



FALL 2024

THE VOLUNTEER GARDENER



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

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Letter from The *President*

The fall season is such a beautiful time of the year in Tennessee. As I travel to our four districts and headquarters from the bluffs of the Mississippi, across the lush green Middle Tennessee area, winding around Lookout Mountain, ending in the Great Smoky Mountains, the diversity of our topography of the landscape never ceases to amaze and inspire me. We are all so blessed to live in such a picturesque state.

As diverse as our landscapes are, this can also be said of our individual garden clubs.

Visiting your districts and getting to meet our individual members is an experience I will never forget. Your interests, projects and programs are not only educational, but it is information that members can share with non-garden club members. The friendships I have made and enjoy lift me up every day.

Tennessee has had many flower shows this year. You are all so talented and creative.

I do hope every garden club that has had a flower show, community project and including educational programs, will apply for at least one award. All the award information is on our website, or contact me or Debbie Shaver, the TFGC Awards Chairman.


All districts are reporting of new members, new affiliates, new youth garden clubs and even new clubs! Great work!

This is just a reminder TFGC is compiling a continued History Book, and we need your garden club's information and pictures you can fit on two pages in Word Doc (not a PDF) to be emailed to me or Kenndy Pope by the end of December. We all want to be included so get that information sent please.

There will be a Special Edition of The Volunteer Gardener to highlight the successful and fun Conservation Camp we had at Fall Creek Falls last month. This issue could not contain it all.

I hope you are enjoying this fall as much as I am!

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you as your Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. President 2023-2025.



Sincerely,
Denise Thorne



Symposium Knoxville

August 21-22nd in Knoxville we hosted a Flower Show Judges ***Symposium**. We were blessed with great attendance from Tennessee as well as getting to make new friends of judges from California, Georgia and Florida. Our deepest thanks to District II Judges for not only attending but serving on Master Panels =* Virginia Pennington (our State's only active **5 Star Judge, DIV's Emeritus 5 Star, Cae Daly**, has retired from Judging and boy do we miss her talent, joyful spirit, and experience) & **Bette Ann Fields**, who not only judged but exhibited horticulture as well. **Jeri Melton**, who is working on her 5 Star status, also provided an Exhibition Table for the Design component of this Symposium. Thanks to DIV Judges **Cathy Waitinas, Sara Bowers, Ellen Yatteau, Terry Pinck, Lori Emery, Rebecca Shular, & Marilyn Johnson** for their Design or Horticulture examples. Like a box of Chocolates, you never know what you are going to get. No two designers ever interpret the same class title or Design Type the same. It's always a grand adventure to see how others thought processes take them down a road you did not even consider. Our special gratitude is extended to District II's only NGC Instructor, **Pam Braun**. Just so happens, she's our favorite Horticulture instructor as well. Thanks to Pam, I have just gone out and bought three eccentric Aroids due to her class instruction as well as her passion for Aroids "for some reason". I get it. Such variety and fabulous leaf forms. I will admit, point scoring collections and displays remains complicated. It's why we only see it now in Symposiums/Symposia (both are correct).

Frances Thrash was a Design Instructor I had never met. She came highly recommended and boy were they right. Her designs were absolutely fascinating and before she finished teaching you understood Panel and Exhibition tables. Panel Designs were never even on my radar before and I think I may have a new favorite design type.

Every single Tennessee judge who attended Symposium earned some sort of credit. Very exciting. We have new rules in our Handbook for Flower Shows that allow us to get credit for Exhibiting if our design or horticulture is judged or critiqued. That is as it should have always been in my opinion. Where else is a design, or specimen of horticulture, going to be scrutinized under a microscope and dissected out loud by a room full of authorities? Used to make me nervous until I realized that we even need poster children for "what not to do" if we are to learn, so my contribution is always important no matter what. You can earn judging credits for passing ***point scoring exams** or serving on ***Master Panels**.

PS. Wish I could have caught a picture of **Carole Ann McCormick** and **Fay & John Weaver**. Alas, those long time leaders were lots quicker than I was and skedaddled before I caught a picture of them.

***Symposium** an advanced course from National Garden Club (NGC) to allow Judges to maintain their credentials. All interested parties are welcome to attend not just judges.

***To become a Five Star Judge** in NGC one must acquire Master and maintain status in each of the four National Garden Club Schools of Environmental, Gardening, Flower Show Judges, and Landscape Design. It's a very big deal and takes years to accomplish.

***Point scoring** Flower Show Judges must take and pass point scoring exams (forms that help you grade design examples or horticulture specimens against a scale of their ideals. It standardizes judging criteria for a judge. We're required to take to advance our status or stay in "good standing" until we reach Master.

***Good standing** means we have stayed current on exhibiting and judging. Our good standing lasts for three years and like a race horse's birthday-no matter when it is it counts on the same day for all, when not renewed it expires on Dec, 31st of that third year after your last refresher.

***Master Panels** are a group of Judges who evaluate exhibits and assign scores.

All Point Score sheets are graded on how close they get to the Master Panels score.



(Rt) DII Dynamic trio-5 Star Judge, Virginia Pennington (l) and Joe & Lynn Rouse, husband & wife Flower Show Judges.

(Left), new Georgia friends, Author and Master Judge Anna Burns with Student Judge and friend Ellen Nichols. Anna wrote "Guide to the New Petite: Designs 12" and Under". It is suggested reading for Flower Show Schools. She brought along a few to sell.



Some of our happy Judges having dinner together at Calhoun's. We tried to find places to eat that were not chain restaurants they could visit at home. Connie Wallace-photographer, that's my big ole head in front. From (left) Ellen Yatteau DIV, Sharon Davis, DIV, Nancy Curtis, CA, Becky Fox Matthews, DII, Jeri Melton, DII, Anna Burns, GA, Frances Thrash, VA Instructor, Heather Jacob, DIV, Marilyn Johnson, DIV, Ellen Nichols, GA, Pam Braun, DII TN Instructor, Twig Morris, FLA, Regina Hairie, DIV Student Judge, Lori Emery, DIV almost an Accredited Judge.





(l) Twig Morris, Fla , (m) Nancy Curtis, CA & Terry Pinck, DIV TN, by way of Florida, by way of France.



