

THE VOLUNTEER GARDENER

WINTER 2025

*Spring 2025
Registration*

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

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Letter from the *President*



Our membership is 2,070 with 89 clubs. Tennessee was proud to host the 2024 Deep South GC Convention in Gatlinburg. We welcomed almost 190 attendees and our NGC President Brenda Moore. Over 400 members across the state donated their time, money and talent to provide a wonderful experience in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, March 19th and 20th, 2024. Thank you to Chairmen Wanda Taylor and Janie Bitner.

Beginning in 2023 we printed *The Volunteer Gardener*, our TFGC official publication, with the directory issue. Kennedy Pope, the editor will have seven publications by the end of the month. This magazine is also available online for those wishing to remain green. We launched a new website for this administration

tennesseefederationofgardenclubsinc.com and has all forms and information for our members. Next, we will finalize the TFGC History Book Publication by the convention in April.

We have added a Membership Develop Chairman, Teresa Bray which has tremendously helped with people that contacted us from the NGC website wanting information about joining a garden club. Many new members have been added from this source.

Our Scholarship Chairman, Candice Wells and her committee has secured four worthy recipients from three different universities, receiving \$7500.00

Our Endowment Trust Fund has given Matching Grants to 14 clubs for a total of \$11,767.86 this past September 2024.

We have had many heartfelt Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker dedications. We have 85 Blue Star Markers and 24 Gold Star Memorial Markers. I have attended all dedications but a few. Pam Dowd is our fearless leader in this program. My garden club, Town and Country Garden Club will be installing a Gold Star Memorial Marker in Wilson County.

I am the first president of Tennessee to offer BOD meetings held in person with a Google Meets/Zoom option, and the first president to travel to each district, across the state and offer in person BOD meetings. This allows members and chairmen to attend either way with a greater number of member participation.

My Ways and Means Project was traveling to the four districts offering two programs, in the spring, an Herb Program with a slide show of fresh herbs I grow in my garden, an Herb booklet I made that each guest received and a catered meal from my kitchen. I had herb and garden related items for sale. Guests enjoyed a choice of three Quiche Lorraine, Pineapple Pecan Cheese Dip, Fresh Spring vegetable marinated salad and homemade yeast rolls. In the fall I presented was a Holiday Design Program featuring topiaries, of fresh greenery, cloved fruit, and dried material. This inspired people to create some new and different holiday décor for their homes. With these programs I served turkey, dressing, gravy, fresh cranberry, fruited nut salad, sweet potatoes, cheese straws and spice cake with cream cheese icing and chocolate cake and chocolate chip cookies. All the programs were totally green with plates, cups and cutlery, and cloth tablecloths. The nine programs made TFGC \$12,324. This total was after we donated \$5.00 back to each member's club that attended.

Our TFGC Convention is Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22nd-23rd. The Historic Read Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee is where it all began for us 100 years ago. "Happy Anniversary TFGC!" is the theme. Margo Shaw of Flower Magazine is our opening luncheon speaker. I hope you all attend!

We will install Lelia Johnson as our new TFGC president.

A highlight of my service was attending the NGC BOD meeting in St Louis last year and visiting our headquarters. I saw our Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., beautiful logo on their colorful exquisite carpet.

We have held successful Symposiums, Flower Shows, Flower Show Schools, and a Tri-Refresher. So I know we are set to win numerous awards! Thank you, Debbie Shaver!

Conservation Camp was September 30 and Oct 1 at Fall Creek Falls State Park and was an enjoyable learning experience for all who attended.

The speakers were fantastic.

The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. has been continuing at full force these last few months. I hope my theme of "Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees" has inspired clubs to provide programs to educate awareness of the importance of wildlife, pollinators, floral design and the continuing to plant trees for the future

Communication is the key to success; my travels were to strive to build a communication overload.

I am blessed to have been surrounded by a talented group of members that make up the Tennessee Federation and have blessed my 2 years of service.

There is no way I can express my gratitude to Karen Dawson, TFGC Treasurer for keeping accurate records to every event we held, tax knowledge, traveled with me and without me to our state headquarters every month. Patty Compton, Janet Switzer you both have put in time, travel and your talents to support TFGC beyond the call of duty. Lola Eslick has served faithfully even in harrowing health surprises. Annette Shrader, thank you for your willingness to serve again with me for the Deep South States. Carol Ann McCormick, you are always there with the knowledge I need. Tove Rawlings and Kay Flynn have probably prayed for my health every day! Thank you both. Thank you to my husband, Gary and all of my family.

I look forward to serving you as your Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. Director for 2025-2027.

*For our own Denise Thorne,
The Tennessee Federation of Garden
Clubs, Inc, President 2023-2025*



**Thank you for your leadership during your term. You
inspired us all with your hard work and creativity.
We're here for you in your next challenge!**

The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

President
Denise Thorne
hosted District
II
Ways and
Means
Holiday Design
Program
& Luncheon















Directors Reports



District I

As I sit at my desk writing my last Director's report concluding my two-year term, words cannot begin to express the incredible journey you have granted me as your cheerleader, communicator and listener. Before I briefly reflect on the past two years, I am looking at the calendar of events for District I's 2025 year ahead and it is bursting with a variety of opportunities.

The District Board is meeting at the Memphis Botanic Garden February 17, 2025, with our District I Spring Membership Meeting March 3, 2025, at the Memphis Botanic Garden with TFGC State President, Denise Thorne, and Lelia Johnson, President -Elect as our honored guests. Our speaker will be Dale Skaggs, Dixon Horticulture Director, presenting a program on Native Azaleas. The month of March on the heels of our Membership Meeting has in its lineup an Ikebana Demonstration by an Ichiyo School Master at the Memphis Botanic Garden, the 13th Annual MidSouth Daffodil Show at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens and a Rare Plant and Garden Ornament Auction at the Dixon sponsored by the Memphis Garden Club. April is another busy month with a plant sale at both the Dixon and Memphis Botanic Garden with the Memphis Area Master Gardeners hosting their annual Spring Fling, a free educational garden event and plant sale. To conclude the month of April, the Little Garden Club of Memphis will present a GCA flower show called "Memphis Moves Me" from 2-5:00 pm at the Memphis Botanic Garden in Hardin Hall. In May Cooper – Young Garden Club will host its 10th Annual Garden Walk on May 17-18th which is the kickoff to its Experience Memphis Gardens project which is growing each year to include more and more gardens in the Memphis and surrounding areas.

Another exciting event occurring June 5-9, 2025, is the 16th Annual Garden Fling Tour which will welcome 100 plus influential garden writers, bloggers, speakers and social media influencers from across the U.S., Canada, England and Australia for an immersive garden experience in Memphis.

This is by no means a complete calendar of activities District I clubs and organizations are engaged in but a sampling to show their commitment, energy, creativity, and dedication to offering quality opportunities for their communities.

Reflecting back over my two years, as director, my travels took me to charming rural communities I had never been to before. My visits were rewarded with warm and genuine hospitality, leaving with an appreciation for the important roles the garden clubs play in their communities as resource people.

