





Letter from the President	
Conservation Camp Holiday Design Program District Directors Reports New Project Possibility 23- TFGC Awards Chair Racheff 34-	3-4
Holiday Design Program	7-8
District Directors Reports	9-18
New Project Possibility	23-24
TFGC Awards Chair	27
Racheff	34-35
President-elect	39



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

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DENISE THORNE

TFGC President 2023-2025



Members,

This summer has flown by like the speed of watered Kudzu! (Pueraria montana) The cover of The Volunteer Gardener is a picture I made of the sunflower patch on our farm. Our son, Caleb, makes sure every year it is planted for the birds, and the pollinators benefit from this also!

Goldfinches and doves, by the hundreds, feed in this acre patch. We also enjoy butterflies and bees feeding there, that are oblivious to onlookers. We have been in a drought here and even in the middle of the day deer are feeding on the droppedsunflower seeds. Some seed heads have an eighteen-inch diameter. We celebrated 100 years, 1924-2024 with the TFGC Lenoir City Garden Club. What a milestone! President Cathy Donelson, and her devoted club members provided a wonderful reception. A copy of the history is in this edition. On September 12, I will travel to attend the Dixie Highway 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Historic Bleak House on Kingston Pike in Knoxville. President LaQuita Misner, Linda Ford and a host of talented dedicated members will have a memorable day planned. I can't wait to join them!

TFGC will be celebrating 100 years next convention in 2025 at the Historic Read House. I need all garden clubs to get your garden club history together and send via email to me by January 2025 for this exciting event.

I have included a picture made at the 100-birthday celebration with one of our dear members that passed away August 30, 2024. Loraine Beasly. 101 years young, she was the Honorary Chairman of the TFGC State Flower Show held at the Deep South GC Convention this year. We honor her legacy as a Petite Designer Specialist, dedicated District II, Flower Growers Garden Club member of 64 years serving as president and lovely lady inside and out.

I want to thank all four district directors and members for making our TFGC Ways and Means Herb programs a success! The record of each district is included in this issue.

We also had a fantastic BOD meeting and Herb Program at the Trenton Teapot Museum.

What a jewel of an historic collection for Tennessee. The Trenton Garden Club, Paris Garden Club, Rosemark Garden Club, Dyersburg Garden Club, Blossomway Garden Club, and many District I members and other TFGC District representatives came out in force to rally to help my entourage with unloading, setup, serving and loading up. Everything was like a fine oiled machine.

I will represent Tennessee at the NGC Headquarters in St Louis on September 19. Conservation Camp will ring in the season of fall and cooler temperatures. Our TFGC Board of Directors will meet there. Hope to see you for all the Conservation activities.

Denise Thorne TFGC President











Conservat	tion Car	mp 2024 - Regi	stration	TFGC Sept 30	0 – Oc
1					
Sunday –4	1:00 PM	Early Arriva	ls - Park	Dinner open	air
Pavillion -	- I will a	attend		N/C	
Monday -	Sept. 3	0 - Lunch \$	45.00		
Monday –	Sept. 3	0 - Dinner\$	45.00		
Tuesday –	Oct 1	- Lunch \$	45.00		
Tuesday –	Oct 1	- Dinner\$	45.00		

<u>Full Time registration – Two Days – 4 Meals \$175.00</u>

Late fee after September 8th add \$20.00

Make Check to TFGC, Inc. with check to

Karen Dawson, TFGC Trea.
2499 Sugar Flat Road
615-594-2455 email- fdkd@bellsoth.net
Lebanon, TN 37087

SHADY OAKS GARDEN (LUB

July 2024 Editor: Janet Brown

Johnson City, TN

Carver Peace Gardens

This is a club community service project which has been spearheaded by members Michelle Hejny and Cole Hendrix to create two new garden areas for our local Carver Park, a shade garden and a pollinator garden.



Thanks to Cole Hendrix we recently received a \$250 donation of garden products from Espoma for use on the Carver project.





"Before" picture of pollinator garden site.



"After: newly planted pollinator garden is growing well.

The pollinators are already busy at work!



Working with children at the Carver Park garden.

City Council Recognition



Shady Oakers were recognized by the Johnson City Council for National Garden Week.

Holiday Design Program

Featuring Topiaries, Wreaths, and Inspiring Decor

Presented by the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Denise Thorne
Designer and TFGC President
TFGC Ways and Means
Program
Buffet Holiday Luncheon

District I November 4th District II December 9th District III October 21st District IV October 14th



\$20.00 per ticket \$5.00 Donated back to your garden club.

Mail check with Club and District in memo to: Karen Dawson TFGC

Treasurer

2499 Sugar Flat Road

Lebanon, TN 37087



District I Summer News

District I continues to show its true colors of commitment, creativity, and an abundance of energy reflected in its projects and programs. Clubs were busy the months of April and June hosting flower shows. Elizabeth Stone and Gibson Garden Clubs teamed up to host an NGC Standard Flower Show "Express Yourself" with Flowers on April 13, 2024 in Gibson, Tennessee. These two clubs are small in number but mighty in talent as reflected in their flower show entries. At the same time Memphis Garden Club hosted "Rhythm and Hues" Garden clubs of America flower show at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens in Memphis, Tennessee on April 12-14, 2024. This is a GCA major flower show presented every two years for visitors of all ages to enjoy nature and beauty through floral design, horticulture, botanical arts, photography and conservation. This event is the club's gift to the city of Memphis and surrounding area. Begun in 1978, it is one of only nine flower shows in the United States to be designated a "major flower show" by Garden Club of America. This prestigious show draws horticulture and artistic judges and entries from GCA members locally and throughout the United States. On the heels of the previous two flower shows, Suburban Garden Club concluded the month of April with another outstanding flower show "Southern Sass" on April 17, 2024 at a member's lovely home in the heart of Memphis. Because the show was in a member's home, it offered a unique opportunity to showcase floral design, horticulture, botanical arts and photography. Entries were displayed on pieces of furniture, in book cases and window sills offering the viewer an opportunity to enjoy a tour of the beautiful home while catching glimpses through large windows of the pool area framed by Japanese Lace Leaf Maples and other horticulture. Shelby East Garden Club offered another outstanding flower show "My Favorite Things" based on the song in the Sound of Music. The show was held at the Morten Museum in Collierville. Garden Club of Rosemark is planning their flower show "Let's Go to the Fair" to coincide with Rosemark's annual county fair to be held on September 28, 2024. The show will include design, horticulture and photography. This is another garden club who historically hosts an outstanding flower show. On June 17, 2024, District I held its Presidents' and Treasurers' meeting at the Memphis Botanic Garden from 10:00 am to noon. A salad lunch concluded the event with attendees bringing their favorite salad to share with board members providing finger desserts. Attendance was strong with our TFGC President, Denise Thorne, joining the event to present NGC District I awards. Denise will be back in Memphis on November 4,2024 at the Memphis Botanic Garden to present a program "Designing for the Holidays". At the registration desk, Presidents or club representatives picked up packets for their notebooks with the most current forms from the TFGC website. Bonnie Stockel did an excellent PowerPoint called "Leap into Leadership" which was especially helpful for new presidents and a good refresher for presidents starting their second year of service. Our District Treasurer, Lois Hobby-Clayton, covered all forms pertinent to club treasurers while chairs covered Vision of Beauty Calendars, Endowment Trust Fund Grants, Membership and a Judges' Flower Show School July 20-23, 2025. The meeting ended with District Director, Chris Kelyman, and Vice Director, Jackie Walker, presenting TFGC and Deep South awards while Denise Thorne presented District I NGC awards. Clubs were asked to bring bouquets from their gardens to decorate the tables. The clubs who brought bouquets then took them to various public spaces to decorate them as part of our ongoing District I Deep South Unified Project. Public libraries were a popular space where many of the bouquets were taken to.