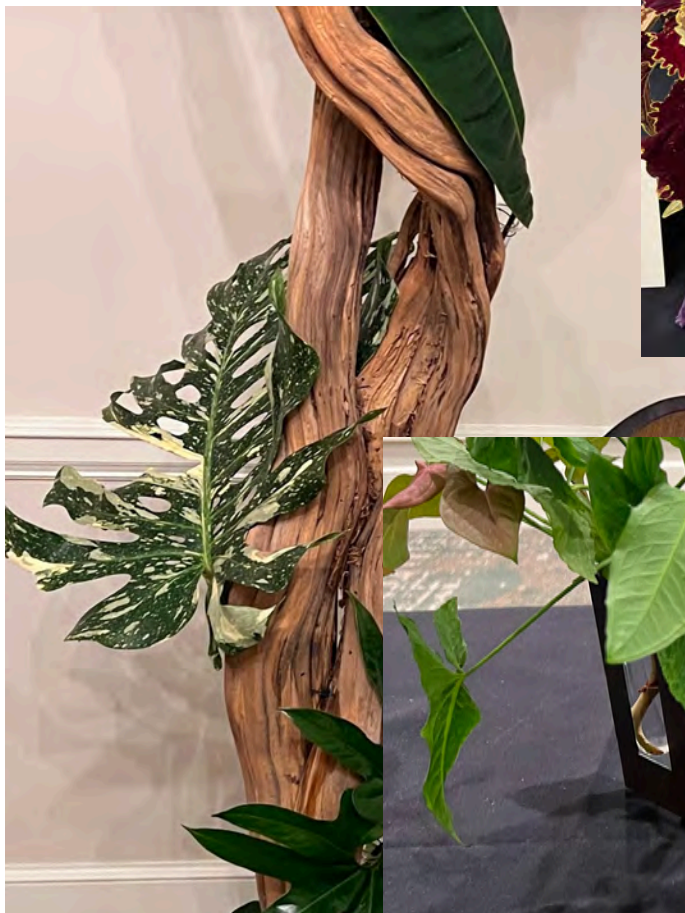
Above, Dixie Highway goes to Symposium. My 100 year old Garden Club had members show up to learn what they could about design. They got to meet Design Instructor Frances Thrash. None of these designers is a Judge except me. They just love to learn the art form. (l) Janet Underwood, Judy James, Frances Thrash, Connie Wallace, Linda Ford.



(l) DII Master Judge, Bette Ann Fields with DII Accredited Judge, Becky Fox-Matthews.



This is my new Aroid, the "Philodendron tortum". Isn't it interesting?



Dixie Highway Garden Club, District IV

Submitted by Linda Ford

100th Anniversary Celebration

Dixie Highway Garden Club



Dixie Highway Garden Club has 29 active members. Twenty-three attended the Centennial Celebration at Bleak House and are pictured. First Row (r-l): Charlotte Brown, Judy James, President LaQuita Misner, Trisha Michaels, Kris Van Allen, Linda Ford. Second Row (r-l): Laura McElroy, Victoria Deckard, Lisa Braunreuther, Myra Leichtweis, Glenda Mabry, Connie Wallace, Kathy Wampler. Third Row (r-l): Kay Stokely, Ann Fritts, Ruth Ann Fowler, Janet Underwood, Amy Hinton, Virginia Price, Linda McEntire, Jennifer Williams, Beth Colwell, Kathy Lasater. Active members who were unable to attend contributed to the celebration as needed. They are Catherine Bell, Donna Brown, Becky Durrance, Kathy Frederick, Linda Pickle, Julia Shiflett.



DHGC member Trisha and husband Gordon Michaels welcomed 75 guests to our 100th celebration at the former home of our club founder- Carolyn Powell Brown.

The Welcome Sign to the Dixie Highway Garden Club 100th Anniversary Celebration, designed by President LaQuita Misner.



Honoring the Legacy of Carolyn Powell Brown founder of Dixie Highway Garden Club

On May 11, 1924, Carolyn Powell Brown met with three friends who then lived on Dixie Highway west of Knoxville. Carolyn's talent for creating her terraced garden at Bleak House was well known in Knoxville. At that meeting they discussed growing flowers and adding more shrubs and flower beds to beautify their homes. The club was given the name Dixie Highway, and it grew to over 40 members. That meeting in 1924 brought today's Dixie Highway Garden Club in 2024 to Carolyn's home 100 years later to celebrate with our friends her vision of area garden clubs and how relevant they are to communities. Carolyn also founded Knoxville and Lenoir City Garden Clubs in 1924.



place is unknown.

Photographs of Carolyn Powell Brown with daughter Alice and Granddaughter Marshall.

Carolyn and John Scruggs married in 1900.

When Alice was 14 the Brown family moved to Bleak House, the antebellum brick home on Kingston Pike. Alice later married and lived in Manila where daughter Marshall was born in 1915. Alice returned to Bleak House, dropped off her daughter to Carolyn and John Scruggs and returned to Manila. Granddaughter Marshall was raised by Carolyn and John Scruggs Brown in Knoxville.

John Scruggs, daughter Alice and granddaughter Marshall died in Knoxville. Carolyn Powell Brown had no close relatives remaining when she died July 4, 1949 in her 80's in Knoxville.

Carolyn, John Scruggs and Marshall are buried under a stone cross in Highland Memorial Cemetery in Bearden, one block off Kingston Pike where much of their life story happened. Daughter Alice's resting



Honored friends & guests attending the Dixie Highway 100th anniversary celebration

Left. Ruth Ann Fowler greets Cathy Donaldson to the tea party. Cathy, a member of Lenoir City Garden Club. Dixie Highway and Lenoir City Garden Clubs share the founder of both DIV clubs, Carolyn Powell Brown in 1924.



Right. Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., President Denise Thorne shared time with Dixie Highway Garden Club President LaQuita Misner at the dedication of Historic Bleak House Flagpole Garden. DHGC completed the replanting of the entire garden and added a stone marker in recognition of the club's 100th Anniversary.



Left. Joining the gathering at Flagpole dedication was TFGC President Elect (2025-2027) Leila Johnson who joined us from Cleveland, TN. Carole Whited, Connie Barker and Linda Ford enjoyed the visit with good friends as LaQuita welcomed the guests.



Friends of Dixie Highway, Lee Rumble and T J Cardwell enjoy the dedication.



Dixie Highway Garden Club flower show awards displayed at Bleak House entrance beside the Connie Wallace Welcome Floral Design.



Dixie Highway Garden Club Centennial Chairman Judy James and former DIV Director Wanda Taylor enjoying conversation in the lovely sunroom at Bleak House.



Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, District IV Director Janie Bitner joined our club celebration with many other garden club friends.