I visited all flower shows in our district in 2024, taking me to Gibson, Tennessee for “Express Yourself” with Flowers presented by Elizabeth Stone Garden Club and Gibson Garden Club, “Rhythm and Hues” Flower Show at the Dixon sponsored by the Memphis Garden Club, “My Favorite Things” at the Morten Museum in Collierville sponsored by Shelby East Garden Club, “Southern Sass” presented by Suburban Garden Club and with a fall flower show “Let’s Go to the Fair” presented by the Garden Club of Rosemark in conjunction with Rosemark’s Country Fair. Each flower show was unique and beautifully executed. What was consistent with each flower show was the love, dedication, and pride that each participant contributed to the event.



The District Membership Meetings are another highlight of my term offering a moment in time for our membership to connect in person to Listen, Learn and Share. It takes a village to organize and execute the Membership and Presidents' Meetings and I was blessed to have a supportive Executive Committee, Board of Directors and club members who were always willing to help where needed to make each event productive and memorable.

In closing, I would like to thank all in District I for the remarkable journey you have afforded me these past two years. It was one of the best journeys of my life surrounded by an amazing group of gardeners, flower aficionados and horticulturists.

“Garden as though you will live forever”.

William Kent

Chris Kelyman

District II

Two Wonderful Years . . . It's Been My Honor

What a joy it's been these past two years to serve as District II Director for Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. It's been a particular honor to join forces with TFGC President Denise Thorne who does a beautiful job at anything she puts her hand to! Her dedication to advancing the organization and handling thousands of details with uncompromising perfection is an inspiration. This director will gladly participate in the Deep South Garden Clubs with her as their leader!

As my term comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the many wonderful experiences, friendships, and accomplishments of the past two years. I am tremendously grateful for the memories we have created together in District II.

My journey began with my inauguration at the TFGC Convention on April 6, 2023, an event made even more special by winning over a dozen blue ribbons at the beautiful flower show helmed by the seasoned leadership of District II. In May that year, I proudly represented Tennessee at the National Garden Clubs Convention at The Greenbrier resort in West Virginia. June brought our first meeting of club presidents in District II at the beautiful Cheekwood Botanic Garden, setting the stage for a year of growth and engagement.



The summer was filled with opportunities to judge flower shows and present garden club programs. September's Fall Meeting at Cheekwood was a highlight, featuring Lynn Fronk's "Fall Designs for the Home" program, which raised over \$900. In October, I presented a holiday design program and shared tips on staging horticulture at Gateway Acres Garden Club.

November was marked by a moving Blue Star Marker dedication in Springfield, honoring those who have served our country. December was a season of celebration, from attending Sparkling Settings at the Green Door Gourmet to serving punch at the Greens Tea at Racheff House and Gardens.

As a 10-day freeze ushered in the New Year during January 2024, I participated in judging Yearbooks and award applications statewide, and despite being snowbound mid-month, I enjoyed connecting with club presidents over the phone to secure last-minute Presidents' Reports before seeing them in person again in the Spring.

In February, over dinner with local attorney and philanthropist Michael Ponce and his wife, I shared my concerns that Cheekwood was trying to renege on our spring meeting contract. Michael asked for the paperwork, confirmed our agreement, and like magic, Cheekwood's CEO scheduled a call with me for 12:00 noon on Tuesday. I prayed that if they honored our April 2 meeting date, I'd give God all the glory. At noon, the CEO called, explaining Cheekwood's parking logistics and anticipating our members' enjoyment of the vibrant gardens in bloom.

"So, we can have our meeting?" I asked.

"Yes," she said, but the next time, she advised, it would cost \$7,500!

My prayers were answered, and I'm still singing it from the mountaintops.

While April 2 was a stormy day, we had a delightful Spring meeting with PBS television personality Troy Marden sharing the story of his own garden's refurbishment and photos of his favorite plant varieties.

May 2024 brought a hands-on succulent garden workshop for the New Neighbors Garden Club, followed by our June President's Meeting, where Gayle Jagers provided valuable insights on writing Books of Evidence. In August, District II hosted a Judges Symposium followed shortly by October's Fall Membership Meeting featuring eight talented designers from our district, working in pairs, preparing designs for the home, which were auctioned. I also ordered 664 bulbs to be sold as a fundraiser. Now District II members are looking forward to beautiful gardens this Spring!

Flower Show School Course III took place in Leiper's Fork in November, where I contributed a carload of cacti and succulent gardens for study. December brought a festive Holiday Design Program and luncheon at the home of Denise Thorne.

Now as February 2025 comes to a close, I've just written the final Call Letter of my administration, inviting members to our District II Spring Membership Meeting on April 1 at Cedar Creek Yacht Club, where Jason Reeves will be our esteemed speaker.

What a whirlwind the past two years have been! This role as District II Director has blessed me with countless friendships, cherished experiences, and a deep appreciation for the dedication of our members. Now it's time to pass the reins to my seasoned successor, Becky Fox Matthews. A National Garden Club Flower Show Judge, former educator at the Adventure Science Center, past president of the American Daffodil Society, and a Master Gardener, Becky is fabulously qualified to lead District II forward.

I know TFGC is in excellent hands! And I'm excited to see how it continues to flourish. Thank you all for your support, friendship, and shared passion for gardening. It has truly been an honor. Bette Ann Fields

District III

The holidays are behind us, decorations are packed away, and the snow has come and gone. The *Leucojum aestivum*, or Snowbells, are pushing through the mulch, and the Garden Club is awakening once again! You have received information and registration forms for our many district spring activities and state and region activities as well. Stretch your dedication to TFGC and go beyond just being a supportive garden club member. Begin by attending Day of Gardening—February 22, the District III Membership Meeting – March 25, and our TFGC 100th Anniversary Convention, “Happy Anniversaries TFGC” and Flower show “Through the Years” April 22-23. Definitely consider attending the Deep South Convention, March 11-13! Learning, being involved and expanding your commitment to our TFGC is a rewarding experience! I look forward to seeing you at these special events that our district and state are providing for our growth!

District III Evolves in 2024

District III has seen some changes this past year. Two of our twelve clubs have dissolved: Chattanooga Dirt Dabbers withdrew membership and dissolved in April 2024, while Sunset (Dayton) dissolved in January 2025. Though we lost these two clubs—along with a total of 20 members—we are excited to welcome a new addition to our district!

Greenway Farms Garden Club in Hixson, TN, joins us as a newly federated garden club. With a history spanning over 30 years, Greenway Farms has long been an active gardening community. Now, as part of TFGC and NGC, they bring their passion and expertise to our district. Their members manage reservable planting plots within Greenway Farms Park, offering space for community members to grow vegetables and flowers. They also mentor novice gardeners, providing guidance and support to those eager to cultivate their green thumbs. Please add Sheri Steele, President of Greenway Farm Garden Club, to the District III Garden Club Presidents list. Her contact email is sheristeele2020@gmail.com. We are thrilled to welcome Greenway Farms Garden Club and look forward to seeing their contributions flourish in District III!