Poplar Estates Garden Club members continued their ongoing Bluebird Program monitoring three bluebird trails and eight member boxes.this year from the beginning of March through early August. One trail is located at Forest Hill Elementary School while two of the trails are located in two public parks, Bobby Lanier Farm Park and Poplar Estates Park, both located in Germantown, a suburb of Memphis. Two thousand twenty-four marked the ninth year for monitoring 5 boxes at the Farm Park, the sixth year for monitoring 6 boxes at Poplar Estates Park and the fourth year for our trail at the school. This year was an extremely successful year of bluebird activity for our trails and member boxes with 174 bluebird eggs, 136 eggs hatched and 131 nestlings fledged. In 2023 there were 137 bluebird eggs, 109 eggs hatched and 106 nestlings fledged. The club's two thousand twenty- three efforts were recognized with a first place TFGC award, second place Deep South award and a commendation NGC award. The club takes great pride in their efforts knowing they are instrumental in increasing the bluebird population which was in decline.







Cordova Garden Club on May 2nd met for a tea party on the grounds of their arboretum at the Cordova Library. Tables were set up under the trees while members brought scones, tarts, macarons, tea sandwiches and hot tea. Vice President Deena Abesykera furnished the lovely china and Vicki Duggins provided the floral arrangements for the tables. Many members dressed for the occasion. Although the day was a little windy, a great time was had by all.





Our District will meet once again for our Fall Membership Meeting on October 7, 2024, at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Dr. Chris Cooper with UT Extension Service and host of The Family Plot on PBS will be our guest speaker with a program called "Smart Yard Sustainability".

Chris Kelyman
District 1 Director

DISTRICT II SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS



The Flower Lovers Circle Garden Club visited & donated to the Hope Botanical Garden in Leoma, TN.



The Garden Lovers Club raised over \$875 at their June 2024 plant sale!



District II Director Bette Ann Fields guides a party of 10 year-old future gardeners on making succulent gardens.



Emily Peyton & Janet McCluskey of the Year Round Garden Club & Denise Thorne at the "Victorian Days" Flower Show on August 8, 2024





Iris City Garden Club instructed youth gardeners at the Travellers Rest Herb Garden.



eiper's Fork Garden Club members. established & maintain a Pollinator Garden at Timberland Park in Williamson County



Optimistic Gardeners Club Members in July 2024 Joe Rouse, Jeanee Teeter, Lillian Hibbett & Beth Binkley



Franklin County Garden Club members taught 5th graders in their 'Youth Gardening" program at Broadview Elementary School in Winchester.



The Warner Park Garden Club enjoys "Growing & Cooking with Herbs".



The Clarksville Garden Club visited the Southeastern Grassland Institute in Clarksville







delivering them all over

Shelbyville!





Tyne Meade Garden Club members celebrated the Fourth of July at their meeting.



Jim & Judy Sullivan opened their beautiful Victorian Home to guests at Year Round Garden Club's "Victorian Days" Flower Show







The Lake Forest Acres Garden Club enhanced their Gold Star Marker site in Mt. Juliet with beautiful flowers.



Flower Growers, Optimistic
Gardeners & Garden Lovers
Clubs hosted "Peter
Rabbit's Garden" flower
show to celebrate National
Garden Week 2024



Camden Garden Club members maintain the Patsy Cline Memorial

District III spring activities opened on May 2nd with a lovely luncheon and herb presentation by TFGC State President Denise Thorne at East Brainerd Church of Christ as a TFGC fund raising project. Denise also made available many "market items" for members to purchase, which was a happy favorite of the attendees. During National Garden Week in June, District 3 achieved remarkable 100% participation from its 11 clubs, all of whom organized engaging activities and events to promote NGW.

"In June, District III Director, Ginger Cloud, joined Magnolia Garden Club's tour of Jason Rymer's gardens — Elders Ace Hardware's District Garden Manager. Jason's gardens, an absolute beauty, were such a delight to view. Jason served slices of strawberry homemade cake—a sweet treat for both the eyes and the taste buds."

The Garden Club of Signal Mountain held an excellent flower show on June 6th titled "Our Travel Journal Abroad". Co-Presidents Debbie Garvich and Judy Nowlin with Flower Show Chairman Diane Ryder drew together the club members travels and took us to view the artful talents of members as they interpreted their experiences in Europe via floral design, horticulture, botanical exhibits, tablescapes and photography

"Bee Aware"



DAYTON GARDEN CLUB IS HOSTING AN NGC SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW ON

October 16, 2024 from 1:00 till 4:00 pm

THE SHOW WILL BE AT THE DAYTON AIRPORT - 350 WALTER SQUIRE ROAD - DAYTON

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THE SHOW IS INTENDED TO BRING AWARENESS
OF HOW IMPORTANT OUR HONEY BEES ARE AS POLLINATORS

Absolutely amazing talent in this club!!

Director Ginger Cloud attended the June meeting of Dayton Garden Club at Diana Pace's Honey House in Spring City, TN, where the process of bee farming was explained. A tour or her extensive pollinator gardens on a golf cart gave participants the opportunity to see the vast operation. Members provided a sumptuous meal and demonstrated their exquisite culinary talents (which was really enjoyed by this director).

Upcoming will be Ginger's invitation to join Four Seasons Garden Club on September 10th to enlighten the members on the history of garden club and the direction for garden clubs in the future.

The TFGC Fall Membership Meeting for District III will be September 24th at East Ridge Community Center. Registration at 9:30 and the business meeting will begin at 10:00. Registration required.