Special guests to the dedication were descendants from the founders of Dixie Highway Garden Club. It was an honor to have these ladies attend the celebration to represent their ancestors. The founders and Carolyn Powell Brown imagined having a garden club to grow flowers for their beauty in addition have a garden planted for providing food. Pictured (l -r): Dixie Highway GC Club member Virginia Pratt Price, Nancy Flickinger Deneen and Beth Flickinger White.



District I Director Report

TFGC District I Report for Board of Directors' Meeting September 30, 2024 Fall Creek Falls State Park

It has been another busy quarter for District I. July 9th, 2024 Denise Thorne presented her TFGC Ways and Means Tea and Herb Program at the Trenton Teapot Museum to which there was a strong attendance with 39 attendees from our clubs within closest proximity to Trenton which included Rosemark Garden Club, Paris Garden Club, Dyersburg Garden Club, Blossomway Garden Club, Elizabeth Stone Garden, Tipton Fleur de Lis and the host club, Trenton.

September 13, District I's board met at the Botanic Garden to conduct business regarding numerous events coming up.

September 28, 2024, which was two days ago Rosemark Garden Club held its flower show called "Let's Go to the Fair!" in conjunction with the Rosemark County Fair. The show included design, horticulture, and photography with the latter two judged. The show is always well done providing the viewer with an educational experience. Rosemark's flower show is the fifth show in our district this year with three in April, one in June and Rosemark's in September.

Three of our garden clubs Blossomway, Germantown and Cooper-Young have applied for Endowment Trust Fund Grants with each project worthy of consideration for funding.

District I and its clubs received eight NGC Awards. The District received an award for its flower show, "The Cowboy Way", Certificate in Appreciation of award participation for MAE-5 National Garden Week, Suburban Garden Club a Certificate in Appreciation award participation for CE-5 Beautification Project and MAE-4 publication, Tipton Fleur de Lis Garden Club a Certificate in Appreciation award participation for YW-9 Environmental Education for Youth and MAE-5 for National Garden Week, Poplar Estates Garden Club Certificate of Commendation EC-3 Wildlife Survival and Paris Garden Club sponsoring a 5th grade student in Poetry with a First Place Award.

Monday, October 7th, District members will meet at the Memphis Botanic Garden for its Fall Membership Meeting.

Dr. Chris Cooper, UT Shelby County Extension Director, and host of the series The Family Plot: Gardening in the Mid -South will be our guest speaker with a program called “Smart Yard Sustainability”. Kennedy View Garden Club will be creating flower arrangements for each of the tables which will be for sale for clubs to purchase to deliver to a public place which is a continuation of our district participation in the Deep South Unified Project to decorate a public space. A delicious lunch will be catered by Simply Done providing soups, salads, sandwiches, and finger desserts which everyone looks forward to.

November 4th, Denise Thorne will be coming to Memphis to the Memphis Botanic Garden to present her TFGC Ways and Means Holiday Design Program. WE are collaborating with the MBG for this event, so we are expecting a full house.

District I Flower Show Judges Council is beginning a series of 4 Flower Show School Courses July 20-23, 2025, so plans are under way for this event.

This report barely scratches the surface of all the activities District I and its membership is involved in to educate its membership and the public about gardening and nature, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility.

It is an honor and pleasure to work with so many informed and talented people in District I!

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Kelyman

TFGC District I Director 2023-2025





District II Director Report

It has been a very busy quarter for this district Director.

In July, I met with Jason Reeves at the Perennial Plant Society. We exchanged emails over several weeks and scheduled him as a speaker for the District II spring membership meeting on April 1, 2025. He will bring plants for sale and provide table favor plants for each attendee. This meeting will be held at Cedar Creek Yacht Club in Mt Juliet.

On August 8, Year Round Garden Club held "Victorian Days" flower show.

Hendersonville Garden club raised \$4200 at their spring plant sale and awarded \$700 scholarships to six "Future Farmers of America", students at Hendersonville High School.

Beachaven Garden club visited the historic Greenwood cemetery.

Lake Forest acres Garden Club enhanced their gold star marker site at Mount Juliet with beautiful flowers.

Three clubs in Murfreesboro: Flower Growers, Optimistic Gardeners & Garden Lovers hosted "Peter Rabbits Garden" to celebrate National Garden Week 2024.

Camden Garden club members maintain the Patsy Cline Memorial.

The Volunteer Garden Club celebrated national garden week by making over 40 arrangements and delivering them all over Shelbyville.

Leipers Fork Garden Club members established and maintain a pollinator garden at Timberland Park in Williamson County.

Irish City Garden club instructed youth gardeners at the travelers rest herb garden.

August 21 and 22 I attended the wonderful symposium held in Knoxville Bringing 2 collections, 1 display and serving on the master panel for horticulture judging.

Later that week, I ordered 626 daffodil, hyacinth, Fritillaria and snowdrop bulbs to be sold at the fall district meeting.

On September 23, I met with Tove Rawlings at the Madison Campus Seventh Day Adventist Church venue for table set up for our Fall District II Meeting. It will be Tuesday, October 8 at 10 AM. There will be eight talented designers working in pairs to present fall arrangements for the home to be auctioned.

On September 24, A community flower show was held at Cheekwood estates and Gardens called "Pumpkins, Gourds & Mums, Oh My!" Ten District II clubs participated for credit.

I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the judging of this spectacular show! The cochairs, Denise Thorne and Kay Flynn totally outdid themselves!

October 11 Franklin County garden club will be dedicating a gold star marker in Winchester, Tennessee at 1 PM.

November 5-7, Flower Show School Course III is being presented in Franklin with Pam Braun as horticulture instructor and Cathy Waitinas teaching creative design. This will be held at Hillsboro Methodist Church in Leipers Fork.

Combination, plantings and succulents will be studied and flower show procedure. All are welcome for education or to achieve "Club of Excellence" status.

We are very grateful to our Newsletter editor, Anna Marie Allen from Harpeth Bend Garden club.

Wishing you happy gardening on these glorious October days!

Autumn District II Highlights



Members of the Year Round Garden Club



*District II Director, Bette Ann Fields,
at the Fall Membership Meeting*



*Denise Thorne, Carolyn McLemore
& Kay Flynn at the Flower Show on
September 24, 2024*



*Optimistic Gardeners Club maintains the Kitchen
Garden at the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna*



*Harpeth Bend Garden Club members sold
seasonal items at the District II
Fall Membership Meeting*



*Conservation Camp—Fall Creek Falls
Becky Fox Matthews & Asha Joyce*



Ten District II Garden Clubs participated in the Community Flower Show at Cheekwood on September 24, 2024.