Garden Club YEARBOOKS are being composed with the incoming 2025-2027 officers and themes. Innovative programs are being created to coincide with these stated themes. The transition from one term to the next brings fresh ideas and renewed energy. It's exciting to see the enthusiastic program plans created by these 11 clubs. Closing out and gearing up! Don't miss any part of it! Are there any standout themes or innovative programs that you're particularly excited about for the new 2025-2027 term? Contact Ginger Cloud, District III Director, gincloud9@gmail.com.



District IV

As this officer reflects on the past few months, she is proud to report that District IV has had a very productive fourth quarter in 2024. We now have 426 members in District IV having added 39 new members since October 2023. Referrals continue to come through the National Garden Club's website and our State President Denise Thorne. All prospective members are contacted and invited to attend upcoming meetings.

It has been my distinct pleasure to attend different clubs' outstanding programs and community projects with opportunities for future awards. Endowment Trust Fund Matching Grant Applications have increased this year to four. All four were awarded and refurbishment of our Plant It Pink Garden at Ivan Racheff House and Gardens has begun. The committee refurbishing the Tea House at Racheff has been encouraged to apply for a grant. At the spring district membership 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.

Eighty-four Vision of Beauty Calendars were ordered by District IV. These proceeds support TFGC scholarships.

District IV is encouraging members to assist with judging 2024 award applications on January 7, 2025, in Murfreesboro, TN. To date, volunteers attending are Lori Emery, Wanda Taylor, and Janie Bitner.

A Blue Star Memorial Marker is in the planning stages. Dixie Highway Garden Club plans to place one at the newly constructed Heritage Legacy Park when construction of the Park is completed. January 2025 is the target date.

Kanunsita Garden Club hosted a “Christmas Around the World” NGC Standard Flower Show on December 5, 2024, at McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, 522 W. Madison Avenur, Athens, Tennessee. It was well orchestrated and well attended by garden club members as well as locals in the community.

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. All clubs and all members are encouraged to plan a fun work day at Racheff while preparing their club yearbooks for next administration.

want to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to all Districts and all 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.

Happy Spring,

Janie M. Bitner



**From the Desk of Lelia Johnson
President-elect 2025-2027
February 15, 2025**

As I sit looking out the window on this rainy day I found myself reflecting on my experiences the past 2-years. I realized that all good things must come to an end, but never forgotten. The past months have really been remarkable. You have made my long days short, my life enjoyable, my job easier, and I loved it. Traveling to the different area and getting to know each of you and sharing our garden club growth stories were delightful. I cherish each moment and memory that we shared and I will never forget that time together.

The chapter as President-elect will close in a few weeks and the door as President of TFGC will open if God forbids. I am looking forward to the day when all TFGC members come together as a team --we have work to do, united we will stand divided we will fall. Let's talk about a few goals: Let's grow our membership. I would like to challenge every garden club member to bring at least one person to join a club in your district. Let's bring peace and unity in all four corners. Let's introduce zoom to some members and strengthen it to others. I challenge everyone please join me, let us visit and work with Racheff House and Garden members to make TFGC headquarter a better place they need our help.

I am looking forward to serving you as your TFGC president working together as a TEAM as I have always stated: "There is no I in TEAM and it will take all of us to get the job done."Thank you for loving on me and giving me your blessing.

Thank you Denise for giving me your all and all. You shared your time, your knowledge, and your home. I will forever be grateful to you for everything you have shared and all that you will continue to share. I pray blessings upon you as you take on another chapter in your book.

**Lelia Johnson
President-elect 2023-2025**





Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
99th Year of the Establishment of the TFGC

"Happy Anniversaries TFGC"



April 21-23, 2025 - The Read House, Chattanooga, TN

Print LAST NAME _____

FIRST NAME (to be printed on badge) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

GARDEN CLUB _____ DISTRICT _____

Credentials: please check all that apply:

____ Club Member	____ Flower Show Judge	____ Racheff House Bd.
____ Club President	____ Former TFGC President	____ Spouse
____ Convention Committee	____ Gardening Consultant	____ TFGC Board Member
____ Deep South Bd. Member	____ Guest	____ TFGC Life Member
____ Deep South Life Member	____ Landscape Design Consultant	____ TFGC Member 25 Year
____ Delegate	____ National Board Member	____ TFGC Officer
____ Environmental Facilitator	____ National Life Member	
____ First Time Attendee		

FULL CONVENTION ATTENDEE PACKAGE: \$230. \$ _____

(Includes registration fee for both days, gift bag, 2 luncheons, 2 banquet dinners, access to the hospitality room, featured speaker, design program and workshops)

PART TIME CONVENTION ATTENDEE PLAN:

Anyone attending any part of the convention and not choosing the Full Convention Package is required to pay the single-day convention registration fee PLUS meal costs.

Single Day Registration Fee*: Please circle day(s): Monday Tuesday

Garden Club Member \$38 per day \$ _____

Guest/Spouse: \$16 per day \$ _____

*Includes: gift bag, access to meetings, programs and workshops scheduled for that day.

Meals are extra; see Meals

MEALS:

(Breakfast is on your own)

Tuesday, April 22

	Self	Spouse/Guest	Amount
1950's Silver Anniversary Luncheon	\$42*	_____	_____
1970's Golden Anniversary Award Banquet	\$42*	_____	_____

Wednesday, April 23

Diamond Anniversary Design Luncheon	\$42*	_____	_____
"All That Bling" Installation Banquet	\$66*	_____	_____

(* Cost includes a mandatory 22% gratuity)

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: We will try to accommodate your requests.

Meatless Meal _____ Gluten Free _____ Sugar Free _____ Other (list below) _____

Make check payable to **TFGC 2025 Convention** and send to:

Vanessa Young, Registrar

7 Carriage Hill, Signal Mtn. TN 37377

Phone: 423-240-4158 - nessyoung57@gmail.com

NO REFUNDS AFTER APRIL 14th

THE READ HOUSE CHATTANOOGA RESERVATIONS

The Read House, 107 W. Martin King Blvd., Chattanooga, TN 37402
TFGC group rate: starts at \$139 per night - 423-266-4121 (option 1)
or use the TFGC direct link and automatically get the group rate.

<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupId=3982645&hotelID=97530>

The cutoff date for the group rate is March 22, 2025

Liberal 48 hour cancellation policy

Check-in starts Monday 3pm, 4/21: Check-out by Thursday 11am, 4/24

(Luggage storage available on check out date)