Dayton Garden Club will present their flower show "BEE AWARE" from 1-4 on October 16th at Dayton Airport, 350 Walter Squire Road, Dayton. This is a MUST SEE show, and I envision a great district III turn out!!

A highlight of the fall for district III will be the Holiday Design presentation and luncheon prepared by your TFGC State President, Denise Thorne. The program will be a TFGC fund raising project and will be held on October 21, at the East Ridge Community Center 1515 Tombras Ave., East Ridge, TN, beginning at 10:00. Registration Required.

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN (LUBS, ANC. JANIE M. BITNER DISTRICT & DIRECTOR REPORT

As this officer reflects on the past few months, she is proud to report that District IV has had a very productive second quarter in 2024. We now have an opportunity to add three new members. These referrals came through the National Garden Club's website and our State President Denise Thorne. All prospective members have been contacted and several are scheduled to attend upcoming meetings.

It has been my distinct pleasure to attend different clubs' outstanding programs and community projects with opportunities for future awards. I am already seeing Endowment Trust Fund Grant Applications come in and have encouraged several clubs to apply this year. There is one application in the works! At the spring district meeting, club members are reminded of the upcoming deadline for grant applications and encouraged to apply. At the fall district meeting, the grant winners are announced and allowed to give a short description of the winning projects. This encourages all clubs to develop project ideas and apply for grants the following year. At both membership meetings, we encouraged clubs to donate to the Endowment Trust Fund. A percentage of the balance of the fund is available for grants each year so increasing the amount in the fund increases the amount available for grants.

District IV is encouraging members to assist with judging 2024award applications on January 7, 2025, in Murfreesboro, TN.

District IV had two clubs submit National Espoma Grant Applications and WIN! Kudos to Shady Oaks Garden Club and Tuckaleechee Garden Club. More fantastic award winners will be announced at our fall membership meeting on October 18, 2024.

This Director is the Ivan Racheff House and Gardens horticultural liaison to the Knox County Master Gardeners who now maintain a program project in our historical garden/arboretum. Workdays for all garden club members interested in joining us are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. The master gardeners are currently working with Jan Brown who is coordinating the work done in the Children's Garden with the Plant America Grant awarded earlier this year.

District IV held it's Presidents and Treasurers meeting on May 8, 2024, at Ivan Racheff House and Gardens.

On May 15, 2024, Denise Thorne held a TFGC Ways and Means Herb Workshop to support District IV. The workshop including lunch was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Our District IV Spring Membership Meeting was held on March 29, 2024, at Fox Den Country Club in Knoxville, TN. We had a wonderful speaker on native plants.

A National Garden Clubs, Inc. Symposium presented by TFGC, Inc., District IV Council of Flower Show Judges is planned for August 21-22, 2024, at Fox Den Country Club, Knoxville, TN. Horticultural Topics in Collections and Displays presented by Pam Braun. Design topics in Panels and Exhibition Tables presented by Frances Thrash. Symposium Chairman is Connie Wallace.

Two Blue Star Memorial Markers are in the planning stages. Dixie Highway Garden Club plans to place one at the newly constructed Heritage Legacy Park. Valley Beautiful Garden Club plans to place one alongside the Gold Star Family Memorial Marker in Erwin, TN.

District IV Garden Guild and Sevierville Garden Club are planning a flower show "Songs of Summer" on July 12, 2024, at our state headquarters- Ivan Racheff House and Gardens.

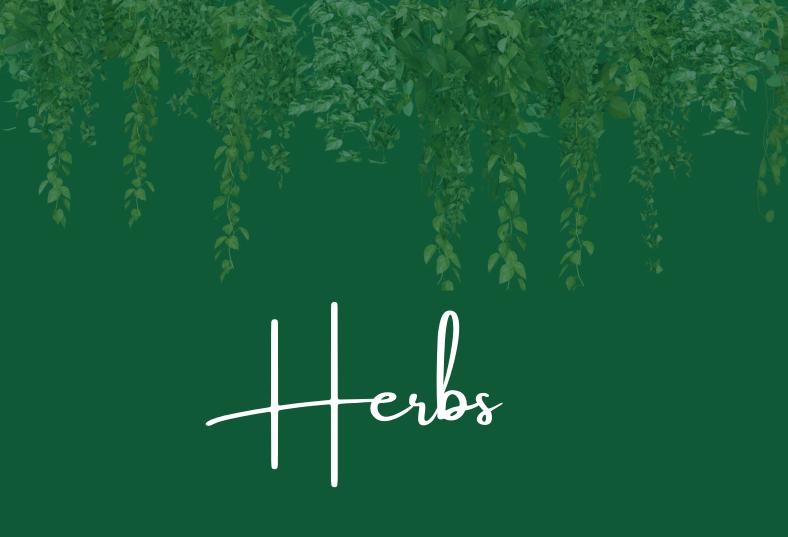
Lenoir City Garden Club recently celebrated their 100th Anniversary! Dixie Highway Garden Club will celebrate their 100th Anniversary at Bleak House in Knoxville, TN on September 12, 2024.

This Officer wants to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to all her District Garden Clubs for the amazing volunteer spirit in making our community a better place to live. Being great stewards of our environment is key to future generations following in our footsteps.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your District IV Director.



Herb Ways and Means Project	t			
Recap from all Districts	:			
District III				
Wednesday, May 2, 2024	37	Total	Registrations paid	765
			Donation back to clubs	-180
			Merchandise Sales	391.75
			Church Rental	-100
	. 1		Marc Moss (Audio)	-50
	- 1		Net Ways and Means Cleared	826.75
District IV	1			
Wednesday, May 15, 2024	42	Total	Registrations paid	840
			Donation back to clubs	-210
			Merchandise Sales	494
	1		Net Ways and Means Cleared	1,124
District II				
Friday May 24, 2024	82	Total	Registrations	1,640
			Donations Back to Clubs	-410
			Ways & Means Sales	411
			College Christ of Christ	-200
	11		Net Ways & Means Cleared	1,441
District I				
Tuesday, July 9,2024	41	Total	Registrations	1,000
			Donations Back to Clubs	-210
	2.7		Ways & Means Sales	240
	::		City of Trenton	-75
			Net Ways & Means Cleared	955
Total from All Districts				
Registrations	11		202 Club Members	4,245
Donations Back to Clubs				-1,010
Ways & Means Sales				1,536.75
Venue Expenses				-425
Net Ways & Means Cleared				4,346.75



A sincere thank you to all districts for supporting the TFGC Ways and Means Herb Program.

Denise Thorne TFGC President





Tyne Meade Adds Sundial at the Nashville Historic Grassmere House

Tyne Meade Garden Club has been working to restore the kitchen herb garden at the historic Grassmere House on the property of the Nashville Zoo since June of 2021. We have 18 club members who have participated since that time to clear the ground and soil for the herbs. Club members worked with the Zoo staff to start seeds and reuse some existing site plants.

