ivan Racheff. Mr. Racheff retained the house and gardens when he sold the company.

Chicago. Racheff wanted to be sure that the gardens would continue so he approached the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs to see if they would accept the gardens, which they did in 1970. He left money in his will to maintain the gardens stating "It is my desire that the property bequeathed be operated and maintained as a natural garden and park for the benefit and enrichment of the public and to educate and encourage all persons to conserve and preserve the natural resources which surround them".¹⁰ He gave \$2,300,000 to the University of Tennessee for two Chairs of Excellence, one in Engineering and the other in Plant Molecular Genetics. The University of Illinois received considerable more. Mr. Racheff died 26 October 1982 at the age of 92.

When Ivan Racheff took over Knoxville Iron Works in 1947 he immediately started to modernize the plant with new equipment including electric steel furnaces that he had developed in his consulting business. The plant and surroundings were cleaned of accumulated debris and the safety and welfare of workers was given more concern. Racheff brought about changes to a landmark Knoxville factory that was going out of existence, changing it into a thriving steel mill that exists today. Racheff also worked to improve the environment of the area. He lived in Chicago part of the time while managing the Knoxville operation. The Ivan Racheff House best represents Racheff's significance in Tennessee.

On Friday, October 11, 2024, the Franklin County Garden Club dedicated a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker in Winchester, TN.



TFGC President, Denise Thorne presents the Gold Star certificate to Franklin County Garden Club president, Lola Eslick.



Pictured: Gary Thorne
President Denise Thorne's Husband
at their home in the snow



Winter Issue Coming in February