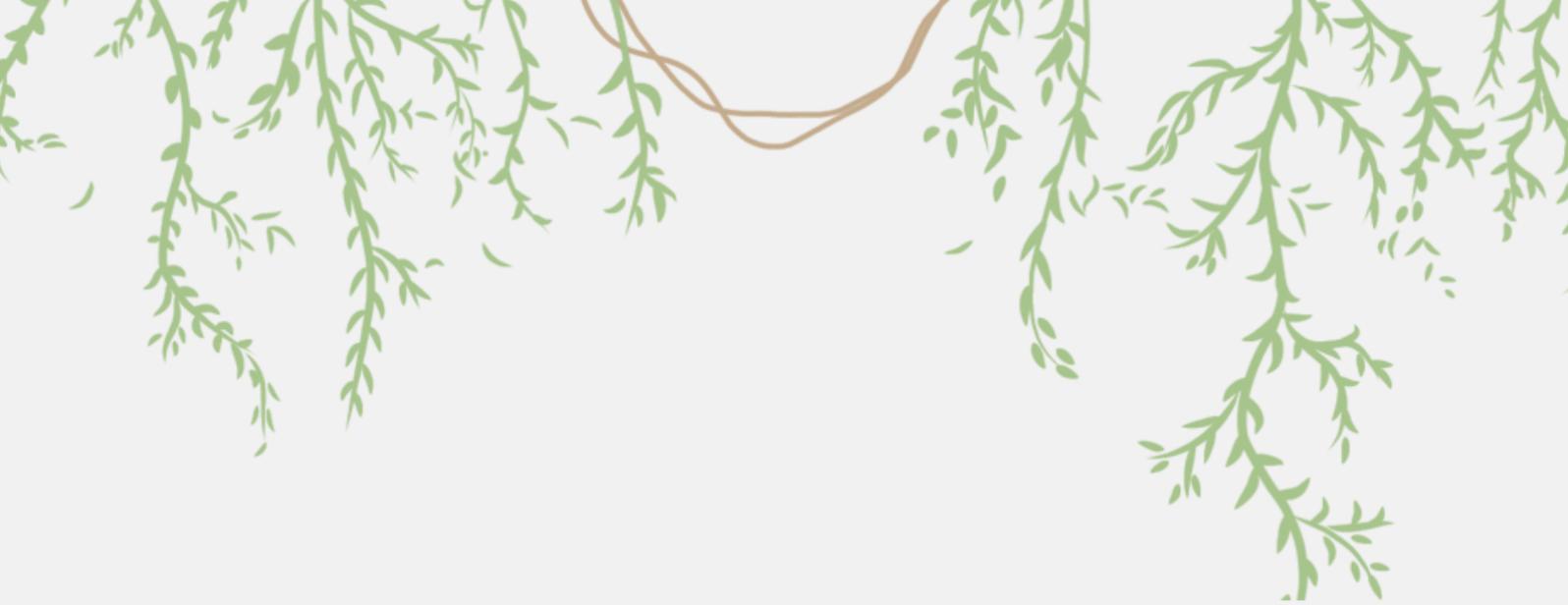
Valet parking: event \$12 per day - \$24 for guests per night

(City parking garage across side street)

More convention information is posted online at

tennesseefederationofgardenclubsincc.com

and published in *The Volunteer Gardener*.



*2025 TFGC Convention Report
for TFGC Board
East Ridge Community Center,
Anne Leonard Co-chair*



This convention is going to be extra special. "Happy Anniversaries TFGC."

Have you ever been to the Read House Hotel? Have you seen it since the renovation?

I was the chairman of the 2018 TFGC convention which was scheduled to be at the Read House but the 27 million dollar renovation was not completed in time. We had to change horses in the middle of the stream and move down to the nearby Weston, but all went well. Now we get to be at the Read House...at last. This is how they describe it:

"At our historic Chattanooga hotel, we specialize in 1920s splendor while catering to modern tastes. The Read House is a dazzling Jazz-era gem with the trappings of a new hotel. Our 241-room historic getaway boasts soaring lobby ceilings, dramatic chandeliers, checkered floors and gleaming wood-clad walls."

It will be a one of a kind experience to stay at the premiere luxury hotel, established in 1872, to celebrate the 1926 formation of TFGC which happened at the same location. It's like coming home.

You will be coming home to anniversary celebrations at each meal.

A festive 1920's meet and greet in our private hospitality room will welcome early attendees with wine and nibbles Monday evening.

Breakfasts will be on your own, although coffee, juice and muffins will be available in the hospitality room. A Starbucks is down the hall on the first floor.

Tuesday's luncheon will focus on our 25th or Silver Anniversary which happened in 1951. President Denise is sponsoring our featured speaker Margot Shaw, Flower magazine's founder and editor-in-chief. This 1950's themed meal will even feature door prizes from the 50's.

That evening's banquet will be the 1970's themed Golden Anniversary (which was actually in 1976). This will be the awards banquet where State Awards Chairman Debbie Shaver will shower winners with ribbons and occasional checks. Also club presidents decked out in "flower power" sunglasses will parade before us.

Seventies fashions are encouraged and again, vintage doorprizes featured.

Wednesday's design luncheon celebrates the TFGC's 75th or Diamond Anniversary (actual date 2001). Among the diamond bling our floral designer will create stunning centerpieces for special occasions.

No need to buy anything fancy for this meal. Just wear something that has been in your closet for 24 years. If it still fits, congratulations. With TFGC's 100th anniversary just one year away, Wednesday evening's "All That Bling" banquet will celebrate the future of TFGC with the installation of the 2025-2027 administration. There will probably be tears and hugs all around.

On a practical note, as everyone is aware, prices for events like these have increased dramatically everywhere. We have worked hard to keep the fees reasonable. While the room rentals and price of meals are obvious costs, the rental for the dinning room and meeting rooms setups and program printing plus the skyrocketing price for the necessary audiovisual equipment and operator have affected our bottom line.

This convention is not a fundraiser. Our goal is to break even. We ask you to do your part in making this extraordinary experience a financial success by registering for the whole convention and encouraging your club to buy ads for the program booklet.

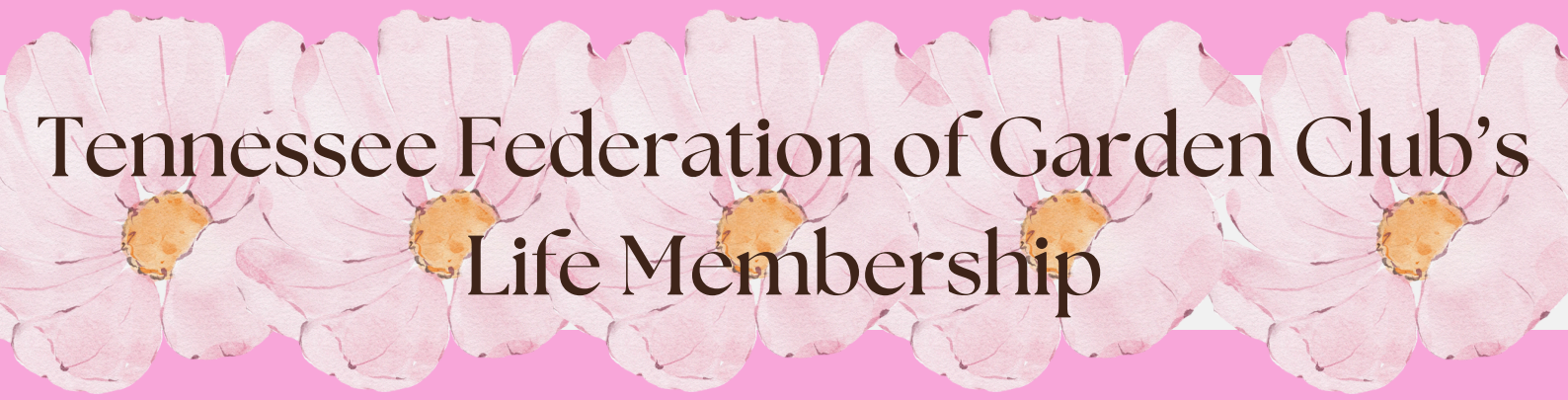
We may never stay at a more beautiful historic hotel. The Read House is where TFGC's history was made and I just want us all to enjoy ourselves and make the most of this unique opportunity.