The sundial is the last piece of the restoration from the appearance in the 1850ssome 1900. On March 7th, 2024, we brought our club members together with some of the Zoo's educational staff and executive team members for this dedication. In our club group picture we are wearing our Tyne Meade aprons. These aprons were made by Nancy Goodrich and are also worn as we maintain the herb garden during the year. We are now ready to educate the public about the garden and how it was tended and used at Grassmere.

We encourage you to visit our herb garden at the Nashville Zoo as well as the many features on the Zoo property.

Nashville Zoo

3777 Nolensville Pike

Nashville TN 37211



NEWPROJECTPOSSIBILITY FOR YOUR GARDEN (LUB

You will note that on the recently updated President's Report (4-10-2024 revision) there are several new ways for your club to report projects and earn points toward a Standard Club or Garden Club of Excellence certificate.

Number 35 on the President's Report now lists an addition to the previous Sponsor Youth Club item. It now says "Youth/Senior Citizens/Clubs/Activities". What does that mean?

A motion was presented and passed at the January TFGC Board meeting stating that:

"Members of the TFGC be encouraged to sponsor a Senior Garden Club within their local Assisted Living, Memory Care and Nursing Home facilities. The sponsoring club may provide programs and projects appropriate to the abilities of the senior members. The process would be similar to sponsoring a Youth Garden Club, and receive the same credit of points on the President's Reports. Annual membership fees and forms for the sponsored senior club would be in keeping with those of youth clubs. "

So how does this work?

If you have sponsored a youth garden club or camp, you know that you register that club/camp with TFGC on Form H. Along with some information, you include an initial \$7 fee to register the club and then a \$10 fee for dues for the club, not individuals. These are due annually by December 1.

The frequency of your youth program and other details including curriculum content are up to your sponsoring garden club members that are coordinating the program. If it is at a school or youth organization, such as the Boys & Girls Club, you are also working in conjunction with their rules, schedule, venue and cooperation of teachers and directors.

As our population ages many garden lovers are no longer physically or mentally able to handle the organization of an adult garden club. These senior adults can still benefit tremendously from having the opportunity to meet with fellow gardeners and enjoy programs and projects. If the facility allows, there could also be opportunity for outdoor gardening experiences that are in line with their capabilities. Horticultural and Garden Therapy opportunities abound.

Senior Club sponsorship would be meant for facilities where the residents are receiving care and supervision, and not for retirement communities where the members are still capable of organization such as holding offices and organizing programs. Those latter communities would be encouraged to start a new or join an existing TFGC club.

Since these sponsored senior clubs would generally be inside established facilities, the organization of such, including financial accounting, program frequency and projects, would be individualized by working in conjunction with the facilities activity directors and managers.

An example is the Brookdale Garden Club, sponsored in Sevierville by the Sevierville Garden

Club. The SGC members provide a monthly program or activity for all residents. These "living room" programs are generally slide show presentations on flowers, birds, butterflies and other topics given by members, master gardeners, even local park and other experts. Some programs are hands-on activities such as planting flower seeds for their pots, putting together a floral design for their room, or even decorating pumpkins for the dining tables.



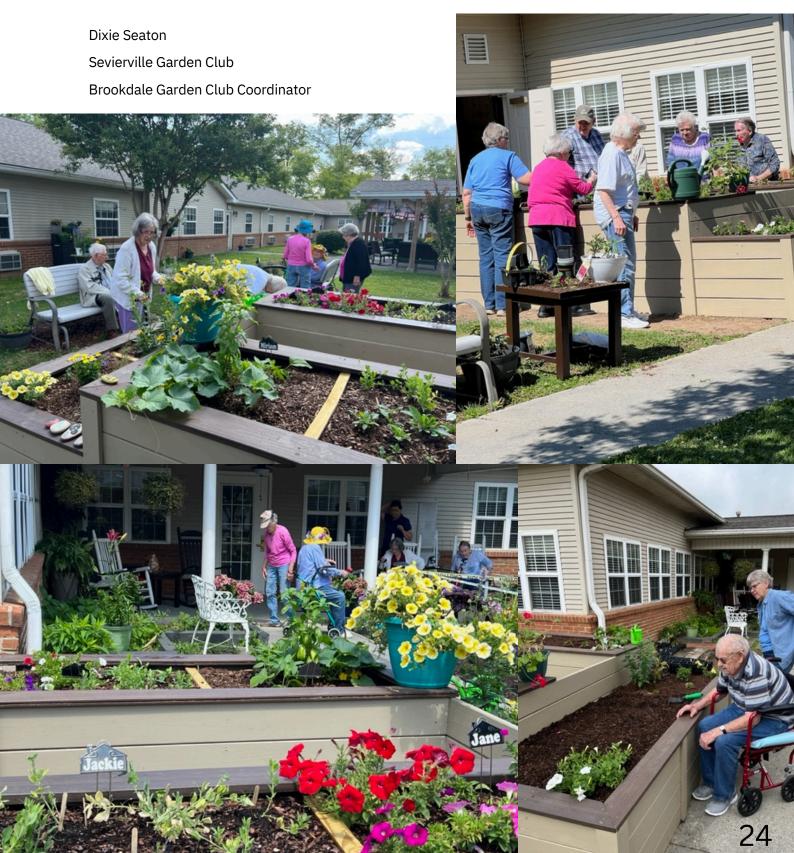






Being fortunate enough to have an outdoor courtyard, the SGC members also have worked to improve the accessibility of garden beds and general beauty of the area. The seniors there are encouraged to plant their flowers or tomato plants, and help tend the raised beds. Even those not inclined to get "in the soil" enjoy just sitting on the porches and get some relaxing time listening to the waterfall and birds, visiting with friends. A lot of time is spent sharing their past gardening experiences, memories of working with parents and children, some still have a huge knowledge of different plants and can share that. Such a positive activity that warms the heart and stimulates those brain connections for memory.

Not all clubs are able or interested in working with children in youth gardening, but we all can share our joy of gardening and flowers with our friends and family that have aged and are in need of positive physical friendships. Please consider this important outreach for our seniors – as we all will benefit from that interaction, which ever side of the door we are on.



Dixie Highway Garden Club - A 100 Year Old Piece of Knox County History

Dixie Highway Garden Club is 100 years old. It is a little piece of Knox County history. Carolyn P. Brown founded the club in 1924. Carolyn and her husband John were wealthy Knoxville residents famed for their restoration of Bleak House. The house was the civil war era home built by the Armstrong family on Kingston Pike. The Browns purchased the house in the early 1900's, renovated it to its Italianate glory and renamed it Casa Modena. Carolyn was famous for her renovation of the terraced gardens leading down to the Tennessee River. Although all Carolyn's family unfortunately predeceased her, the money remaining in her estate built UT its Oirst student center.