Pam Dowd and Wanda Copley received TFGC President's Citation Awards.



The Franklin County Garden Club taught youth about butterflies at the Franklin County Library



Evening Belle Garden Club members with their Garden Therapy project at Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital



Gateway Acres Garden Club

District III Director Report

I attended the Dayton Garden Club Meeting at Pace Farms in Evensville. It was a beautiful season for a visit and a Gator ride through the apiary, pastures and the pollinator habitat for the honey bees. Club members then began planning their October Flower Show "BEE AWARE" which will be presented on October 16th at the Dayton, TN airport.

Another invitation from Four Seasons Garden Club on September 10th was extended to me and I spoke to the 13 delightful members on the History of TFGC and our goals for the future which focuses on creating more activities that involve the community.

Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club is sponsoring a "Monarchs Over the Mountains" poster contest during September at Lookout Mountain School and Fairyland Elementary School, to emphasize the importance of conservation, biodiversity and stewardship on the mountain. Posters will be judged and winners announced in late September and announced in the October newsletter.

District III held their Fall Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 24 at East Ridge Community Center in Chattanooga. The featured speaker was E.L. Cunningham (Beth) a member of Magnolia Garden Club in Cleveland. Beth's program was "Nature Inspired Gifts from Organic Gardening". She is a certified Aromatherapist and a licensed Massage Therapist. ALSO, In an effort to acknowledge our heritage we recognized past TFGC Presidents - Anne Leonard 2003-2005, Valerie Tipps 2011-2013, and Maggi Burns 2019-2021 and President Elect, Lelia Johnson 2025-2027.

Conservation Camp which will include many activities, business, and planning is on my calendar for Sept 29th to October 1.

Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club and Bee City USA are sponsoring "All About Gardening in the Fall" on Saturday, October 5 which will be a children's activity area, gardening workshop and planting session for the raised bed vegetable garden and Monarch Waystation located at the Chattanooga Library, South Branch, the gardening library.

The big event for fall in our district that we are all looking forward to is the Holiday Design Program on Monday, October 21 at East Ridge Community Center in Chattanooga TN presented by Denise Thorne, TFGC President.

I will be the guest of Crestwood Garden Club for their monthly meeting on November 13th where we will tour Ooltewah Nursery and have a program on growing mushrooms.

Magnolia Garden Club will start clearing their designated area on the Greenway in Cleveland on November 4th. We will be tackling 0.7 acres of untouched vegetation and undergrowth as the first step in transforming this space into a memorial garden park in honor of our beloved member, Annette Stanbery.



District IV Director Report

As this officer reflects on the past few months, she is proud to report that District IV has had a very productive third 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. There is one application in the works, if approved, for refurbishment of our Plant It Pink Garden at Ivan Racheff House and Gardens. This garden honors breast cancer survivors and victims. 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.

Past District IV Director Wanda Taylor and I recently had an opportunity to tour National Garden Clubs, Inc. headquarters in St. Louis, MO. We were so proud to see the beautiful grounds and building.

Tennessee's oval logo was the prettiest!

This Director also attended the National Garden Club Convention in Colorado recently. At this National Garden Club Convention, District IV Clubs proudly accepted 3 Club Certificates of Commendation, 5 Certificates in Appreciation, and The Club Standard Flower Show Award to Shady Oaks Garden Club Tennessee "Viewpoints".

Town and Country Garden Club presented a Spring Picnic & National Garden Clubs, Inc. Standard Flower Show "Southern Storytellers". This was a beautiful show and a wonderful way to kick off Spring!

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

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

Tuckaleechee Garden Club donated to the Penny Pines Program Fund in August 2024, and will be presented a National Garden Clubs, Inc. Certificate of Appreciation at the District IV Fall Membership Meeting on October 18, 2024.

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

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.

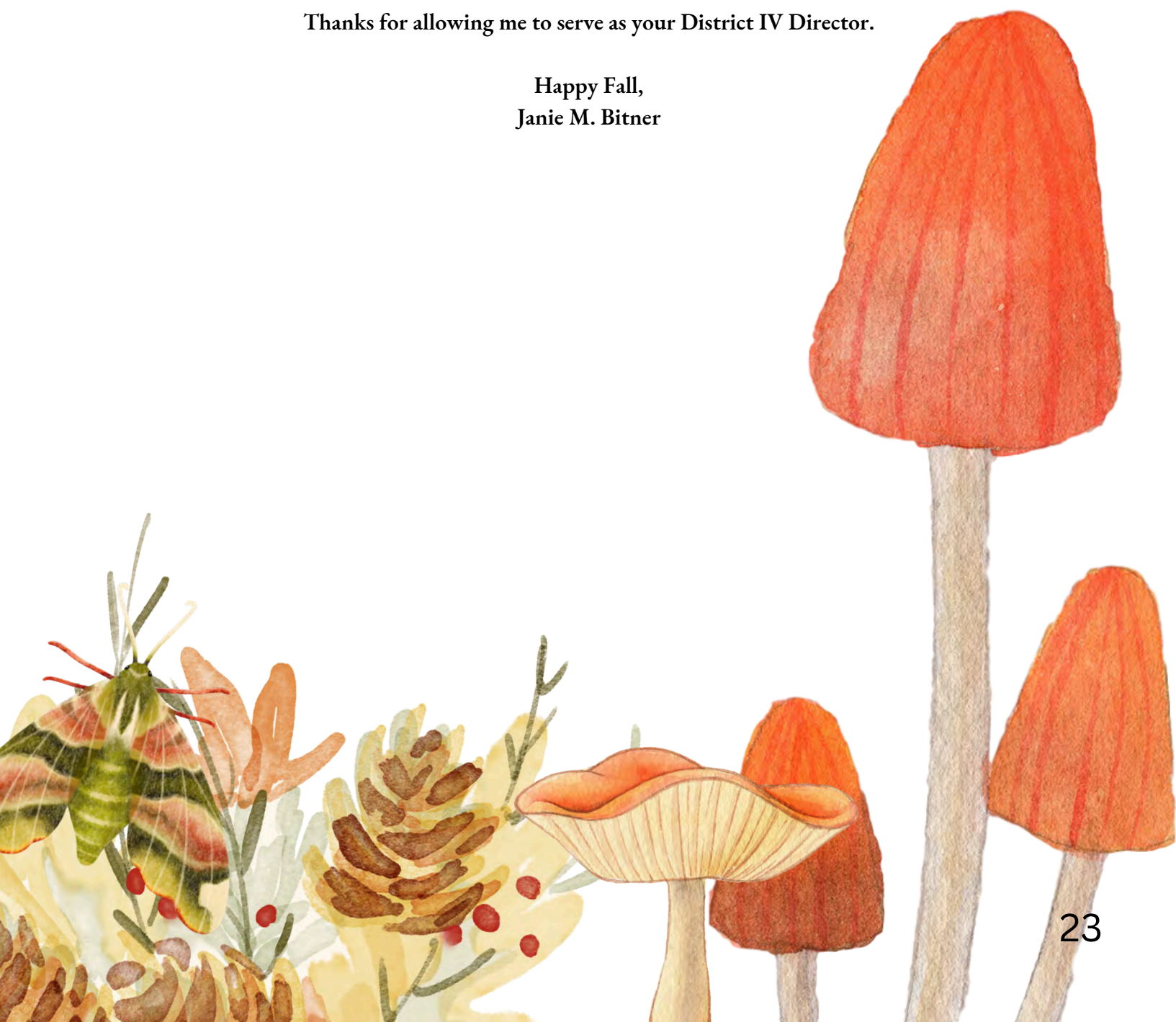
Lenoir City Garden Club recently celebrated their 100th Anniversary! Dixie Highway Garden Club also celebrated their 100th Anniversary at historic Bleak House in Knoxville, TN on September 12, 2024. Both celebrations were well attended and beautifully orchestrated.