*President Denise Thorne, Charlotte Scott,
Diane Ryder, Lelia Johnson, Karen
Dawson and Anne Leonard meet at the
Read House to finalize details for the
JFJC 2025 100 Anniversary*







For a garden club member to be awarded a Tennessee Federation of Garden Club Life Membership is, indeed, a special honor. Deep South and National Life Memberships are also available.

Founded in 1926, TFGC later implemented a way to show appreciation for Tennessee’s club members who volunteered to hold positions within their club or to take on more responsibilities. Many of these club members also served on district, state, and national garden club levels. Acknowledging these dedicated members encouraged TFGC to establish the Life Membership restricted fund.

A TFGC Life Membership is an appropriate way to honor a club officer, a dedicated club member, or a garden club friend. It is also perfectly acceptable to treat oneself to a Life Membership. This Tennessee membership costs \$75, and the person will not pay any further STATE dues to the club listed on the one-page application. Deep South Life Memberships are \$50, and National Life Memberships are \$200.

The TFGC life chairman keeps a card file with information about life members. Currently, the file of 5” x 7” cards is stacked over 16 inches deep, ranging from the 1970’s through 2024. Hundreds of these cards include deceased, inactive, and current member information. Thanks to the Database Chairman, the following lists the Active TFGC Life members by District for 2021 – 2024:

	2024	2023	2022	2021
District I	40	34	48	51
District II	67	98	94	90
District III	47	51	56	54
District IV	39	46	55	49

The following became TFGC Life Members during President Denise Thorne's leadership Spring 2023 through 2024:

District I	Brenda Hise, Tatyana Jankov, Katie McHaney, Donna Gilpatrick, Lynda Edsall, Beth Feith
District II	Linda Mowery, Joe Rouse, Judy Pierce
District III	Janice Meissner, Charlotte Timberlake, Cynthia Humes, Lynn Price
District IV	Rebecca Shula, Hal Watts, May Votaw, JoAnn Sexton

National Life Members:

District II Jean Richardson, Judy Johnson

District IV Connie Barker

In conclusion, TFGC encourages garden clubs to recognize members for their dedication and accomplishments.

**Amelia Wilkes
District 1 and TFGC Life Membership Chair**





NASHVILLE NATIVE ORCHIDS

ASTONISHING SCIENCE AND MYSTERIOUS FOLKLORE

SORAYA CATES PARR

Hidden in the greenways, parks, and backyards of Nashville are several varieties of stunning native orchids. The vibrant, three-petaled flower has been revered for centuries for its exoticism and inspirational qualities. But these natural treasures, long part of a rich folk tradition, have been largely forgotten by many Nashvillians. This useful guidebook offers a comprehensive look into the secret lives of Davidson County's six native orchid species. Alongside vibrant, eye-catching photographs of plant life cycles that provide a straightforward way for readers to quickly identify these varieties, the book offers the fascinating history of these wild wonders as told by author Soraya Cates Parr, a passionate horticulturalist with a knack for explaining the natural world in an accessible way.

More than just a useful guide to Nashville's flora, *Nashville Native Orchids* is a reminder of the risk that unbridled urban development can pose to the delicate natural ecosystem. Throughout the book, Parr shows the local effects of climate change on Nashville's native orchid population and advocates for a more sustainable approach to development. Beyond the environmental dimensions, this book presents an illuminating discussion of the historical significance of orchids and their central role in folkloric traditions.


"When Soraya began at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens, she already had considerable experience with tropical orchids, and she eagerly accepted the responsibility of maintaining our varied collection. Under her care, the collection thrived and grew in size and quality. It's personally rewarding to me that she has authored this book describing the often-unnoticed terrestrial orchids native to the Nashville area and the need to protect and appreciate them, as well as the environment we all share."

—**Richard Page**, former Director of Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

"Parr's descriptions and stories unearth fascinating details about the hidden world of orchids found in the Davidson County area."

—**Tavia Cathcart Brown**, co-author of *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians*





**FORCED
INSIDE
BULBS
BRIGHTEN
ANY
WINTER
DAY**

CHRISTMAS AT RACHEFF









CHRISTMAS AT RACHEFF

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024

NOON – 3:00 PM

Join us at our annual Green's Tea. Enjoy music and light refreshments as you shop:

Fresh Wreaths & Holiday Arrangements

Bake Sale

Christmas Amaryllis

Admission is free to this public event.



Harpeth Bend Garden Club District II meeting and program



Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

99th Annual Meeting & 2025 Convention

April 21-23, 2025
The Read House
Chattanooga, TN





CONVENTION SCHEDULE

MONDAY APRIL 21

3:30-4:45 p.m. Centennial Room

Executive Committee

3:30-4:00

Pre-Convention TFGC Board

Meeting 4:15-4:45

5:00-8:00 p.m. Chestnut Room

Meet and Greet

5:00-8:00 p.m. In Front of

Chestnut Room

Registration

7:00-9:00 p.m. Centennial

Pre-Function Room

Flower Show Entry

TUESDAY APRIL 22

**7:00-8:00 a.m. Centennial Pre-Function Room
Flower Show Entry**

**8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 2:45 p.m.-5:30 Silver Ball Room Foyer
Registration**

**9:00-11:30 a.m. Centennial Pre-Function Room
Judging of the Flower Show**

**9:00-9:45 a.m. Centennial Room
Board of Directors**

**10:00-10:45 a.m. Centennial Room
Trillium Council**

**11:00-11:45 a.m. Centennial Room
Endowment Trust**

**12:00-2:15 p.m. Silver Ball Room
“The 1950’s Hats, Gloves and Pearls Silver Anniversary
Luncheon”
Buffet - Guest Speaker 1:15 p.m.**

**2:45-4:15 p.m. Centennial Room
Annual meeting opening – Honor Guard and Dignitaries**

**4:30-5:30 p.m. Centennial Room
Fascinator Workshop**

**6:15-9:00 p.m. Silver Ball Room
“The 1970’s Groovy Golden Anniversary Awards Banquet”
Plated Dinner**

**After Dinner Chestnut Room
Outgoing President Reception**



WEDNESDAY APRIL 23

**8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Silver Ball Room Foyer
Registration**

**9:00-10:30 a.m. Centennial Room
Continuation of Annual Meeting**

**10:45-11:45 a.m. Centennial Room
Judges Council**

**12:00-2:15 p.m. Silver Ball Room
“The 2000’s Decadent Diamond Anniversary Design
Luncheon”
Plated Lunch**

**2:30-4:30 p.m. Meet at Chestnut Room
Field Trip to Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center**

**2:30-3:30 p.m. Centennial Room
Workshop – Decoupage**

**5:00-6:00 p.m. TBD
District Photographs**

**6:15-9:00 p.m. Silver Ball Room
“All that Bling Installation Banquet”
Plated Dinner
Awards**

**Flower Show, Flower Show Schedule, Flower Show Staging
And Yearbook**

**After Dinner Chestnut Room
Incoming President Reception**



THURSDAY APRIL 24

**8:30-10:00 Chestnut Room
2025-2027 Board of Directors Meeting**



MARGOT SHAW



Meet Margot Shaw, Editor of FLOWER, a lifestyle magazine published in Birmingham for flower devotees. Margot discovered her love of flowers while working with area floral designer Sybil Sylvester and realized there was a need for a publication devoted to the beauty of flowers for flower enthusiasts, novice and professional floral designers everywhere. As a testament to its popularity, the magazine recently went from quarterly publication to bimonthly. We welcome Margot as our Luncheon Speaker on Tuesday, April 22 at the TFGC Convention in the Chattanooga in the Silver Ball Room at the Historic Read House.