The founders of Dixie Highway Garden Club lived along Kingston Pike in ancestral homes. They didn't necessarily think of themselves as residents of Knoxville. They were, however, modern thinkers and named their club after the newly completed Dixie Highway, the series of roads connecting the Midwest with sunny Florida. Although early automobile dealer Carl Fisher had the idea for this "highway" to promote auto travel and his real estate investment in Miami Beach, many other businessmen, local and state governments jumped on board to promote auto travel and tourism. For those brave enough to tackle a long automobile trip in the 1920's, the Eastern Route of the Dixie Highway led right down Kingston Pike (US Route 70). While the Federal interstate highway system has long usurped the Dixie Highway, we still have remnants like Dixie Lee Junction, where Kingston Pike and Lee Highway split.

Garden Clubs were all the rage at the time Dixie Highway GC was founded. Their emphasis was on horticulture - helping women decide what varieties of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants to grow. The Dixie Highway Garden Club had no state or federal afOiliation when it was founded. It became afOiliated with state and national organizations after they were formed. The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs formed in 1926. National Garden Clubs, Inc. formed in 1929. The interests of Dixie Highway GC and all NGC garden clubs have expanded beyond horticulture to include Oloral design and civic and environmental responsibility. If you have ever noticed a Blue Star or Gold Star Marker honoring members of our military, you have seen a bit of our civic work. The TFGC state headquarters are here in Knoxville at another bit of Knoxville history, Racheff House, Gardens and Arboretum. Ivan Racheff bought Knoxville Iron Works in 1947. He began the garden on the site of a former steel mill junk pile next to the 1902 house used as the mill's ofOice. He gifted the house and garden to TFGC in 1970 and it is now an arboretum open to the public – and a wonderful place to spend a few minutes in a beautiful garden.

Many of the Dixie Highway Garden Club's current members still live in west Knoxville and Farragut close to the Dixie Highway. In addition to participating in juried Olower shows, the club members help with Racheff House and with several other local projects like the landscaping at Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of

Riding (STAR) and Wreaths Across America, as well as donating to many local organizations. The club will be celebrating its centennial on September 12th, 2024 at Carolyn P. Brown's "Casa Modena."

Rose Moseley
Publicity Chairman
Dixie HighwayGarden Club



Debbie Shaver, TFGC Awards Chairman To Flower Show Judges Forms

I want to caution the evaluating judges about writing their evaluations out. Many of you are not giving a description of the show on another page or on the back of the form. THIS IS A MUST!

I was recently at a symposium and they specifically stated that a description is required on the evaluation. When you don't include that then you are hurting the club who put on the show. If you have scored them high enough to apply for an award and the description is missing then I am sure points are taken off, and that is on you!

It only takes a few more minutes to write out what you saw about the show, they want YOU to describe what you saw, along with the show description that is included in the BOE. This gives the judges (of the BOE) a good picture of the show. If you don't do this then they have no clue....

If you take points off you have to tell why you did as well, don't forget. Your job is an important one, lets help these clubs get all they deserve.

Clubs having shows

You are to contact the evaluating panel before the show and send them their schedule in plenty of time for them to go over it.. The schedule is part of your score to be able to apply for the NGC Flower Show Award. I have in the Flower Show Packet a sheet that is to be send to the panel send this and the schedule and let them know they are evaluating. Each evaluation is to go into a separate envelope that has my name and address on it, with a stamp.

Also clubs in the flower show packet You have a staging form give to the evaluating panel at the show as well. Telling them to fill this form out at the show because all three have to sign before they leave. Provide them with one addressed envelope provide with my name on it.

As always any questions please contact me via email 27 buffiescorner@bellsouth.net Thanks, Debbie

PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

Let your clubs know that NGC has up to \$2000.00 for community projects. Projects can range from massive bulb planting to creating a mini-park on an unused city block to raised beds to grow vegetables for community food banks. You can work with schools or municipalities, or other community organizations.

Plant America grants are unique in the fact that monies are given before the grants so clubs don't have to generate all the funds upfront.

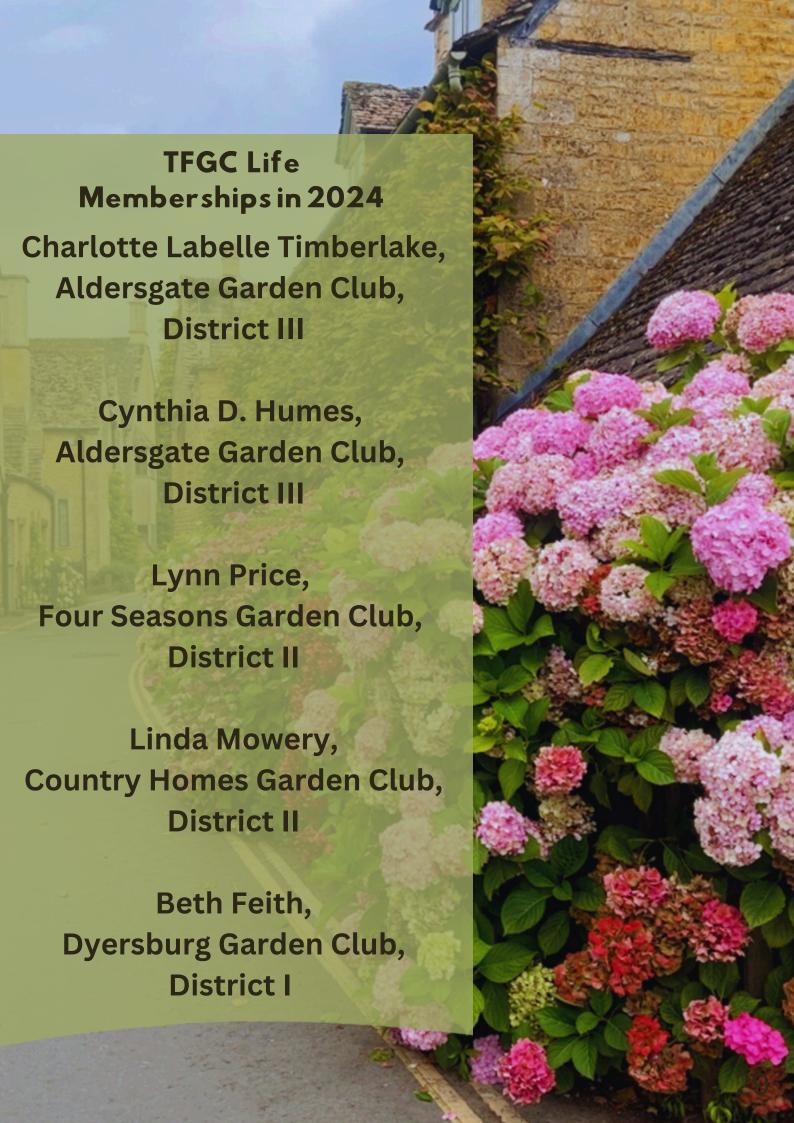
All projects must be initiated in 2025. The grants aren't available for projects already completed.