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 continue working with Jan Brown who is coordinating the work done in the Children's Garden with the Plant America Grant awarded earlier this year.

I 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 Fall,
Janie M. Bitner



From the Desk of
Lelia Haley Johnson
President-elect 2023-2025

2025 is just around the corner. As this term ends this officer has been gearing down on traveling, using the phone, and the computer.

This officer feels special and very humble to have attended (2) two 100-year celebrations. Lenoir City Garden Club in Lenoir City and The Dixie Hwy Garden City celebrated at the Bleak House in Knoxville. What a very remarkable time. History has been made. This event was well attended and enjoyed by everyone. A fitting place for such an occasion. LADIES JOBS WELL DONE!!!

September 29-October 1, 2024, is Conservation Camp, and it is special for me because I don't do camp!!!! This officer attended (3) three garden clubs' monthly meetings in September. Spoke with Magnolia Garden Club members about the memorial for Annette Stanberry Endowment Trust Matching Grant.

Attended District III president's meeting at the Cleveland downtown Library.

Attended the District III Fall Membership meeting on September 24, 2024, where I was one of the guest speakers.

On October 16, 2024, this officer will be attending a Small Standard Flower Show with the Dayton Garden Club, Dayton. Tn.

On October 17, this officer will be traveling to Murfreesboro to attend the monthly meeting with the Rachael Jackson Garden Club.

On October 18, 2024, will attend the District IV Fall Membership meeting in Knoxville.

This TEAM Member feels honored whenever I receive an invitation to share with you on your special events. THANK YOU !!!!

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Fall Board of Directors Meeting
Conservation Camp
Fall Creek Falls State Park
Spencer, Tennessee

9:00 A.M. September 30, 2024

DATE: September 30, 2024

TO: 2023-2025 TFGC Executive Committee, TFGC Board of Directors and Membership

FROM: Pamela L. Dowd, TFGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chairman

SUBJECT: TFGC BS and GSFM Marker Report from July 9, 2024, through Sept. 30, 2024

***NGC REPORT---Year-end Report covering May 31, 2023 – May 31, 2024**

Candace Wells serves as NGC BS and GSFM Marker Chairman. C 423-304-3577; cfw1865@gmail.com

The national statistics are:

Memorial Markers, May 31, 2023 – May 31, 2024 = 151

Blue Star Memorial Markers = 87 Markers

Gold Star Families Memorial Markers = 55 Markers

Replacement Markers = 9 Markers

Plus, a multitude of BS and GSFM Marker Refurbishments

Total Memorial Markers across the United States of America:

May 31, 2024 = 3818 Markers

Blue Star Memorial Markers = 3582 Markers

Gold Star Families Memorial Markers = 236 Markers

Note: Production of the markers require 20 -24 weeks from the time the check and order form are delivered by Certified Mail to Sewah.

Note: Sewah Studios will guarantee the marker for five years.

Note: State Memorial Marker Chairmen will have printable Certificates of Appreciation to print and distribute for Garden Club Memorial Marker Dedications. Requests for certificates (and number needed) will be placed through the State Memorial Marker Chairman instead of through NGC by NGC BS and GSFM Marker Chairman as in past procedure. This new procedure will save time and money.

Note: "Blue Star and Gold Star Marker by State" on the NGC website has been updated with all of the new Memorial Markers in all of our states.

Note: This NGC Report is updated yearly. It will be updated at the 2025 NGC Convention, Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19-23, 2025.



THIS REPORT WILL COVER TFGC BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER (HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS BSM AND GSFM) ORDERS, DEDICATIONS, REPLACEMENTS, REFURBISHMENTS AND UPDATES SINCE JULY 9, 2024.

TFGC REPORT:

District I: 19 total

District II: 45 total (four of this number are definitely missing, Number includes 1 GSFM Marker on order

District III: 19 total (two of this number are definitely missing; two have been moved
to new locations)

To be dedicated on Nov. 11, 2024, in Winchester, TN)

District IV: 21 total (including one on order; two are missing)

TOTAL FOR STATE: 104 (22 GSFM and 82 BSM Markers

OREGON STATE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC. ~~NOW~~ LEADS ALL STATE GARDEN CLUB ORGANIZATIONS IN NUMBER OF GSFM MARKERS.

REPORTS BY DISTRICTS:

DISTRICT I:

Joy White serves as District I BS and GSFM Marker Chairman. 901-485-8029; joywhite23@comcast.net

NO REPORT

DISTRICT II:

Pamela L. Dowd serves as District II BS and GSFM Marker Chairman. 615-896-8663; pamldowd@aol.com

1. UPCOMING GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER DEDICATION, Winchester, TN, Franklin

County Annex Building, 855 Dinah Shore Blvd. The marker will be companion marker to existing BSM Marker, dedicated September 16, 2016, by Highland Rim Garden Club (now disbanded).

Upcoming Dedication Date: OCTOBER 11, 2024

Time: 1:00 P.M.