**VOTED BEST OF THE BEST
OF CLEVELAND TN 2024
By THE CLEVELAND BANNER**

**We welcome, Ryan Wooten, as our
Floral Designer for our Design
Luncheon on Wednesday, April 23 in
the Silver Ball Room at the Read
House. He will be presenting designs
representing our 25th, 50th, 75th
Anniversaries and our final dinner
of “All That Bling” for our “Happy
Anniversaries TFGC” Convention.**



WORKSHOPS

**Tuesday at 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Centennial
Room**

Fascinator Workshop

**Please join us in learning how to make your own
Fascinator. Once finished we know that you
will want to wear your Fascinator at the
“All That Bling” Final Banquet Dinner”**

The basic supplies will be provided.

**If you have any silk flowers, fabric, custom
jewelry, feathers or other materials that you
would like to use to individualize your
fascinator – please bring them.**

**Wednesday at 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Centennial
Room**

Decoupage - Workshop



This workshop will be lots of fun. If you don't already know how to decoupage you will learn in this workshop. Once you have finished you will have a piece of art you can use at your home. It will remind you of what a great time you had at the TFGC Convention in Chattanooga!

**VENDORS
LOCATED IN THE GOLD ROOM
AT THE READ HOUSE
Hours 10-12 and 2-5:00
Tuesday and Wednesday**

Laura Ross - Pottery

Teresa Patton - Jewelry - hand-painted wood earrings

Lookout Lavender Farms - Lavender products for home, body and culinary, as well as dried lavender bundles

Frazier's Fabrication - Coppersmith/Art and Jewelry

In Town Gallery - A cooperative gallery that offers fine art and craft by Chattanooga-area artists and artisans

Find Us Where Plants Grow in the Library

Funded by back- to- back TFGC ETF grants, Germantown Garden Club (GGC) has created a gardening presence at the Germantown Community Library. On the first day of spring, March 19, 2024 Alderman Sherrie Hicks dedicated the new Seed Library and it opened with a gathering of library patrons and staff; and of course, a cake to celebrate. The list of names on the checkout sheets is a testimony to the popularity of providing free seeds to gardeners in our city. To educate and encourage gardening, GGC is leading a hands-on planting program “Winter Sowing” for adults in February. We are presenting an educational program for children in March called “Bees, Yes Please!” It will teach the vital importance bees provide in producing fruits and vegetables; it will also include craft making and a honey tasting. This year’s grant went toward purchasing two outdoor, waist-high cedar planters to create a Sensory Herb Garden for the outside courtyard of the library. We will hold the dedication in late spring of this year, and of course, there will be a cake! GGC will lead future programs for adults and children using the herbs from our planters. Providing a Seed Library and creating a Sensory Herb Garden aligns with the partnership between the Germantown Garden Club and the Germantown Community Library.

**Submitted by: Lucie Calvin
GGC President
District One**



National Garden Clubs, Inc., 2025 Convention

"Charleston: A Charmingly Southern Destination"

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 4, 2025. NO REGISTRATIONS
WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE. NO WALK-INS WILL BE

**Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
2025 Tennessee Board of Directors Meeting
East Ridge Community Center
Date: January 27, 2025**



**To: TFGC Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Membership
From: Candace Wells, TFGC Scholarship Chairman
Subject: 2025 TFGC Scholarship Recipients**

This Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship Committee is comprised of an appointed chairman and a representative from each district. They are:

**District I, Vice Director Jackie Walker
District II, Vice Director Becky Fox Mathews
District III, Vice Director Cathy L. Weathers
District IV, Vice Director Jan Brown**

The Standing Rules, Section XV states the awarded amount is not to exceed \$4500.00 per fiscal year to those recommended by the Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board of Directors if funds are available. NOTE: A motion to increase the scholarship from \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 was approved at the 02/19/2013 Spring BOD.

TFGC also owns the Brainerd Scholarship funds which gives \$3000.00 each year. On behalf of the TFGC Scholarship Committee, I enthusiastically recommend three well-qualified and deserving students to receive the TFGC Scholarship of \$1500.00 each. These young people embody a deep and unwavering passion for the earth in agriculture, natural resources, environmental science, biodiversity, conservation, environmental administration and management. Each candidate's academic achievements and dedication are underscored by their strong GPA of 3.7– 3.9, demonstrating academic excellence.

I am delighted that the student applicants represent three Tennessee Universities and three TFGC Districts.

The TFGC candidates are:

**Sophia Chaplin University of Tennessee at Martin
Sydni Potter University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Keyle Bryant University of Tennessee at Chattanooga**

The Brainerd Scholarship should be awarded to Zainab Tanveer. Zainab is a legal resident of Hamilton County and a worthy candidate.

Zainab Tanveer University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Respectfully,

**Candace Fleming Wells
TFGC Scholarship Chairman
P.O. Box 325
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350
423-304-3577
cfw1865@gmail.com**

**FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION TO ALL GARDEN CLUBS
IN THE TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**



The attached motion to amend the TFGC Bylaws was presented at the TFGC Winter Board of Directors Meeting, held January 27, 2025.

It was approved for presentation to TFGC member clubs and will be voted upon by TFGC officers, accredited delegates or their alternates, committee chairs, life members, and former presidents of TFGC who are properly registered for the upcoming TFGC Annual Business Meeting:

April 22, 2025 • 9:00am ET • The Read House, Chattanooga, Tennessee

This packet represents advance distribution of these motions prior to voting, which is required.

TFGC MOTION FORM

MOTIONS PRESENTED AT () EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OR (X) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MUST BE WRITTEN WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTED AND A COPY GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AND RECORDING SECRETARY.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I MOVE that ARTICLE XVII. ELECTRONIC MEETINGS be added to the TFGC By-laws stated as following:

Meetings of all TFGC Boards, Districts, Committees and Membership may be conducted by telephone and/or the use of electronic meeting services designated by the TFGC President or the Chairman calling the meeting. The electronic service shall support visible displays identifying those participating and those seeking to speak. The electronic services will support anonymous voting and will show or permit retrieval of results of votes or pending motions.