Application deadline is October 15, 2024.

Application information can be found at the NGC website: Add a subheading

The fillable PDF 2-page application can be found at: Add a subheading.

If you have any questions, contact PlantAmericaGrants@gardenclub.org.





100 YEARS OF LENOIR CITY GARDEN CLUB



History (1924-2024)

Lenoir City Garden Club was founded in 1924 by Carolyn Prater Brown (Mrs. John Scruggs) who lived at Bleak House on Kingston Pike in Knoxville. The Lenoir City News published a notice of a flower show in June at Goodwin and Moore Drug Store. The ladies who came were asked if they would like to form a garden club. An organizational meeting was held, and Mrs. Louise McNeely was elected the first club president.

In early years the club worked on beautification of Lenoir City. Broadway was a state highway and the club planted numerous dogwoods in the grassy median strip, at the bus station and at Lenoir City Cemetery. Other plantings included tulip bulbs at the post office, spring flowers at Johnson Nursing Home on Williams Ferry Road, shrubs at Highland Park School and at the Justice Center, trees and blue, bird houses at Lenoir City Park, and at the new Lenoir City Elementary and Middle Schools. On going activities include district flower shows, creating flower garden at the Loudon County Animal Shelter, and blue bird houses installed and maintained along the Lenoir City Greenway. Connecting with our youth, the houses were built by students at Lenoir City High School. The club sponsored the Centennial Ball at the Memorial Building when Lenoir City celebrated its 100 years. Perhaps the garden cub is best known through the years for the wildflower sale every spring from 1973 through 1992.

In November 1926 Mrs. Brown represented several clubs at a meeting in Chattanooga at the Read House to form a state organization. Lenoir City joined the new federation in 1927 and has remained an active member over the years.

We honor the past, work in the present and look to the future through community involvement, education, beautification and protection of the environment.

Deep South Unified Project

(Plan now for the deadline of Jan. 31, 2025)

"Decorate the Deep South, with a Focus on Flower Shows, Floral Design, and Colorful Public Plantings"

Prize money is available for clubs that have done the following::

- 1. Staged an NGC Flower Show
- Decorated a public space with flowers or for a special event.
- Installed a colorful planting project in their community.

Categories for prizes NGC Flower Show

First prize for a club show is \$200, with \$100 offered for second. Any club that has staged an NGC flower show within the last year and a half can enter this category. Don't let your



club miss out. The same award is offered for a show staged by a group of clubs or council.

Floral Decoration for Public Event or Space



If your club has decorated for any special event such as a public reception, a wedding, or a special event in your town, you can apply for this award. Again, first place wins \$200 and \$100 goes to second. The same awards are offered separately for a group of clubs or council.

Colorful Plantings

Clubs across the Deep South install colorful plantings in their communities every year. Debby expects many entries in this category.



Check and see if anyone has a picture of your club's planting at the peak of bloom. Then complete a Book of Evidence according to DSGC rules on the Deep South website. Your club might win the \$200 first prize, or the \$100 second prize. And a group of clubs or council can also apply for this prize money.

State Competition

A Deep South state can win \$200 for its state flower show.

Overall Winner

An additional \$200 prize will go to the overall winner.

All entries must be submitted to Cochairman Amye Kelly by Jan. 31, 2025. Check the Deep South website for all details.

JULY 9 AWARDS REPORT

I want to congratulate our National Winners. Overall winners were Garden Lovers Garden Club District II and Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club in District III. Our National Flower Show winners were; District I: District I and Judges for "Cowboy Way", District II: Rachel Jackson for "Itty Bitty Fall Splender", District III: Aldersgate, Sunset and Dayton Garden Clubs for "Scopes Summer", and District IV: Shady Oaks for "View Points". Over all out of the 46 National awards sent in, we had 2 Overall winners, 4 Flower Show winners, 8 NGC first runner's up which is the Commendation Award, and 34 Awards of Appreciation at National, great job everyone.



NGC President Brenda
Moore
Presented by TFGC
President
Denise Thorne
with a certificate at the
2024 NGC Convention
in Boulder Co.

In Deep South we sent in 33 awards; Overall winners were Garden Lovers, Chapman Highway

and Lakemoor Acres, Franklin, and Tuckaleechee. We had 14 First Place winner, 5 - 2nd

place

winners, 1 third place winner and 3 Honorable Mentions. Rachel Jackson Garden club won the

Small Standard Flower Show and the Schedule. Great Job. Reminder that if you want to go over your presidents report you have until August 1st

to contact

me. Check out the newsletters for the articles on the presidents reports and how to do a BOE. If

you don't find them email me and I can send to you.

All 3 page BOE are due to me on Jan 1 no later. I will need one HARD COPY ONLY.

Don't wait to start on those BOE's in December, go ahead and send in now if your project is finished, such as National Garden Week....go ahead and do that BOE and send it on in.

Flower Show BOE's and Flower Show Schedules are due January 1 and I will need ONE HARD COPY AND A PDF Yearbooks are due to your District on December 1, your district awards chairman will send them in to me no later than Jan 1. I only need ONE COPY. I am looking for members who have done BOEs to help out in the judging on January 7 in Murfreesboro, if you are interested please email me. I will need at least 5 from each district. Plus Flower show Judges. Great Job everyone and I look forward to seeing those BOE's for 2024. Thank you for all your hard work at making Tennessee shine through your projects. Thank You. Have a great day

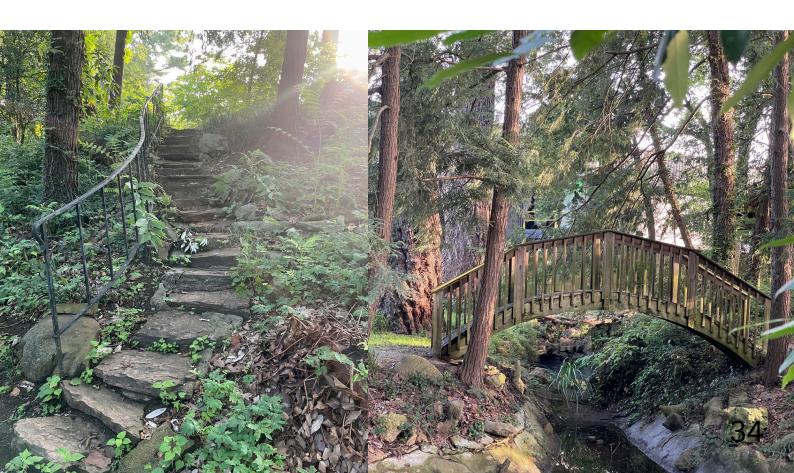
NEW Residents At Racheff

Step quietly through the wildflower garden at Racheff and down the stone steps past the Fern Cobble. You don't want to startle Racheff's newest residents!