**SPONSORED BY
Franklin County Garden Club
IN COOPERATION WITH
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
AND
Franklin County, Tennessee**

Note: This marker IS counted in records' number. Original dedication date of Nov. 11, 2024, was **changed to OCTOBER 11, 2024**, because of a conflict on Veterans Day. ALL TFGC members across the state are invited along with their families and friends.

2. REFURBISHMENT OF BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY MARKER, Lewisburg, TN, US-31 A and

US 31 A Bypass ----This marker is located adjacent to a small park, which is the location of the first courthouse of Marshall County (small historic log cabin with first meeting held in 1836). The log cabin has been restored and was moved to the park in 1957 by the local DAR. Dedication of the marker was on May 26, 1962. The marker has been shaded from the west sun, which has helped to keep in fairly good condition for over sixty years. The marker has been reported as badly peeling, chipped and faded in color since 2011.

A member of The Robert Lewis Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution located in Marshall County assisted this chairman by submitting photos of the marker to be sent to Sewah Studios to gain approval for refurbishment. No cracks were found on the marker. Fading of color, much peeling and chipping of the marker showed in the photos. This chapter of the DAR takes care of the log cabin and the garden in this small park.

The marker was shipped to Sewah Studios for refurbishment on May 24, 2024. The refurbished marker was shipped to Lewisburg on July 31, 2024; and it was installed within a week for the immediate enjoyment of citizens and visitors. **The Robert Lewis Chapter of National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution is working with Mayor Bingham on a fall rededication date and time for the refurbished Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker.** This chairman will notify ALL

TFGC Members of the date and time of the rededication as soon as it is known.

REFURBISHED BS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY MARKER text:

**SPONSORED BY
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
IN COOPERATION WITH
Federated Garden Clubs of Lewisburg
AND
Peoples and Union Bank and First National Bank**

Note: Federated Garden Clubs of Lewisburg has disbanded and the banks have been sold to other banks over the years. Refurbished marker will continue to serve as a piece of history for the city of Lewisburg along with paying tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America.

Note: District II funded the refurbishment of this marker with donations made by its membership.

DISTRICT III:

Charlotte Scott serves as District III BS and GSFM Marker Chairman. 423-478-3817;

cscott125@charter.net

NO REPORT

DISTRICT IV:

Conie Barker serves as District IV BS and GSFM Marker Chairman. 865-689-4374; creabaker@gmail.com

- 1. UPCOMING BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER DEDICATION, Knoxville, TN,** French Broad Veterans Memorial Park; 2303 East Governor John Sevier Highway, Knoxville, TN
TENTATIVE DEDICATION DATE: MOVED TO SPRING OF 2025

**SPONSORED BY
Dixie Highway Garden Club
IN COOPERATION WITH
Legacy Parks Foundation
AND
Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Note: Announced Tentative Dedication Date of Oct. 29, 2024, has been moved to **SPRING OF 2025.** This chairman will notify all TFGC members of confirmed date and details of this dedication when they are finalized. All TFGC Memberes will be invited to attend.

ALL GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY OF THE BSM AND GSFM MARKER DEDICATIONS HELD ANYWHERE IN THE STATE. THIS CHAIRMAN SENDS INVITATIONS TO ALL DEDICATIONS CLOSE TO THE DEDICATION DATE.

BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKERS

Effective date: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

MARKER W/7' POST.....	\$ 2350
MARKER (no post).....	\$ 2225
MARKER W/10' POST.....	\$ 2460
BY-WAY.....	\$ 750
REPLACEMENT 7' POST.....	\$ 375
REPLACEMENT 10' POST.....	\$ 475
REFURBISHMENT.....	\$ 1200
REFURBISHMENT/CAP REPAIR.....	\$ 1450

PAMELA L. DOWD TFGC BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER AWARD

A certificate and \$50.00 may be awarded ANNUALLY out of the categories listed below for the most comprehensive and effective contribution to this NGC Program. Work may be for any type of marker and **any type of participation**----planning installation of marker, raising funds for marker, planning dedication of marker, landscaping of marker, beautification of existing marker, or upkeep of marker area/landscaping.

- A. Small club – under 30 members
- B. Medium club – 31-50 members
- C. Large club – over 51 members
- D. Group of clubs
- F. Individual
- E. District

This award is sponsored every year by Pamela L. Dowd, Former TFGC President, Former NGC BSM and GSFM Marker Chairman and TFGC BS and GSFM Marker Chairman.

The condition of our TFGC BSM and GSFM Markers is a reflection of how we honor and remember our veterans (past, present and future) and our Gold Star Families. The condition of our markers is also a reflection of TFGC. It is the duty of the District BSM and GSFM Marker Chairmen to visit the site of the markers within their respective districts, inspect and check on the condition of the markers. It is their duty to keep accurate and up-to-date records of the markers in their respective districts and report to the TFGC BSM and GSFM Marker Chairman. If a marker needs to be refurbished, the sponsoring district or sponsoring garden club is responsible for refurbishing/restoring the marker. Fundraisers are encouraged to help with cost of refurbishment of markers found in poor condition. Let us work together to make sure our TFGC BSM and GSFM Markers are in kept in good condition.

From reading this report, you are aware that our BSM and GSFM Marker Orders are down and have been for this past year. This chairman corresponded with our District BS and GSFM Marker Chairmen via e-mail, and some of us feel that our economy may be part of the reason for this. As chairmen in each district, our job is to promote BS and GSF Markers in each district. Hopefully, 2025 will bring new markers to our TFGC BS and GSFM Marker Program!

I encourage each district and its garden clubs to consider dedicating a BSM or GSFM Marker within their communities. Markers are a great source of pride for your garden club, your communities, your districts, your state and your country. They serve important and meaningful purposes --- paying tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America AND paying tribute to Gold Star Families whose loved ones paid the ultimate price defending the United State of America.

If I can be of service to you, please contact me. I am here to serve.

Thank you,

Pamela L. Dowd

Pamela L. Dowd
TFGC BSM and GSFM Marker Chairman
2015-2017 TFGC President
1611 Georgetown Lane
Murfreesboro, TN 37129-1742
615-896-8663 pamldowd@aol.com





Top 5 Insects for a Thriving Pollinator Garden

BackYardBoss – story by Elēni Veroutos

- Butterflies: Add vibrancy and support pollination subtly with nectar-rich flowers.
- Bees: Boost your garden's productivity with diverse flowers, supporting local bee populations.
- Hoverflies: Provide natural pest control, attract them with fragrant herbs, and avoid harmful insecticides.