Electronic meetings shall be subject to all rules and regulations adopted by the TFGC Board of Directors to govern them which may include any reasonable limitations and requirements for member's participation. An anonymous vote conducted through an electronic meeting shall be deemed to be a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

MOTION MADE Leila Johnson

SECONDED BY: from committee

(Not required when from committee)

DATE: January 27, 2025

**FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION TO ALL GARDEN CLUBS
IN THE TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**



The attached motions are presented herein to TFGC member clubs in advance of consideration and voting at the 2025 TFGC Annual Meeting.

They will be voted upon by TFGC officers, accredited delegates or their alternates, committee chairs, life members, and former presidents of TFGC who are properly registered for the upcoming TFGC Annual Business Meeting:

April 22, 2025 • 9:00am ET • The Read House, Chattanooga, Tennessee

This packet represents advance distribution of these motions prior to voting, which is required.

TFGC MOTION FORM

MOTIONS PRESENTED AT () EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OR (X) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MUST BE WRITTEN WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTED AND A COPY GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AND RECORDING SECRETARY.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT

The TFGC Bylaws be amended, as follows, to correct defects from a previous amendment related to the \$3.00 increase in annual member dues of TFGC clubs and affiliated clubs made effective April 1, 2025 (the proposed amendments and effective dates are noted below in **bold**):

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES. Section 5. Audubon, plant and ornithological societies, and garden departments of other clubs may become affiliates of TFGC without the privilege of voting or holding office. **Effective April 1, 2025**, an application fee of \$10.00 and ~~\$20.00 dues~~ **\$23.00 dues per member** for one year, payable to TFGC, shall be sent to the District Membership Chairman who shall process the application.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES. Section 8. Life Membership may be conferred on any person who has contributed distinctive service to the causes, purposes, and promotion of TFGC or who has been honored for some outstanding achievement in garden club activities. Recommendation for Life Membership shall be made by any member of TFGC and approved by the District Director and TFGC President. Fee for Life Membership shall be \$75.00, payable to TFGC, and shall accompany the application. Also, Members are encouraged to purchase their own. These funds shall be kept in a Life Membership account from which, **effective April 1, 2025**, ~~\$5.00 dues~~ **\$8.00 dues per Life Member** shall be paid annually into the general fund.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES. Section 9. Effective April 1, 2025, distribution of dues shall be as follows: \$1.00 **per** membership shall be paid to National Garden Clubs, Inc., and ~~\$6.00~~ **\$9.00 per membership** shall be paid to the general fund.

MOTION MADE

BY: **Janet Switzer, TFGC Recording Secretary**

SECONDED

BY:

(Not required when from committee)

DATE: **March 8, 2025**

TFGC MOTION FORM

MOTIONS PRESENTED AT () EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OR (X) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MUST BE WRITTEN WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTED AND A COPY GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AND RECORDING SECRETARY.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT

The TFGC Bylaws be amended, as follows, to add the filing of necessary legal and tax-related forms as an important duty that is historically and currently undertaken by the TFGC Treasurer. Also, to add to the Treasurer's stated duties the closing of books on March 31 in the year of changing administrations, as is currently provided in the *Standing Rules, Section II: Records*. (Proposed additions are noted below in **bold**):

ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 7. TREASURER

The Treasure shall:

- With the approval of the President, be responsible for the collection and disbursement of all funds of TFGC with the exception of the Endowment Trust Fund
- Keep an accurate record and distribute a printed financial report to each Board of Directors member at each Board Meeting and compile a report to be read at the Annual Meeting
- **Timely file all legal and tax-related forms to comply with laws and regulations governing TFGC**
- **Close the treasurer's books on March 31 in the year of changing administrations**
- Notify affiliates, councils, and garden clubs when dues are due

MOTION MADE

BY: **Janet Switzer, TFGC Recording Secretary**

SECONDED

BY:

(Not required when from committee)

DATE: **March 8, 2025**

TFGC MOTION FORM

MOTIONS PRESENTED AT () EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OR (X) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MUST BE WRITTEN WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTED AND A COPY GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AND RECORDING SECRETARY.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT

The TFGC Bylaws be amended to change the election date of Deep South Garden Clubs (DSGC) Delegates and Alternates to the TFGC Winter Board Meeting when prospective delegates more readily know their attendance plans. Also, that wording be added to indicate the election of delegates and alternates should take place “prior to the Annual Meeting of DSGC” to match election requirements of NGC delegates as provided in Article XI, Section 4. (The proposed amendments are noted below in **bold**):

ARTICLE XI. REPRESENTATION

PART B. NATIONAL & REGIONAL MEETINGS REPRESENTATION

Section 3. DSGC Delegates and Alternates shall be elected at the **Fall Winter** Board Meeting **prior to the Annual Meeting of DSGC.**

Section 4. NGC Delegates and Alternates shall be elected at the Winter Board Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting of NGC.

MOTION MADE

BY: **Janet Switzer, TFGC Recording Secretary**

SECONDED

BY:

(Not required when from committee)

DATE: **March 8, 2025**

TFGC MOTION FORM

MOTIONS PRESENTED AT () EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OR (X) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MUST BE WRITTEN WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTED AND A COPY GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AND RECORDING SECRETARY.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT

The TFGC Standing Rules be amended, as follows, to: (1) remove obsolete wording about manufacture of the President's pin and 2024 hosting of DSGC Convention, (2) remove confusing and unnecessary wording providing dates when certain sections were amended, and (3) combine asterisked (*) comments following *Section XI: Expenses Paragraph 4* into their accompanying paragraph. (The proposed amendments are noted below in **bold**):

SECTION I. ORGANIZATION

5. The Tennessee Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Exemption is to be renewed by the TFGC President every four years through the Tennessee Department of Revenue with the expiration date on the current form ~~(approved 10/3/17 BOD)~~. The Tennessee Sales and Use Tax Exemption Number is to be used only by TFGC and its Districts for TFGC events related to business and activities such as board meetings, district meetings, conventions, conservation camps, and other related needs, with no exception. The Board of Directors must approve any recommended special event or project. Garden clubs are not allowed access to the tax-exempt number. The original certificate and Tennessee Department of Revenue forms are on file with the TFGC President, who sends a copy to the TFGC Treasurer and to event chairs upon request.
9. TFGC and IRH&G/Racheff must register yearly (before September 30, six months after the books are closed) as a Charitable Organization with the Tennessee Secretary of State, Department of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming, using TFGC account C027838. Filing is done by the CPA firm for the TFGC Treasurer and the IRH&G/Racheff Treasurer, respectively. The forms are available from the TFGC President ~~(approved 10/3/17 BOD)~~.

SECTION II. RECORDS

4. TFGC forms are documents created to perform the business of the organization. When existing forms require updated information, this shall be performed by a TFGC officer or TFGC chair that utilizes the form for TFGC business. Existing forms are on the TFGC website. Chairs update forms by downloading them to a personal computer, updating them, and sending them to the TFGC web administrator to place on the website. New forms shall be submitted to the TFGC President and the Board of Directors for prior approval and assigned to an officer or chair for TFGC business ~~(approved BOD 2/16/18)~~.