Tiptoe over toward the arched bridge leading to the Tea House and look closely.....
there in the Koi Pond are almost 20 new Koi! These sweet fish were gifted to
Racheff by a local Koi society member and carefully transferred to the Koi Pond at
Racheff by member Kathy Treffert and members from Sunup Garden Club.

Kathy and Sunup members cleaned the Pond while it was low and ensured it was refilled in time for the addition of our new Koi. Kathy and Gardener Pam Inklebarger have been feeding the Koi while they settle into their new home, which includes a spacious rock fish retreat in the middle of the pond where they can hide from preditors.

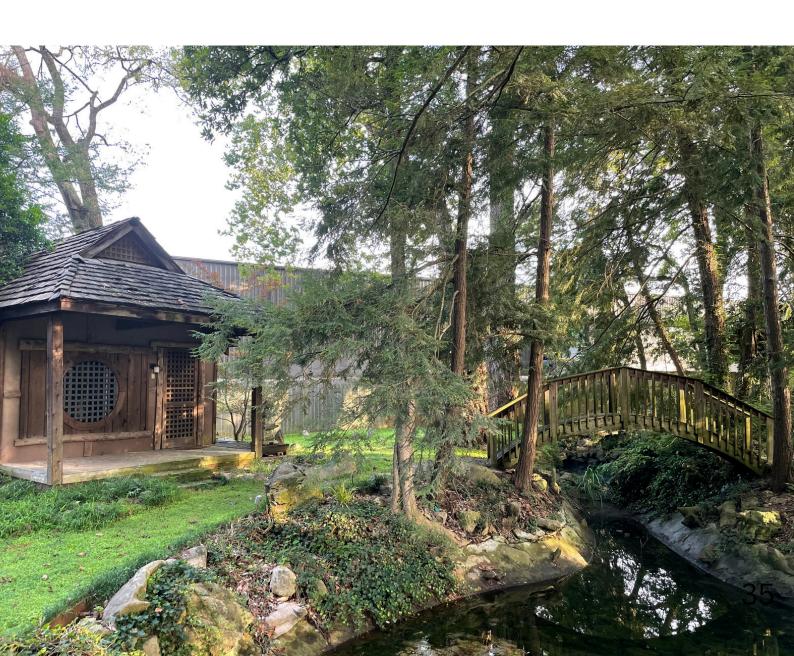
Ivan Racheff built the Tea House and large Koi Pond as a quiet retreat. Mr. Racheff had a well dug to provide water for the pond -- a timer is connected to the well pump to send fresh water to the Pond each day. Business associates of Ivan Racheff were often treated to lunch at the Tea House where private conversations could be held far from the listening ears of office staff members!



The Tea House and Koi Pond remain a favorite destination to visitors to the Gardens. In July over 100 guests of Three Rivers Cooperative Market in Knoxville had lunch and listed to live music in the Gardens. Racheff is delighted to partner with local business with like-minded goals. Their mission is to create and nourish a healthier environment, healthier people and a healthier community.

Come to Racheff soon and meet our newest residents.

Cathy Waitinas
Chairman of the Board of Governors
of Racheff House and Gardens



DGC helps with the "Wings on Display" event on September 7, 2024

The Dayton Garden Club hold their monthly meetings at the Mark Anton Airport. And when the event "Wings on Display" came about, the manager, asked the Garden Club to take care of his VIP people by helping serve lunch and greeting them and making them feel welcome. The club decorated one of the hangers for this event with cloth table cloths, sunflowers and table decorations and made each person a "Goodie Bag" with a toy airplane for the kids, a airplane bottle opener, seed packet, book mark made by member Megan Keylon, Honey Sticks donated my member Diana Pace, candy in a suitcase box, and information about the club and about the Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers, donations of pens from FB Bank and Edward Jones Investment. Our Vice President made wooden airplanes that we used for centerpieces with fresh cut flowers which were donated from Lorenzen Flower Farm. Wooden's Apple House also donated apples that we gave out to all. These planes were sold for any donation to the Gold Star fund. The Club also placed a booth promoting the Blue Star Marker and had a couple local vets that had some items they shared with the public.

The club helped advertise through face book and handing out flyers.

We also place a table at the entrance for the fallen solder, which everyone commented on. The club is currently working toward a Gold Star Marker, and we hope to place it at the airport in a future veterans park planned for there.

The event was a huge success with over 5000 people attending. Here are a few pictures



Tables set up

Sherlene, Ina, Marliese, Amy, Kathy and Megan

Blue Star Booth



Airplane made by Amy

goody bags



Filling bags

Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc 62nd Annual Convention March 11-13, 2025 Valdosta, GA

"Charms of the South"



Town and Country Garden Club presented a bee program led by Karen Dawson, Master Bee Keeper for 80 children plus adults at the Lebanon Wilson County Library



Letter from the President-elect 2023-2025

As this officer looks back over the past several months, it has been amazing. She is proud of our four amazing districts and the members who worked so hard to make those wonderful things happen.

As we closed the books for 2023, 2024 kicked off with a bang. Our president and TFGCteams went into their little workshops and developed a wonderful Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention in Gatlinburg March 19-20, and that wasn't enough. On March 21, 2024, we had a one-day TFGC Convention at the same location. If you did not attend those conventions, you missed the petite designs displayed in a dollhouse collection; it was great.

It has been an honor for this officer to attend and participate in activities throughout the state. On April 4, 2024, the Blue Star Marker Ceremony was held at the newly constructed Veteran Home, 1940 Westland Drive Cleveland, TN. What a successful day for District III.

April 23, 2024, was the District III Spring Board meeting at the Christ United Methodist Church. 39 members were present. Janie Bitner and Wanda Taylor from District IV wasthe presenter of an informative program on Ivan Racheff House and Garden.

May 2, 2024, was the District III Ways and Means Herbs presentation by TFGC president. There were 37 members in attendance. During National Garden Week, with the help of Aldersgate GC members, flowers were delivered to the sick and shut-in, and this officerassisted in redeveloping the Adopt-A-Spot grounds and memorial site for a club member.