Creating a pollinator-friendly garden is not just about beautifying your yard; it's a crucial step towards nurturing local ecosystems. Planting a variety of flowers and plants attracts many different types of insects, each playing a vital role in pollination and the health of your garden.

Explore five types of insects that a pollinator-friendly garden attracts, providing a haven for these creatures while enhancing the beauty and productivity of your garden.

Butterflies

Vibrant butterflies fluttering in your garden

- Butterflies are visual stunners.
- They prefer nectar-rich flowers.
- Contribute to pollination subtly.



Butterflies bring a burst of color and life to any pollinator-friendly garden. They flock to nectar-rich flowers like milkweed, lavender, and asters, adding a splash of vibrancy as they flutter from bloom to bloom. This not only delights the eyes but also aids in the subtle art of pollination.

Inviting butterflies into your garden does more than just beautify the space — it signals that your garden is a safe, chemical-free haven. These sensitive creatures shy away from pollutants, so their regular visits are a good sign of a healthy environment. By choosing the right plants, you're not just decorating your yard; you're helping to bolster butterfly populations and support the broader ecosystem. Plus, there's nothing quite like watching these enchanting insects dance through the air, bringing life and color wherever they land. Additionally, consider the health of your local bee population by providing bee hotels or nesting boxes. These structures offer safe nesting sites for solitary bee species and are a simple, effective way to support the lifecycle of bees that visit your garden.

Finally, educating yourself and your community about the importance of bees is crucial. Hosting a workshop or sharing resources about creating bee-friendly gardens can spread the vital message of conservation and support for these essential pollinators.

To further enhance your garden's allure for butterflies, consider adding a few shallow dishes of water or a butterfly bath. Butterflies need places to hydrate and rest, especially during hot days. By placing shallow dishes filled with small stones and water, you create welcoming spots for them to drink and cool off.

Bees

Essential pollinators, bees boost flower fertilization

- Critical for successful pollination.
- Attracted to diverse plant types.
- Need flowers throughout the season.



Bees are essential to a thriving pollinator-friendly garden. They're nature's most efficient pollinators, vital for the growth of many fruits and vegetables. When you fill your garden with a variety of flowering plants like sunflowers, sage, and bee balm, you give bees the resources they need to thrive. Creating a bee-friendly space not only boosts your garden's productivity but also strengthens local bee populations. These hardworking insects face numerous threats, from habitat loss to pesticides, so providing a safe refuge makes a big difference. By planting flowers that bloom at different times throughout the season, you ensure bees have a consistent source of food.

Hoverflies

Hoverflies are often mistaken for small bees

- Excellent at controlling aphids.
- Mimic bees and wasps.
- Attracted to fragrant herbs.



Hoverflies are fantastic allies in a garden, especially one that aims to be pollinator-friendly. Often mistaken for small bees or wasps, these insects are harmless and bring big benefits by controlling pests like aphids. Planting herbs such as coriander and fennel, or flowers like marigolds, attracts these beneficial creatures to your garden.

The larvae of hoverflies are particularly good at keeping aphid populations in check, feasting on these pests that otherwise damage your plants. Adult hoverflies, on the other hand, pollinate plants as they feed on nectar. This dual role makes them invaluable in maintaining the health and beauty of your garden. Welcoming these agile fliers not only aids in natural pest control but also supports a diverse ecosystem. Observing hoverflies darting above the flowers, skillfully maneuvering with quick, hovering motions, is a delightful sight, enriching your garden experience with their presence and activity.

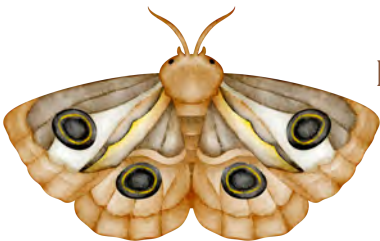
When designing a garden to attract hoverflies, avoid using broad-spectrum insecticides. These chemicals not only harm the pests they're aimed at but can also drastically affect beneficial insects like hoverflies.

Since hoverflies are excellent at controlling aphid populations naturally, using harsh chemicals can counteract this benefit by killing the very allies that help keep pest numbers down.

Moths

Nighttime pollinators, moths complement butterflies

- Active during dusk and nighttime.
- Attracted by pale, fragrant flowers.
- Help pollinate nocturnal plants.



Moths play a unique and crucial role in your garden, especially under the moonlight. These nocturnal pollinators are attracted to your garden by pale, fragrant flowers like evening primrose and jasmine, which they help pollinate throughout the night. Their preference for white or pale blooms that reflect moonlight makes them invaluable for plants that open after dusk.

By including these night-blooming plants, you not only cater to the specific needs of moths but also enhance the round-the-clock productivity of your garden. Moths ensure pollination continues long after other pollinators have retired for the evening. This extends the hours of natural activity in your garden, keeping it alive and vibrant 24/7.

When inviting moths to your garden, be cautious about unintentionally attracting too many at once, especially if you live in an area prone to moth pests, like the gypsy moth. These pests can sometimes be drawn to the same conditions created for beneficial moths. To prevent potential infestations, it's wise to monitor your garden closely and manage moth populations responsibly.

Beetles

Beetles, diverse and effective pollinators

- Consume both plant and insect materials.
 - Attracted to a variety of plants.
- Play a role in breaking down organic matter.



Beetles, charmingly dubbed 'mess and soil pollinators,' bring a unique touch to the art of pollination. When these insects feast on flower petals, they leave a bit of chaos behind — holes and frass (insect droppings) that might seem like mess at first glance. Yet, this messy process is vital for pollination. Many beetle-pollinated plants have toughened up over time, sporting thick, leathery petals that can handle a bit of rough treatment.

This way of pollination might not look pretty, but it's incredibly effective. As beetles move from bloom to bloom, snacking and inadvertently collecting pollen, they're also carrying life from one flower to another. This relationship showcases a fascinating bit of natural give and take, where what seems initially harmful actually supports a critical ecological role. Through their unique eating habits and their role in pollination, beetles enrich the garden's biodiversity and help ensure the survival of many plant species.

The Buzzing Finale

Creating a pollinator-friendly garden enriches your yard, supports biodiversity, and offers a safe haven for many insects, each contributing uniquely to the environment. From the mesmerizing dance of butterflies to the diligent work of beetles, these creatures help ensure the health and beauty of your garden. So, plant a variety of flowers, sit back, and enjoy the buzz of activity your efforts will surely bring to your garden. Keep nurturing nature's little helpers, and they'll keep helping your garden grow beautifully.