SECTION IV. PRESIDENT'S PIN

The official President's Pin is the property of TFGC. The President's Pin shall be presented to the new president immediately following the NGC Convention. The new president shall have the pin to wear to the NGC Post Convention Board Meeting. Former presidents may purchase their own TFGC Former President's Pin made from the official mold using the TFGC seal. ~~The jeweler with the pin mold is Epperson's LLC, 6190 Georgetown Rd NW, Cleveland, TN; phone: 423-479-2847.~~

SECTION VII. FINANCE & FUNDING

5. District-retained donations, Blue Star Markers, and other subjects specified for districts are mailed to the district treasurer. The Habitat for Humanity District Fund was deleted and closed out in each district ~~(BOD June 13, 2019)~~.
12. TFGC funds may not be transferred from one account to another without Executive Committee approval. Investment of the TFGC-designated funds managed by the TFGC Assistant Treasurer may be performed with approval by the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee ~~(BOD 10/25/21)~~.

SECTION IX. DONATED FUNDS

1. Each club is responsible for sending donated funds to the TFGC Treasurer. District-retained donations (e.g., Blue Star Memorial Marker Fund) are sent to the District Treasurer. Use Donations Transmittal Sheet—Form A1. The TFGC Treasurer will send lists of donations to the district directors for their records. The Habitat for Humanity District Fund was deleted and closed out in each district ~~(BOD June 13, 2019)~~.

SECTION X. ENDOWMENT

2. Requests for distribution of income from the ETF of TFGC shall be made to the ETF chair from each district and the ETF chair. The 7 trustees of the ETF shall determine which request shall be granted ~~(amended on October 8, 2014, by Board of Directors at Pickwick Landing State Park, TN)~~. ETF grant information and application forms are located on the TFGC website.

SECTION XI. EXPENSES

4. No gifts shall be given by the outgoing administration unless \$5,000 or more can be left for the incoming administration. Provided \$5,000 minimum is left in the TFGC General Fund, outgoing administration gifts shall be limited to \$2,000. *—The exception would be gifts for IRH&G/Racheff, which may be greater than \$2,000. **—Any other gifts exceeding \$2,000 shall require TFGC Board approval. ~~(*Amended 6/13/17 BOD) (**Amended 10/2/18 BOD)~~

SECTION XIII. CONVENTIONS, CONSERVATION CAMPS & OTHER MEETINGS

2. Should there be surplus funds from a convention or Conservation Camp, after a complete financial report and within 60 days following the close of a convention or Conservation Camp, the TFGC Treasurer shall return to the district hosting the convention or Conservation Camp, 40 percent of the surplus funds with the other 60 percent remaining in the TFGC general fund ~~(Winter BOD 1/31/19)~~.
3. During the year in which TFGC hosts the DSGC Convention in Tennessee, flexibility shall be allowed in the requirements for date of the TFGC Convention. According to the rotation (every 6 years), Tennessee ~~hosts last hosted~~ the DSGC Convention in 2024.
6. A Conservation Camp shall be held in the second year of an administration with conventions and camps alternating each year ~~(Items 5 and 6: BOD 10/15/19)~~.

SECTION XV. SCHOLARSHIPS

TFGC shall award scholarships not to exceed \$4,500 in any fiscal year to those recommended by the Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board of Directors if funds are available.

NOTE: A motion to increase the scholarship from \$1,200 to \$1,500 was approved at the 2/19/13 Spring BOD Meeting.

ADDITIONALLY:

The notation below, which applies to Section XVI. MEMORIAL/BENEVOLENCE but which follows SECTION XVII. SENIOR GARDEN CLUBS in the current Standing Rules, to be deleted in its entirety:

~~NOTE: Approved BOD 10-5-2016 (Section XVI.TFGC 501(c)(3) Umbrella BOD voted to discontinue 1/27/2016, Section XVII. Memorial /Benevolence became Section XVI approved at BOD 10/5/2016).~~

MOTION MADE

BY: **Janet Switzer, TFGC Recording Secretary**

SECONDED

BY:

(Not required when from committee)

DATE: **March 8, 2025**

TFGC MOTION FORM

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MADAM PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT

The TFGC Bylaws be amended, as follows, to add the filing of necessary legal and tax-related forms as an important duty that is historically and currently undertaken by the TFGC Treasurer. Also, to add to the Treasurer's stated duties the closing of books on March 31 in the year of changing administrations, as is currently provided in the *Standing Rules, Section II: Records*. (Proposed additions are noted below in **bold**):

ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 7. TREASURER

The Treasure shall:

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- Keep an accurate record and distribute a printed financial report to each Board of Directors member at each Board Meeting and compile a report to be read at the Annual Meeting
- **Timely file all legal and tax-related forms to comply with laws and regulations governing TFGC**
- **Close the treasurer's books on March 31 in the year of changing administrations**
- Notify affiliates, councils, and garden clubs when dues are due

MOTION MADE

BY: **Janet Switzer, TFGC Recording Secretary**

SECONDED

BY:

(Not required when from committee)

DATE: **March 8, 2025**

TFGC MOTION FORM

MOTIONS PRESENTED AT () EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OR (X) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MUST BE WRITTEN WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTED AND A COPY GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AND RECORDING SECRETARY.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT

We act on taking a vote to dissolve the TFGC standing committee known as "Ivan Racheff House & Gardens," and further resolve that the existing members of the aforementioned committee be released from their positions and relieved of all committee duties, with no authority to take official action or represent Ivan Racheff House & Gardens in any capacity.

MOTION MADE

BY: **Karen Dawson, TFGC State Treasurer**

SECONDED

BY:

(Not required when from committee)

DATE: **March 5, 2025**

TFGC MOTION FORM

MOTIONS PRESENTED AT () EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OR (X) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MUST BE WRITTEN WHEN THEY ARE PRESENTED AND A COPY GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT AND RECORDING SECRETARY.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I MOVE THAT

The TFGC Standing Rules be amended, as follows, to state that TFGC is the legal entity required to file IRS Form 990 and Tennessee Charitable Solicitation documents (the proposed amendment is noted below in **bold**):

SECTION I. ORGANIZATION

9. TFGC ~~and IRH&G/Racheff~~ must register yearly (before September 30, six months after the books are closed) as a Charitable Organization with the Tennessee Secretary of State, Department of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming, using TFGC account C027838. Filing is done by the CPA firm for the TFGC Treasurer ~~and the IRH&G/Racheff Treasurer, respectively~~. The forms are available from the TFGC President ~~(approved 10/3/17 BOD)~~.

RATIONALE: The IRS Form 990 and Tennessee Charitable Solicitation filings are filed under Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. only, therefore "Ivan Racheff House & Gardens" and the IRH&G Treasurer should not be referenced in *Section I: ORGANIZATION Paragraph 9* above.

MOTION MADE

BY: **Karen Dawson, TFGC State Treasurer**

SECONDED

BY:

(Not required when from committee)

DATE: **March 8, 2025**



Deep South Garden Club, Inc.
Meet and Greet

Denise Thorne

Director
2025-2027

Annette Shrader

Alternate Director
2025-2027

DSGC Theme

*Plant the Deep South
with Flowers and Trees,
for the Birds and Bees"*