June 15, 2024, this officer joined the Lenoir City GC for their 100 yr. celebration *(what a joy) Kathy Donaldson and her members are to be commented on a job well done as they memorialized their members.

June 20, 2024, this officer was a special guest at the Rachel Jackson GC for a monthly meeting and critique of a petite flower show. There were 6 participants and 4 judges. A great technique used to train your members for our future judges.

As we move forward to 2025, I am looking forward to a time when TFGC can come together as ONE. Unity holds the key and the key is what unlocks he door. Let us all find that key and ban together for the future of our organization. STAY COOL and SAFE until we come together as one. Remember there isn't an I in TEAM and we are a TEAM!

Thank you for allowing me to continue as Energy/Water Chairman during your term of office. It remains a challenge trying to keep up with the changes in our laws, continuous disasters (natural, accidental, terroristic); etc. I continue to be amazed at what appears to look beautiful in nature, e.g. our rivers, our air, our food supplies, but can be reported to be polluted and detrimental to our health. There is a recent switch from plastic water bottles to canned water among our younger citizens (trendy); at first I would scoff at this trend, but with the reported problems we are encountering with microplastics in our water, food, and bodies from plastic breakdowns; the increased lack of recycling of plastics (only about 9 % is actually being recycled!); the increased pollution of our world with plastics in our landfills, oceans, rivers, etc, we have to say that canned water may be a costly trend more should accept! (Sad example, for sure, but metal is recycled because it shows a profit to do so.)

There are reports of other countries using machines to gobble up plastic litter in streams rivers and lakes. We have a similar experimental trapping of plastic litter in our Tennessee streams. We certainly need to support this research and reporting. Another example of making citizens aware of recycling habits: on one beach, a large empty metal see-through fish, is encouraging everyone to fill the fish with their plastic trash. It was reported, the "fish" was being filled each day, requiring emptying by the beach keepers. (Training and awareness of collecting plastic litter for recycling is an important step for our youth. Why not a similar metal mesh animal for our state parks?)

At the 2024 Spring District Presidents and Treasurers meeting, I brought exhibit boards I have made over the years with this chairmanship. I was asked to bring them to the meeting and display them by District 1 Director, Chris Kelyman.

We all need to continue to cook more, recycle more, reuse more, switch to replacing dead landscape plants with native plants, make or use more products with fewer ingredients (less toxic)--just be more conservative in our lifestyles! In case we have a grid shut down, we can survive with less stress and use our garden club learned and shared abilities!

I think our membership needs to be more aware of The Tennessee Conservationist;, tnconservationist.org or call 615-532-9960 to get a subscription for six issues each



year.(\$23/year) We need to encourage our membership to be Tennessee Conservationists!

I will not be able to attend the 2024 fall Conservation Camp in Fall Creek Falls. I am planning to take a tour to our Western states to see Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore, etc. The times overlap.

Mustard Sport

After a whole week of rain we were thankful that Friday did not have any - the campers were able to plant with our garden helpers Anenmone, Iris, and some Tritelia bulbs (that had been in the refrigerator for four weeks.) Mustard Seed Camp 2024 was all about Pollinators, one in particular, "the amazing lightning bugs" or "Fireflies".! We used recycled clear plastic bottles to make our fireflies and when we were finished we put a glow stick in the bottle to illustrate the light that fireflies make, but we learned the cold air mixing with the chemicals in a fireflies body causes the light to illuminate -only the light is not hot it is cold.

We then heard about insects ,those you can eat , actually if you can make them you can eat them and We Did! Ants on a log, butterflies, ladybugs, and flies. All of the insects were made of fruits, vegetables, pnut butter, cream cheese, olives, pretzels, and dried cherries. In addition to recycling we learned about recycling plastic that beverages are packaged in. In order to save fish, wildlife dogs and other creatures from choking, or just being trapped by the plastic, cut them up. Janie Bitner, the Director of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs was one of our teachers she and read us a story about fireflies. She looks spoke of the different types the Great Smoky Moutains have ,why they light up, and many other important details about the firefly life. At the end of our day, we made either a Soccer game board, or a bird feeder from Home Depot. All in all we learned to be kind to our pollinator friends, our future rests on the wings of the pollinators so we should be good stewards of God's green earth and it's creatures. We had some new campers that's were excited to be with us and said they would return next year. A big thankyou to all of our teachers, gardeners, roll keepers, roll contacts, assistants, and bag fillers, helpers, and nurse and to our surprise guest from Texas Roadhouse "Andy the Armidillo". A great big thanks to all of our businesses that support our camp we could not have the camp be successful without you. Chick fil a, Sonic, Freddy's, Wendy's, Ingles, Food City. Home Depot, Tva credit Union. Office Depot, Texas Roadhouse, and Applebees.Until next year eat a cicada shell it is good protein and good for you lol. Kathy Pearson



COSSCI-YBUILD EARDEN CLUB

District 1's Cooper-Young Garden Club wrapped up this year's citywide garden walk on a high note. What start years ago as a modest 2-day event in the Cooper-Young neighborhood has blossomed into a remarkable 26-day neighborhood celebration. The growth has been both challenging and exhilarating.

Originally designed to raise funds for our garden club, the event has evolved into a platform that benefits participating neighborhoods directly, helping them enhance their local green spaces. As we've expanded, so has our mission: to showcase the transformative power of gardening in our city.

By inspiring other neighborhoods to embark on similar initiatives, Garden Walks have become a vital tool for fostering community spirit, celebrating local gardeners, and beautifying our blocks. This collective effort not only boosts community pride but also has a positive impact on property values and safety. When our surroundings are more beautiful, we all thrive.

This year, the Cooper-Young Garden Club introduced a fantastic new feature, allowing ticket buyers to donate \$10 of their ticket price to one of ten charitable organizations, including TFGC District 1. We're thrilled to share that District 1 received \$190 from these generous contributions. Thank you to everyone who supported us and helped make this year's garden walk even more impactful!





In 2025, the Cooper-Young Garden Club will mark a significant milestone: a decade of hosting our beloved garden walk. We're excited to celebrate this ten-year journey, and you can count on us to make it a truly special event. Stay tuned for more details as we prepare to commemorate a decade of community, beauty, and growth!

In addition to our milestone garden walk celebration in 2025, we're thrilled to be hosting the 15th Annual Garden Fling Group in Memphis from June 5-8. This esteemed group of garden communicators—including influential bloggers, Instagrammers, speakers, authors, podcasters, YouTubers, and media hosts—travels each year to explore the best and most diverse gardens. We're eagerly preparing to showcase the vibrant garden tourism scene in West Tennessee and can't wait to share the beauty and diversity of our local gardens with this distinguished group. Stay tuned for updates as we get ready to make this event an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!



Year Round GARDINI