From Karen Dawson



The Harpeth Bend Garden Club meets at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, February through December. We currently have 19 members who live in the Middle Tennessee area in Nashville, Brentwood, Franklin, Leipers Fork and Spring Hill.

Our club has participated in numerous community projects and fundraising activities over the years. One of our perennial favorites is donating toys and school supplies to the "Samaritan's Purse" organization that sends our loaded shoeboxes to children in need overseas. Our club also sponsors wreaths each December for the "Wreaths Across America" program at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. In 2023 our club won a Plant America Espoma Grant to help us update and plant raised beds with flowers and vegetables at a local nursing home. We enjoy spending time together and sharing our gardening experience with each other and the community.



Endowment Trust Fund Matching Grant Applications' Review TFGC, Inc. Endowment Trust Fund Trustees' Meeting Fall Creek Falls State Park, Trenton, TN September 30, 2024

Hello ladies,

After reviewing the most recent Vanguard accounts with our ETF Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer-

The total balance is **\$197,697.38**

5% of that amount is **\$9,884.87** available for matching Endowment Trust Fund grants.

Please review these amounts requested by the following:

Blossomway Garden Club	\$1,000.00
Cooper-Young Garden Club	1,000.00
Germantown Garden Club	500.00
Franklin County Garden Club	696.00
Camden Garden Club	750.00
Harpeth Bend Garden Club	425.00
Flower Growers Garden Club	1,000.00
Lookout Mountain Beautiful GC	1,000.00
Magnolia Garden Club	1,000.00
Dayton Garden Club	300.00
Dixie Highway Garden Club	1,000.00
Mountain Laurel Garden Club	999.86
Noweta Garden Club	1,000.00
Sevierville Garden Club	1,000.00

Total	\$11,670.86
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In reviewing the applications, please note the following rules taken from the website:

*TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND (ETF)

MATCHING GRANT INFORMATION

Necessary Proposal Information

- Objectives of program/project
- Anticipated benefits or outcome
- Budget for project, including matching funding sources and amounts
- Results and how they will be measured
- Plans for sustainability

Rules

• **A TFGC district, garden club, Racheff House and Gardens, or a TFGC individual may submit only one application each year.**

• The project/program may be new or bring about a measurable expansion of any existing project/program.

• Matching grants are awarded to those projects/programs judged to be the most outstanding and deserving and for which there is money available.

There is no

guarantee that each district will receive a matching grant in any given year.

• Matching grants cannot be used for general operating expenses, but may be used for any purpose directly related to the matching grant activity.

• In-kind physical labor on a project may be counted at a minimum wage level towards the matching grant funds.



- Matching grant funds are awarded to recipients by September 1 of each year. Grant awards are sent to the district trustees to present at district member meetings.
- Successful matching grant recipients must submit a progress report if the project is longer than one year. All successful recipients must submit a final report at the completion of the project/program. The report is sent to the ETF chair who provides copies to the other trustees.
- **The maximum amount of the grant awarded per year is \$1,000.** Copies of the Matching Grant Application form are available on the TFGC website. Successful matching grant recipients are announced in The Volunteer Gardener and on the website.

Revised July 2023

We will meet to discuss and vote on the above listed matching grant applications on Monday, September 30, 2024, at 8:00 AM.

Thank you for serving,

Janie Bitner
TFGC, Inc.
Endowment Trust Fund Chair
janie.bitner@live.com
865-474-0882



WHAT IS A BOE

It is the STORY of your Project!
And every story has a

A Beginning
A Middle
And an Ending

First you have to Choose an
Award Number

The Awards Rules are online at
tennesseefederationofgardenclubsin.org
Click on Awards
Then click on
2023-2025 TFGC Awards Rules



Convention Report for Volunteer Gardener

The 2025 Convention “HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES TFGC” will be held at the Read House in Chattanooga, Tennessee on April 21-23, 2025. We are planning many fun things and workshops for this convention. We have set up a tour of Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center with a visit to their native plant nursery. Margot Shaw from Flower Magazine will be one of the speakers. We are also in the process of securing a designer and other interesting speakers for this Convention.

An NGC Design Specialty Show “Through the Years” 1920’s – 2000’s will be during the Convention. This petite show features designs of all dried plant material. The Design Divisions are “Movies, Music and Fashion” of the 20’s Era (District I), the 50’s Era (District II), the 70’s Era (District III) and the 2000’s (District IV). We want to thank Debbie Shaver for being the General Show Chairman.

We ask that your clubs purchase ads for our Convention Booklet. Information concerning these ads will be sent to your Club Presidents in the near future.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Chattanooga for the 2025 Convention. The Read House is where TFGC was formed, in 1926, so there is no better place to celebrate our upcoming 100 Anniversary.




The 95th anniversary of the Lebanon Road Garden Club was celebrated recently at a beautiful luncheon held at Richland Country Club in Nashville. Founded on September 10, 1929, the Garden Club held its first meeting, at Belle Air, the home of Mrs. Charles Craig, who was elected its first President. Invited to attend this first meeting were ladies who lived along Lebanon Road in the small community of Donelson, with the goal of beautifying the “newly widened and unsightly” Lebanon Road. Several of our current members are descendants of these original members, a connection to our past and inspiration to continue the work they began. The early years of the Garden Club were marked by ambitious projects such as planting 150,000 irises along with Chinese elms and crepe myrtles along Lebanon Road from Mill Creek to The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson. Many of the early members became active in the Ladies Hermitage Association which is credited with saving this important historic property from bankruptcy and decay. In 2009 members of the Garden Club began focusing on maintaining and preserving Rachel’s Garden at the Hermitage, where President and Mrs. Jackson are buried along with other family members. Through annual fundraising events since then, the club has raised approximately \$100,000 for projects that have enhanced this garden.



Pictured above are the members who gathered to celebrate this anniversary (Not pictured are Katy Ridings and Sarah Wilkinson, who were unable to attend)

Seated, left to right: Sarah Knestrick, Sally Macomber, Lauren Reuther, Donna Woods, Linda Disspayne, Phyllis Avant Standing, left to right: Emily Smith, Kim Owens, Karen Murphy, Sheila Reuther, Robi Warner, Barbara Windus, Susan Basham, Jennifer Stadler, Mary Jo Johnson, Ginny Perdue



The cover photo was taken
at the President's home
with all local produce from
the Thorne farm or grown
in Watertown Tennessee.

After an hour of staging...
we finally got the right
shot

Kennedy & Denise